Primary Source search

**Reference and User Services Assoicaition**

[**http://www.ala.org/rusa/sections/history/resources/pubs/usingprimarysources**](http://www.ala.org/rusa/sections/history/resources/pubs/usingprimarysources)

* [American Memory:](http://memory.loc.gov/) Historical Collections for the National Digital Library  <http://memory.loc.gov/>
* [Avalon Project:](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm) Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy  <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/avalon.htm>
* [EuroDocs:](http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/) Western European Primary Historical Documents  <http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/>
* [Gallica:](http://gallica.bnf.fr/default.htm) Digital Library of the National Library of France  <http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

[Making of America:](http://moa.umdl.umich.edu/) 19th c. books and magazines  <http://moa.umdl.umich.edu/>

Browse a history subject directory

Subject directories are useful when you are interested in seeing a broad variety of sources on your topic. Some subject directories include annotations and evaluations of sites. Useful subject directories for history include:

* [History Matters](http://historymatters.gmu.edu/): The U.S. Survey on the Web  <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/>
* [History Guide](http://www.historyguide.de/)  <http://www.historyguide.de/>
* [World Wide Virtual Library: History](http://vlib.iue.it/)  [http://vlib.iue.it](http://vlib.iue.it/)
  1. [Librarians Index to the Internet](http://lii.org/)  <http://lii.org/>
  2. [Infomine](http://infomine.ucr.edu/)  <http://infomine.ucr.edu/>
  3. [Academic Info](http://www.academicinfo.net/)  <http://www.academicinfo.net/>

Search Engines

* [Google](http://www.google.com/)  [http://www.google.com](http://www.google.com/)
* [Ask.com](http://www.ask.com/)  [http://www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com/) Be as specific as possible
  1. [Yahoo! Search](http://search.yahoo.com/)  [http://search.yahoo.com](http://search.yahoo.com/)[Digital Library of Georgia](http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/)  <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/>
  2. [Minnesota Historical Society Visual Resources Database](http://collections.mnhs.org/visualresources/)  <http://collections.mnhs.org/visualresources/>
  3. [Cleveland Memory Project](http://www.clevelandmemory.org/)  <http://www.clevelandmemory.org/>

Check published guides to history web sites

Check and see if your library has the following books:

* *The European History Highway: A Guide to Internet Resources.* Dennis A. Trinkle and Scott A. Merriman, editors. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2002.
* *History and the Internet: A Guide.* By Patrick D. Reagan. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2002.
* *Using Internet Primary Sources to Teach Critical Thinking Skills in History.* By Kathleen W. Craver. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1999.

Finding photographs and other non-text sources

Going to a major collection of photographs is the best way to find a historic image. Also, use a search engine to try a topic search, such “Eiffel Tower” or “Chingis Khan” or “Van Gogh and wheat fields” to find photos, drawings or reproductions of paintings. Some major collections include:

* [American Memory:](http://memory.loc.gov/) Historical Collections for the National Digital Library  <http://memory.loc.gov/>
* [Images Canada](http://www.imagescanada.ca/)  <http://www.imagescanada.ca/>
* [New York Public Library Digital Library Collection](http://digital.nypl.org/index.asp)  <http://digital.nypl.org/>
* [Picture Australia](http://www.pictureaustralia.org/)  <http://www.pictureaustralia.org/>
* [Heritage Image Partnership (UK)](http://www.heritage-images.com/)  <http://www.heritage-images.com/>

[American Memory](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/) The Library of Congress's National Digital Librarycontains more than 40 collections, which feature historical photos, maps, documents, letters, speeches, recordings, videos, prints, and more. http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/

[Documenting the American South](http://docsouth.unc.edu/) This electronic text archive from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill contains primary source slavery narratives and first-person narratives of the South as well as a digitized library of southern literature. http://docsouth.unc.edu/

[A Hypertext on American History](http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/usa.htm)  This site contains over 100 historical documents relating to United States history, from the 1400s to the present. It includes letters, charters, essays, speeches, journal entries, inaugural addresses, autobiographies, biographies, and more. An outline of American history provides context for the primary source materials. http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/usa.htm

[Jefferson National Expansion Memorial](http://www.nps.gov/jeff/) http://www.nps.gov/jeff/ Learn about the history of the city of St. Louis and the construction of the Gateway Arch through historic photographs at this site. http://www.nps.gov/jeff/

[The Library of Congress](http://lcweb.loc.gov/) Legislative information, historical exhibits, primary source materials, resources for educators, research tools, and more are available from the Library of Congress. http://lcweb.loc.gov/

[Mr. Lincoln's Virtual Library](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/alhome.html) The Library of Congress presentsinformation on Abraham Lincoln, including the Emancipation Proclamation and his assassination, in this online exhibit of primary sources. http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/alhtml/alhome.html

[National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)](http://www.archives.gov/index.html) NARA preserves historically valuable archives of the U.S. government, including documents, photographs, images, maps, audio clips, letters, speeches, and films. Check out the [**Exhibit Hall**](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/) for fascinating primary sources on such topics as the Lincoln assassination and World War II propaganda posters. http://www.archives.gov/index.html

[National Museum ofAmerican Art](http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/) This museum site offers online exhibitions of American art. http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/

[New Deal Network](http://newdeal.feri.org/) This site contains hundreds of primary sources related to the Depression era and the New Deal, including letters, photographs, posters, political cartoons, government documents, speeches, and more. You can also find background information on New Deal programs. http://newdeal.feri.org/

[The Papers of Jefferson Davis](http://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/) Learn about Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederacy, through his writings. You can also find background information on his life and family. http://jeffersondavis.rice.edu

[Truman Presidential Museum & Library](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/educatio.htm) Find primary source documents, photos, letters, journals, and more on 20th century history from the Truman Presidential Library. http://www.trumanlibrary.org/educatio.htm

[Smithsonian Institution](http://www.si.edu/) The Smithsonian Institution offers access to primary sources and other resources on a wide variety of topics, including military and political history. http://www.si.edu/

[The University of Oklahoma Law Center: A Chronology of US Historical Documents](http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/) This site offers an extensive directory of historical documents from pre-colonial days to the present. Many presidential inaugural addresses are included, as are some songs, poems, letters, and more. http://www.law.ou.edu/hist/

[The Valley of the Shadow](http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow2/) Learn about the impact of the Civil War on two counties, Pennsylvania's Franklin County and Virginia's Augusta County, through the primary source images, documents, letters, newspapers, and maps at this site. http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/vshadow2/