

# Finding Primary Sources - Resource Guide

## For more help with research on this topic:

Visit the Library's "Ask a Librarian" Desk (7:30am-9:00pm M-Th, 7:30am-5:00pm Fri)

Email a Librarian at [librarian@svu.edu](mailto:librarian@svu.edu)

Call a Librarian at 540-261-8440

Text a Librarian at 540-999-8440

Chat with a Librarian at <http://www.svu.edu/academics/library/chat.aspx>

## Sample Search Terms

Journal

Diary

Letters

Autobiography

Memoir

Oral history

Government documents

Manuscript

Archive

Map (or historical map)

Realia (functional objects used by people. Ex. Tools, board games, textiles, etc.)

Artifacts

Memorabilia

Photograph

Sample terms can be combined with your subject – "Abraham Lincoln letters" or "Civil War maps."

## Library Catalogs

Von Canon Library Catalog

Washington and Lee Catalog

VMI Preston Library Catalog

Rockbridge Public Library Catalog (incl. BV Branch)

WorldCat Database

Link from [www.svu.edu](http://www.svu.edu)

<http://annie.wlu.edu>

<http://library.vmi.edu>

<http://www.rrlib.net>

<http://www.worldcat.org>

## Research Databases (Von Canon Library)

Academic Search Complete

America: History and Life

Archive Grid

The Civil War: Antebellum to Reconstruction Period

GPO (Government Printing Office)

Harper's Weekly

Humanities International Complete

Military and Government Collection

Newspaper Source Plus

Richmond Daily Dispatch

Women and Social Movements

Women's Studies International

## Selected Webpages & Digital Archives

### Large Collections

EuroDocs [http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page)

Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/discover/index-e.html>

Perry –Castañeda Historical Map Collection <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/>

American Memory <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

The New York Times Archive <http://query.nytimes.com/search/query?srchst=p>

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers (Library of Congress) <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

National Archives <http://www.archives.gov/>

## **Government Documents and Archives**

Archives of Maryland <http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/volumes.html>

British History Online Primary Sources <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/catalogue.aspx?type=2>

Virginia Memory Photo Collection [http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/online\\_photo\\_collections](http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/online_photo_collections)

The Avalon Project <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/>

National Archives United Kingdom <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

## **Civil Rights**

Integration of the University of Mississippi <http://clio.lib.olemiss.edu/archives/integration.php>

African-American Odyssey: A quest for full citizenship

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aolist.html>

Prince Edward County Public Schools [http://dig.library.vcu.edu/cdm4/index\\_pec.php?CISOROOT=/pec](http://dig.library.vcu.edu/cdm4/index_pec.php?CISOROOT=/pec)

## **Pioneer/Westward Migration**

Surveyors of the American West <http://digital.nypl.org/surveyors/>

The Louisiana Purchase: A heritage explored <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/purchase/search.html>

American Westward Migration <http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fuw>

Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters 1846-1869 <http://overlandtrails.lib.byu.edu/>

Railroads in the Midwest Early documents and images

[http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/knx\\_rail](http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/knx_rail)

American Journeys: Eyewitness Accounts of Early American Exploration and Settlement

[http://collections.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p9002coll1&CISOPTR=122&CISOBX=1&REC=1](http://collections.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p9002coll1&CISOPTR=122&CISOBX=1&REC=1)

## **War/Military**

The Valley of the Shadow – Two Communities During the Civil War <http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>

The Vietnam Center and Archive Oral Histories <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory/interviews/browse/>

What did you do in the war, Grandma? [http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII\\_Women/tocCS.html](http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII_Women/tocCS.html)

VMI Archives Military Oral History Database <http://www1.vmi.edu/archivecoldwar/List.asp>

Civil War Letters <http://content.lib.washington.edu/civilwarweb/index.html>

First World War Poetry Digital Archive <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit>

Combined Arms Research Library Digital Collections <http://www.cgsc.edu/carl/contentdm/home.htm>

