

Research & Primary Resources Pathfinder

What are primary resources?

Primary resources are actual documents that have survived over time- photographs, letters, original documents, clothing, newspaper articles written at the time, etc.

What are secondary resources?

Secondary resources are written after the event such as a history textbook, encyclopedia, etc.

UCLA Institute on Primary Resources:

Primary resources provide firsthand evidence of historical events. They are generally unpublished materials such as manuscripts, photographs, maps, artifacts, audio and video recordings, oral histories, postcards, and posters. In some instances, published materials can also be viewed as primary materials for the period in which they were written. In contrast, secondary materials, such as textbooks, synthesize and interpret primary materials. Following are excerpts and examples from a variety of explanations provided by institutions that utilize primary resources. (<http://ipr.ues.gseis.ucla.edu/info/definition.html>)

Selected Print Resources at the Fayetteville Free Library

General Resources (these cover several periods of U.S. History)

Ambrose, Stephen and Douglas Brinkley, eds. Witness to America: an Illustrated Documentary History of the United States from the Revolution to Today. New York: HarperResource, 1999
973 WIT

Bruun, Erik, and Jay Crosby, eds. Our National Archive: Key Documents, Opinions, Speeches, Letters and Songs that Shaped Our Nation. New York: Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, Inc, 1999.
R 973 OUR
Teen 974 OUR

Carroll, Andrew, ed. War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars. New York: Scribner, 2001
355.009 WAR

Colbert, David, ed. Eyewitness to America: 500 Years of America in the Words of Those Who Saw it Happen. New York: Pantheon Books, 1997
973 EYE

Commager, Henry Steele, ed. Documents of American History. 8th ed., 1968
R 973 COM

McIntire, Suzanne, ed. American Heritage Book of Great American Speeches for Young People. New York: Wiley, 2001
TEEN 815.008 AME

Fayetteville Free Library
300 Orchard Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066
www.fayettevillefreelibrary.org
315.637.6374

Morris, Richard B. Great Presidential Decisions: State Papers that Changed the Course of History. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1967
R 973 MOR

American Revolution/Colonial Period

Carey, Charles, ed. The American Revolution. San Diego, Calif: Greenhaven Press, 2004
TEEN 973.3 CAR

Haugen, David, ed. Primary Sources (American War Library: American Revolution Series). San Diego: Lucent Books, 2003
TEEN 973.3 HAU

Meltzer, Milton, ed. The American Revolutionaries: a History in their Own Words 1750-1800. New York: Crowell, 1987
TEEN 973.3 AME

Black History

Boyd, Herb, ed. Autobiography of a People: Three Centuries of African American History Told by Those Who Lived It. New York: Doubleday, 2000
973.049 AUT

Lerner, Gerda, ed. Black Women in White America. New York: Vintage Books, 1973
Women's History 301.412 BLA

Meltzer, Milton, ed. The Black Americans: a History in their Own Words, 1619-1983. New York: T.Y. Crowell, 1984
973.049 BLA

Treanor, Nick, ed. Desegregation. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2003
TEEN 305.8009 TRE

Knock at Midnight: A Collection of Dr. King's Sermon Drum Major Instinct (sampler tape) CASS 252.061 KIN

Civil War

Chestnut, Mary Boykin Miller. Mary Chesnut's Civil War. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981
973.782 CHE

Kirchberger, Joe H. The Civil War and Reconstruction: an Eyewitness History. New York: Facts on File, 1991
R 973.702 KIR

Werner, Emmy. Reluctant Witnesses: children's voices from the Civil War. Boulder, Colo: Westview Press, 1998

973.708 ER

Gilded Age

Clark, Judith. America's Gilded Age: an eyewitness history 1865-1901. New York: Facts on File, 1992
R973.8 CLA

Immigration

Emsden, Katherine, ed. Coming to America: a New Life in a New Land. Lowell, Mass: Discovery Enterprises, 1993
TEEN 325.73 COM

Korean War

Tucker, Spencer C., ed. Encyclopedia of the Korean War – Volume 3. Santa Barbara, Calif: ABC-CLIO, 2000
R 951.904 ENC

Pioneer Life and Westward Expansion

McKain, Mark, ed. Pioneers. San Diego, Calif: Greenhaven Press, 2003
TEEN 978.02 MCK

Schlissel, Lillian, ed. Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey. New York: Schocken Books, 1992.
Women's History 978.02 WOM

Torr, James, ed. Westward Expansion. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2003
TEEN 978.01 TOR

September 11, 2001

Roleff, Tamara L., ed. America Under Attack: Primary Sources. New York: Gale, 2002.
TEEN 973.931 AME

Underground Railroad

Hansen, Joyce. Freedom Roads: Searching for the Underground Railroad. Chicago: Cricket Books, 2003
TEEN 973.711 HAN

Vietnam War

Drez, Ronald. Voices of Courage: the Battle for Khe Sanh, Vietnam. New York: Bullfinch Press, 2005
959.704 DRE

Women's History

Frost-Knappman, Elizabeth. Women's Suffrage in America : an Eyewitness History. New York: Facts on File, 1992.

Women's History 324.6 FRO

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady. The Selected Papers of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. New Brunswick, N.J. : Rutgers University Press, 1997

Women's History 016.305 STA

Great American Women's Speeches: Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, others.

CASS 324.624 GRE

World War I

Kirchberger, Joe H. First World War. New York: Facts on File, 1992

R 940.3 KIR

World War II

Bigelow, Barbara C. World War II Primary Resources. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Publishing, 2000.

R 940.53 WOR

War Letters, Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars, 2001

CASS 355.009 WAR

Apartheid

A Prisoner in the Garden: Photos, Letters, and Notes from Nelson Mandela's 27 Years in Prison, 2006 968.065 NEL

Database Resources

Custom Newspapers: Search a collection of 150 newspapers, both national and international.

Government Researcher: This database contains General Reference, Social Issues, Health, Science, and Business. Historic and Govt. Documents, Directories and Almanacs.

New York State Newspapers: Search for newspapers published in the state of New York, including the Buffalo News, New York Post, New York Times, Post-Standard.

World Book Online: Contains an encyclopedia, atlas, dictionary, tables & charts, audio clips, videos, Special Reports, Web site links, and magazine article links.

Local History Room

A microfilm reader-printer is available to access Fayetteville newspapers dating back to 1840, clipping and photo files preserving the history of Fayetteville's prominent people and places, as well as a Fayetteville High School Collection. Access by appointment with the Local History Librarian.

Additional Resources

Primary Resources:

Fayetteville Free Library

300 Orchard Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066

www.fayettevillefreelibrary.org

315.637.6374

Repositories of Primary Resources

<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

For additional information about primary resources and their significance to the research process:

The Library of Congress Learning Page

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/psources/source.html>

The University of British Columbia Library

<http://www.library.ubc.ca/hss/primary.html>

UCLA Institute on Primary Resources

<http://ipr.ues.gseis.ucla.edu/info/definition.html>

Research Process:

The Seven Steps of the Research Process

<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill1.htm>

Writing a Research Paper

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/>