

Some Examples of Primary Sources

Textual Sources

- Books
- Magazine and newspaper articles
- Census records
- Pamphlets
- Diaries
- Letters
- Memos
- Meeting minutes

Auditory Sources

- Debates
- Songs
- Speeches
- Taped interviews

Visual Sources and Artifacts

- Artwork
- Buildings
- Coins
- Clothing
- Jewelry
- Maps
- Portraits and Photographs
- Tools
- Furniture

Primary Sources on the Web

Search Guides

Choose the Best Search for Your Needs

<http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/literacies/information/5locate/adviceengine.html>

Excellent resource for selecting an appropriate search tool

ipl2

<http://www.ipl.org/>

Large assortment of pre-selected quality sites. Search on the main page or Click **Resources by Subject** and choose a subject.

Search Engines

Google Scholar

<http://scholar.google.com/>

Google Custom Search: Primary Source Search

<http://www.google.com/cse/home?cx=005122431749820216170:hshk5euw5uw>

Google Government Search

<http://www.google.com/unclesam>

Exalead

<http://www.exalead.com/search/>

Specific searches, but smaller index than Google.

Infomine

<http://infomine.ucr.edu/>

Guides to Primary and Secondary Sources

History Matters: US Survey Course on the Web

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu>

Gateway to large list of web resources, as well as primary documents, images and audio interviews

History: United States

<http://guides.lib.washington.edu/us>

Research guide to primary sources (by type, region and date) and secondary sources in US history

Teachers Oz's Kingdom of History

<http://www.teacheroz.com/toc.htm>

A huge collection of web-based resources, including primary sources, on world history. Click links under **United States History & Government**

Primary Sources: General

<p>American Memory Collection http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/about/index.html</p>	<p>“...written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience.”</p>
<p>Avalon Project: Documents in Law, History and Diplomacy http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/statech.asp</p>	<p>Documents from Ancient times through 21st century, with emphasis on American history</p>
<p>Archiving Early America http://www.earlyamerica.com/</p>	<p>Primary sources from 18th century America</p>
<p>A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: US Congressional Documents and Debates: 1774-1875 http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/</p>	
<p>Digital History http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/</p>	<p>Includes a US history textbook, primary documents, multimedia exhibits, and historical maps and images</p>
<p>Eyewitness to History.com – History through the Eyes of Those Who Lived It http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/</p>	<p>Transcripts, photos and audio. Covers Ancient history through 20th century.</p>
<p>Footnote http://www.footnote.com/</p>	<p>Over 5 million historical documents with a focus on US.</p>
<p>Historical Census Browser http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/</p>	<p>Census information (1790-1960)</p>
<p>Internet History Sourcebook Project http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/</p>	<p>Large collection of historical texts from all eras of world history</p>
<p>The National Archives http://www.archives.gov/</p>	<p>The most important documents and other materials created by the federal government</p>
<p>19th Century America http://www.teacheroz.com/19thcent.htm</p>	<p>Links to many primary documents</p>
<p>Ourdocuments http://www.ourdocuments.gov/</p>	<p>100 milestone documents of American history</p>

Rotunda http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/index.php?page_id=Founding%20Era%20Collection	Digitized works of major figures in the founding of the American republic. Requires login to collection
TeachingAmericanHistory.org http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/	Source documents from the founding to present. Includes letters, speeches, documents, web sites, books, and articles on important people and events
Thomas (Library of Congress) http://thomas.loc.gov/home/abt_thom.html	Legislation from the 101st (1989) through current Congress
A Treasury of Primary Documents (American Colonists' Library) http://www.constitution.org/primarysources/primarysources.html#bc	Huge collection of documents related to early American history
US Department of State: Office of the Historian http://history.state.gov/	Official documents in American foreign policy (1945-1976), as well as background studies supportive of US foreign policy.

