

History 2053 Survey of American History Research Tips

Locating Sources

Books – Library catalogs: **Rickman Library** SWUcat: <http://www.swu.edu/library/>
PASCAL: use links from within SWUcat
--items may be requested from other libraries

Reference Books: see appropriate section of Rickman Library reference collection
-- Also, use the following selections from the Library Databases:
Credo Reference
Gale Virtual Reference Library

Articles – Use Library Databases: from Library page, <http://www.swu.edu/library/>,
select Databases A-Z. Choose:
Academic Search Premier
Expanded Academic ASAP or Academic OneFile
JSTOR – older publications
History Resource Center: U.S. (U.S. History in Context)
Biography Resource Center

Websites – Use various search engines
Use specific terminology to improve search results
Evaluate all websites carefully

Finding Primary and Secondary Sources

Primary Sources are generally firsthand accounts of an event or official documents—the evidence that can establish facts. **Secondary Sources** are those which provide analysis or interpretation. Primary sources may include letters, diaries, or other written accounts by an eyewitness. Newspaper or magazine articles written at the time of an event by those who witnessed the event *may* be considered primary sources (but most articles will be secondary sources). (Note: articles in the Sciences and Social Sciences which report the results of lab research or the results of a research study would be considered primary sources in those fields.)

For more about Primary and Secondary Sources, see:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/history/resources/pubs/usingprimarysources/index.cfm>
or <http://lib1.bmcc.cuny.edu/help/sources.html>

Cool Sites and Tips for Locating Primary Sources or Other Useful Materials

Primary Sources collection list from Clemson:

<http://www.clemson.edu/library/allsubjects/history/historyprimary.html>

American Memory Project – <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem>

South Carolina Digital Library -- <http://www.scmemory.org/index.php>

(May not be of use for this project, but you should know about it.)

Clemson University has a number of historical newspapers on microfilm:

http://media.clemson.edu/library/all_subjects/eguides/history/HistoricalNewspapers.pdf

Clemson also has the New York Times (Historical) database with articles from 1851 to 2005.

(Available at the Clemson University Library.)

SC ETV United Streaming site: <http://www.oneplacesc.org/web/guest/home>

Username: swstudent password: warriors

Access to a wide variety of video clips. (Much of this is designed for elementary and secondary school usage, but there is a lot of good content.)

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/>

There are a lot of good documentary clips on youtube, such as King's "I have a dream" speech, or the dust bowl. However, be very careful with what you use—evaluate!! (For instance, a video clip about Pearl Harbor is more likely to be from a movie *about* Pearl Harbor than actual footage.)