

What are Primary Sources?

Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Major organization of reference and information professionals
Using Primary Sources on the Web

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/rusa/sections/history/resources/pubs/usingprimarysources/index.cfm>

“This brief guide is designed to provide students and researchers with information to help them evaluate the internet sources and the quality of primary materials that can be found online.” – from RUSA website

- What are Primary Sources?
- Finding Primary Sources on the Web (links provided)
- Evaluating Primary Source Web Sites (authenticity, it is trustworthy)
- Citing Web Sites (Help cite your source)
- Credits

University of California Berkeley Library

Finding History Primary Sources

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/primarysources.html>

Similar to RUSA. In addition, provides definition of secondary sources.

“To Know Before You Search” helps you prepare for the search:

- Think of what primary source would have been produced by the subjects. (Politicians = speeches, writers and artist = interviews for promotional purposes, demographics = census records, etc.)
- Collect dates, places, name of persons and organizations that would be a part of your search. Information can be found by using subject headings and searching in encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies.
- For books, search catalogs by subject and limit the date to the period it was published.
- Memoirs, letters, interviews, autobiographies, and diaries. If you have a name, search for the name. If you don't have a name, use subject heading such as Mexican-American or Mexico AND (correspondence, diaries, interviews, personnel narratives.)
- If you find an article in a database about your subject, the citations may give you leads to correspondences, diaries, etc.
- Searching in newspaper databases can lead to relevant articles which can provide dates for specific events.
- For newspaper use search terms such as: Mexican Americans Los Angeles
- Use government agency or organization names with subject terms: Mexican Americans La Raza
- Lots more...explore and find what works for you.

Ithaca College Library

Research Guides: Primary and Secondary Sources

<http://www.ithacalibrary.com/sp/subjects/primary>

Gives definition of both and helps to identify them. Example: Primary source could be Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the secondary source to it could be a book written about it. That book can be a primary source if you are writing a book review on that book. Your writing is a secondary source.

You Tube www.youtube.com

Type: “Primary Source”

What is Primary Source <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHTtpYYbhm0>

Primary source search in library catalog http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Njine0_X1G14

Look on right hand side to find further resources. Lots of them.