Primary Sources: Statistical Information

Mathematical Literacy: Finding and Using Data http://www.noodletools.com/debbie/resources/math/stats.html	Links to guides and web-based statistical sources
FedStats http://www.fedstats.gov/	Statistics from over 100 US agencies of the federal government

Primary Sources: Audiovisual

Picsearch http://www.picsearch.com/	Image search service
Ad*Access http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adaccess/	Advertisements in U.S. and Canadian newspapers and magazines between 1911 and 1955, in areas of radio, television, transportation, beauty and hygiene, and World War II.
American Memory: Map Collections http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/	Maps in the Library of Congress organized into seven major categories
American Political Prints, 1766-1866 http://loc.harpweek.com/	Prints originally appearing in <i>Harper's Weekly</i>
American Rhetoric http://www.americanrhetoric.com/	Hear American speeches
Life: Your World in Pictures http://www.life.com/	Images from Life and Getty Archives
New York Public Library Digital Gallery http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm	Illuminated manuscripts, historical maps, posters, photographs, and rare prints from the NYPL collection
Picture History http://www.picturehistory.com/	Images from US history
Smithsonian Images http://smithsonianimages.si.edu/siphoto/siphoto.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=home	Images from the Smithsonian's exhibits, events, and historic collections

Primary Sources: Music

Band Music from the Civil War Era http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwmhtml/cwmhome.html	Brass band music popular in the 1850's and played throughout the 19 th century
Historic American Music http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/hasm/	19 th and early 20 th century sheet music at Duke University
The Lester S. Levy Collection of Sheet Music http://levysheetmusic.mse.jhu.edu/	Covers 1780 to 1980, but its focus is 19 th century America through popular music, especially music related to military conflicts.
Music for the Nation: American Sheet Music http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mussmhtml/mussmhome.html	Time periods: 1820-1860 and 1870-1885, and includes a wide variety of songs, method books and instructional materials.
Popular Songs in American History http://www.contemplator.com/america/index.html	Folk and traditional music, with lyrics, song information and historical background

Where to Locate Resources

LIBRARIES

- **School Library**
- **Bethlehem Public Library**
<http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/>
Check the **Local History** link at <http://www.mybethlehem.org/localhistory/index.asp>.
- **Albany Public Library**
<http://www.albanypubliclibrary.org/>
Click the **Research** and **Local History** links.

New York State Library: Research Library

<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/research.htm>

Includes an excellent collection of American and NYS history; and federal, state and international documents. The **Manuscripts and Special Collections** section contains rare books, broadsides and posters, musical scores, and maps.

College and University Libraries

This area has a wealth of institutions of higher learning, including The University at Albany, RPI, St. Rose, and Russell Sage. Check out their library web pages for information on their special collections.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

New York State Historical Association: Research Library

http://www.nysha.org/nysha/research_library

New York State History: many items focusing on "...the state's involvement in wars, its transportation, its social history, its ethnic history, and its change from a small Dutch colony to the Empire State we know today."

Other collections: Native American art and culture; 19th century American art history; local history of NYS communities; history of agriculture and rural life, especially in NYS; American material culture (tangible items).

New York State History Links: Historical Societies and Associations

http://www.nyhistory.com/links/historical_societies.htm

A list of links to local historical societies and associations in the state.

HISTORIC SITES

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

- **Historic Sites**
<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/historic-sites/default.aspx?tab=1>
These sites are searchable by name, region, and amenities available to visitors (guided tours, biking, etc.).
- **Heritage Trails**
<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/historic-preservation/heritage-trails/womens-heritage/default.aspx>
Links to historic sites and resources that focus on four important NYS themes: the Revolutionary War, Women, Underground Railroad and Theodore Roosevelt.
- **Heritage Areas**
<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/historic-preservation/heritage-areas.aspx>
A State and local partnership to preserve and develop important areas in the state. Links to the Heritage Visitor Center in each geographic area provides a wealth of information and resources on the locale.

National Register of Historic Places

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/>

Official national list of cultural assets worthy of preservation. Properties include "...districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture."

National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/>

Click the **Find a Park** link, and search by name, location, activity, or topic (for example, American Presidents, or Human Rights). Parks may have tours, artifacts, reenactments, and other resources. They also have knowledgeable people.

MUSEUMS

Albany Institute of History and Art

<http://www.albanyinstitute.org/index.htm>

Collections include the fine arts, decorative arts, and historical artifacts highlighting life in the Hudson Valley since the 17th century. The library contains photographs, manuscripts, architectural drawings, broadsides, ephemera, maps, scrapbooks, history and art reference volumes and periodicals and newsletters. Click **Collections** for more information.