Topaz Museum Archive <http://topazcamp.org/archive.html>

Women's Air Service Pilots [http://twudigital.cdmhost.com/cdm4/index\\_p214coll2.php?CISOROOT=/p214coll2](http://twudigital.cdmhost.com/cdm4/index_p214coll2.php?CISOROOT=/p214coll2)

Civil War Women Letters and Documents Online

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections/bingham/guides/cwdocs.html#diaries>

War Diaries – Royal Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiments First and Second World War

<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary.php>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum <http://www.ushmm.org/research/collections/oralhistory/>

## **Depression**

New Deal Network <http://newdeal.feri.org/default.cfm>

American Life Histories Manuscripts <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/wpaintro/wpahome.html>

## **American Revolution/Founding Fathers**

Thomas Jefferson Papers [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/jefferson\\_papers/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/jefferson_papers/)

George Washington Papers <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gwhtml/gwhome.html>

Adams at the Massachusetts Historical Society <http://www.masshist.org/adams/>

Constitutional Sources Project (ConSource) - <http://beta.consource.org/library/browse>

## Maps

North Carolina Maps <http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/>

The American Geographical Society Library Digital Map Collection

<http://www4.uwm.edu/libraries/digilib/maps/index.cfm>

Gilmer Civil War Map Collection

[http://collections.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p9002coll1&CISOPTR=176&CISOBX=1&REC=3](http://collections.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p9002coll1&CISOPTR=176&CISOBX=1&REC=3)

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Utah <http://content.lib.utah.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fsanborn-ip2>

## Photographs

Florida Photograph Collection and Video Clips <http://www.floridamemory.com/photographiccollection/>

Vancouver Public Library Historical Photographs of BC and the Yukon <http://www.vpl.ca/find/cat/C393/>

Davison Art Center Photographs <http://www.wesleyan.edu/dac/coll/photos.html>

Recollection Photographs at the New York Public Library <http://exhibitions.nypl.org/recollection/>

1876 Centennial Exhibition silver albumen photographs <http://libwww.library.phila.gov/CenCol/tours.htm>

Minneapolis Institute of Art Photographs <http://www.artsmia.org/photographs/>

International Center of Photography <http://emuseum.icp.org/>

George Eastman House Still Photography Collections <http://www.geh.org/subjects.html>

Digital Metro New York <http://cdm128401.cdmhost.com/>

National Photography Collection National Media Museum England

<http://www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk/Collection/Photography>

Digital Schomburg Images of 19<sup>th</sup> Century African Americans [http://digital.nypl.org/cgi-shl/vsc30b.exe/schomburg/images\\_aa19/toc.html?E+nyplbeta](http://digital.nypl.org/cgi-shl/vsc30b.exe/schomburg/images_aa19/toc.html?E+nyplbeta)

## Locations

Digital Library of Appalachia <http://www.aca-dla.org/>

Historic Children's Diaries Iowa <http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/diaries/index.php>

First Person Narratives of the American South <http://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/>

Project Jukebox University of Alaska Fairbanks Oral History Program <http://jukebox.uaf.edu/>

Calisphere Primary Sources <http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

## Newspapers

Northwest History Database newspapers [http://content.wsulibs.wsu.edu/pncc/NW\\_history/index.php](http://content.wsulibs.wsu.edu/pncc/NW_history/index.php)

Making of America <http://www.hti.umich.edu/m/moajrnl/>

Virginia Gazette (Williamsburg) <http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseVG.cfm>

Florida Digital Newspaper Library <http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?c=fdnl1>

Utah Digital Newspapers <http://digitalnewspapers.org>

North Carolina Newspaper Digitization Project

[http://collections.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p9002coll1&CISOPTR=553&CISOBX=1&REC=14](http://collections.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p9002coll1&CISOPTR=553&CISOBX=1&REC=14)

## Other

In Their Own Words <http://deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/browse.html>

The Carlyle Letters Online A Victorian Cultural Reference <http://carlyleletters.dukejournals.org/>