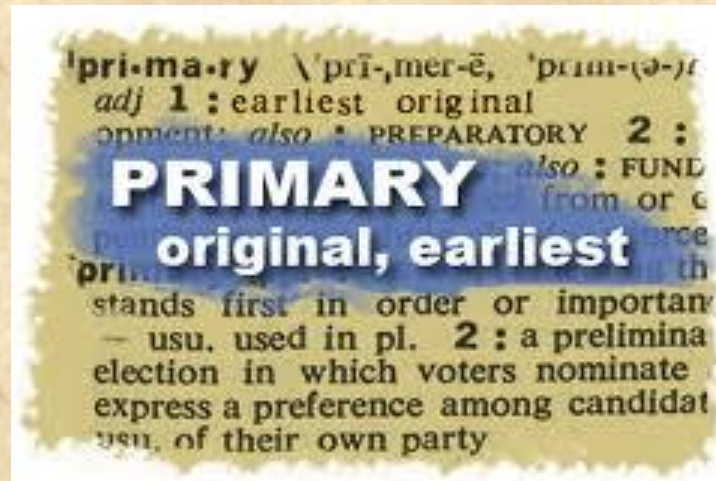


Working the Web

6.

Using Primary Source Material



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Upper School Information Literacy Instruction
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What are Primary Sources?

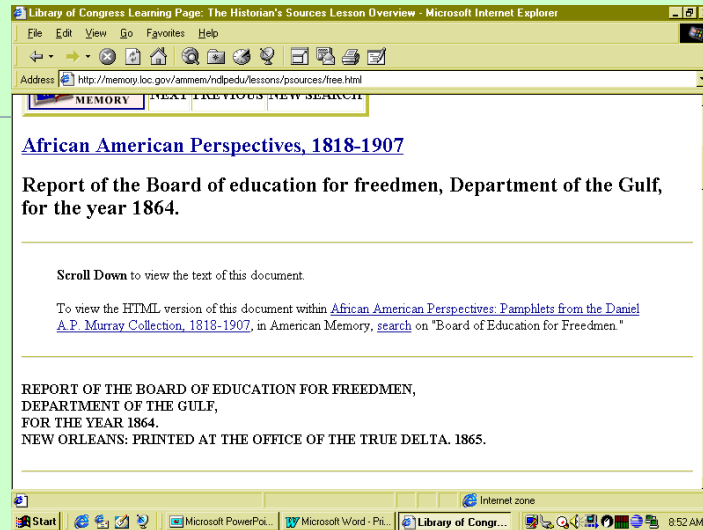
- Written, oral, visual material used to document history
- Primary sources are actual records that have survived from the past,
- such as:



**Oral traditions
and oral
histories.**



**Unpublished documents
include personal letters,
diaries, journals, wills, deeds,
family Bibles containing family
histories, school report cards,
and many other sources.**



**Visual documents include
photographs, films,
paintings, and other
types of artwork.**



**Published
documents
include books,
magazines,
newspapers,
documents,
reports,
literature of all
kinds,
advertisements,
maps,
pamphlets, &
posters.**

Plus...

➤ personal papers,

➤ government documents,

➤ maps,

➤ artifacts,

➤ coins,

➤ stamps, and many other things.

Does that mean that there are secondary sources?

- Secondary sources are accounts of the past created by people writing about events sometime **after they happened**.
- For example, your history textbook is a ***secondary source***. Someone wrote most of your textbook long after historical events took place.
- Your textbook may also include some *primary sources*, such as direct quotes from people living in the past or excerpts from historical documents.

Where do I find Primary Source Material?

- Library of Congress
- National Archives
- Census Bureau
- Universities
- Museums
- Libraries
- C.I.A & U.S. State Department

What formats can they be?

- Online databases
- CD-ROM
- Books
- Documents
- Micro-fiche
- Artifacts

How do I rate or evaluate these sources?

- *Time and Place Rule*
- *Bias Rule*

Time and Place Rule

- This rule says **the closer in time and place** a source and its creator were to an event in the past, the better the source will be.

Time and Place Rule cont'd...

- Firsthand accounts created **at the time an event occurred**;
- *Firsthand accounts created **after the event occurred***;
- Accounts created after an event occurred, by **people who used interviews or evidence** from the time of the event.

Bias Rule

- Every source is biased in some way.
- We are told only what the creator of the document **thought happened**, or what the creator **wants us to think happened**.

Bias Rule cont'd...

- Every piece of evidence and every source must be read or **viewed skeptically and critically**.
- *No piece of evidence should be taken at face value. The **creator's point of view** must be considered.*
- Each piece of evidence and source must be **cross-checked and compared** with related sources and pieces of evidence.

Why should I use primary sources?

- Primary sources do offer a different view or perspective.
- *Primary sources often stand on their own as facts.*
- Primary sources are closer, less removed, from the historic event.

How do I cite my sources?

➤ Films

- Photographer last name, first name, middle initial.
"Title of film." Date. Title of collection. (date of visit)
<Protocol and address>.

➤ Legal Documents and Government Publications

- Author's Last Name, First Name. "Title of Work." Title of Complete Work. (date of visit) <Protocol and address>.

➤ Maps

- Photographer last name, first name, middle initial.

"Title of Work." Date. Title of collection. (date of visit)
<Protocol and address>.

➤ Photographs

- Photographer last name, first name, middle initial.

"Title of photograph." Date. Title of Collection. (date of visit) <Protocol and address>.

➤ Recorded Sound

- Last name of performer(s), first name, middle initial.

"Title of Work." Date. Title of Collection or Special Presentation. (date of visit) <Protocol and address>.

Sources Used in this Presentation: Works Cited

The Historian's Source. Library of Congress. Internet 8.2.01

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/psources/pshome.html>
last updated 11/20/00.

The Learning Page. Library of Congress. Internet 8.14.01

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/resources/cite/index.html>
last updated 11/20/00.

A spiral-bound notebook with a textured, light brown cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The background is a solid teal color.

The End

Thank you!