

Finding Primary Source Documents

MPI Catalog

Click on the **Power** tab to get to the Boolean search screen and fill in two of the keyword boxes, with your topic on one line and **primary source*** on the other (be sure to use the * for truncation – as sometimes it's written in singular and sometimes in plural). E.g.:

World War II	Protestant Reformation
AND	AND
primary source*	primary source*

World Book Advanced (online encyclopedia, with added primary source collection)

After you do a search, the results screen will list encyclopedia articles in the middle and primary source documents on the right side. Also, when you're in an article, there are links to related primary sources on the right. Note: You'll find more primary sources in the list on the search results screen than you will in the list within an article.

Discovering Collection

Do EITHER of the following to find primary sources:

- When you enter your search term in the Basic Search box, also check off the **Primary Sources** checkbox under **Content type**.
- Do a Basic Search as usual, and then on the search results screen, click on the **Primary Sources** tab at the top.

If you don't find enough primary sources on your first try, you might try going back to the Basic Search screen and switch from **Subject** to **Keyword** searching (because Keyword will almost always get more than Subject search will).

Gale Virtual Reference Library

Some, but not all, of our GVRL e-books include primary source documents. To find them, you can't find them by searching, you have to BROWSE, as follows:

From the GVRL home page, click on the **Show All** link below the search box, and click on the title of one of the e-books that fits the place/time period you are researching (especially from the **History** section).

Once you've gone into one e-book, click on the **eTable of Contents** link. If it's a multi-volume e-book, you'll see a pull-down menu at the top that you can use to switch volumes. In some of these sets, one volume is devoted to primary source materials. If you see a volume with primary sources listed, select that volume from the pull-down menu and then click on the little blue **Go** button.

ABC-CLIO databases

The eight ABC-CLIO databases include various kinds of primary source documents, including **Speeches & Narratives, Cultural Documents, Govt. & Court Documents, Quotes, and Other** (the last category includes various types such as personal letters, treaties, etc.)

If you click on the **Explore** or **Analyze** sections on the home page: When you click your way down to an article, in the column on the left there will be a **Primary Sources** link of primary source documents related to that topic.

If you do a keyword search: On the search results screen, there are checkboxes on the left where you can check off any available article types in the **Documents** section; these are all primary sources.

Within an article that has no left-side column with a Primary Sources link, there may be some primary source links on the right in the **Related Entries** items.

FINDING PRIMARY SOURCES, cont'd.

Issues and Controversies in American History (*Facts on File News Services database*)

Browsing: From the home page, click on **Primary Documents** link under **Special Features**. Then click on one of the three broad time periods from the list at the top: **Pre-1700s to 1799**, **1800 to 1899**, or **1900 to Present**. Once you've clicked on one of those, you can select a further time breakdown from the date ranges listed in the second row of dates. The featured primary source documents will be listed chronologically within that time period.

Searching: On the search results page, look for a tab at the top called **Primary Documents**. After clicking on the **Primary Documents** tab, you can choose to sort the list by either **Relevance** (the default) or by **Story Date** (on the left), if you want to put them into chronological order.

After searching or browsing: Within each article, there may be a list of related **PRIMARY DOCUMENTS** on the left of the article.

EBSCOhost databases

Two databases within EBSCOhost are best for finding primary sources:

- **History Reference Center** – see the link on the EBSCOhost home page.
- **MasterFile Premier** (better for more recent history topics, since this database mainly includes periodicals) – on the EBSCOhost home page, click on **High school & middle school databases**; MasterFile Premier is the 2nd database listed.

Subject searching: After you do a search and locate your term in the alphabetical Subject index, look for a blue link called **Primary Source Document References** (which may not be there if there aren't any primary source documents for your topic).

Keyword searching (beware—possible risk of many false hits): Use EITHER of these two methods:

- a) When you enter your search term on the opening screen, also select **Primary Source Document** from the **Publication Type** pull-down menu, OR
- b) After you do a search, click on the **Primary Source Documents** link at the top of the search results screen.

American History Online and Modern World History Online (*Facts on File databases*)

Note: the American History Online database has many more primary sources than the Modern World History Online database has.

Keyword searching: On the search results page, select the **Primary Sources** tab. OR go into any **Events & Topics** article, and look for a **Related Primary Sources** section in the column to the right of the article, where a few selected primary sources may be listed (though sometimes not).

Browsing via Browse Primary Sources link: If you click on the **Browse Primary Sources** link from the home page, the **Highlighted Primary Sources** section is useful. However, I suggest NOT browsing by **Time Period**, because you will probably end up in a huge alphabetical list for any give time period, with no easy way to narrow the list.

Browsing via Learning Centers: From the home page, click on one of the **Learning Centers**. On the Learning Center screen you'll find some featured **Primary Sources** in the lower-right corner. OR click on one of the **Events & Topics** or **People** articles, where some selected primary sources may be listed in the column on the right of the article. (Note: the **Overview Essays** do not list related primary sources.)

Web Sites with Primary Source Documents (list compiled by Ms. Kemble)

For a list of some Web pages with links to many primary source documents, go to:

<<http://pueo.midpac.edu/resources/primary-sources-Web.htm>>

You can use this shortened URL to get to the same page: <<http://tinyurl.com/nnsy7>>