

## Finding Primary Source Documents

To access the library databases below: <http://pueo.midpac.edu/resources/LibraryHomeAccess.htm>  
(Bookmark this page! For database passwords, see the library handout "The MPI Library's Online Databases".)

### 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*

### Gale Virtual Reference Library—Primary Sources Subcollection (from Gale)

The librarians have created a special **Primary Sources Subcollection** in Gale Virtual Reference Library that lists just the GVRL eBooks that include primary sources (because not all of them do). You can access the GVRL Primary Sources Subcollection from the library Web page (see URL at top).

In this subcollection, instead of searching, you need to BROWSE, as follows: Click on the title of one of the eBooks listed that fits the time period or topic you are researching. Then click on the **eTable of Contents**. The multi-volume eBooks have a **Volume** pull-down menu at the top that you can use to switch volumes. In many of these sets, just one volume is devoted to primary source materials—so if you see a volume called "Primary Sources," select that volume from the pull-down menu and then click on the little blue **Go** button. (Note: In some eBooks in this Subcollection, the whole book is devoted to primary sources materials.)

### Discovering Collection (from Gale)

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, 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).

### Global Issues in Context (from Gale)

On the portal pages for either **Issues and Topics** or for **Countries** (via **World Map > Browse Countries**), there will be a **Primary Sources** area on the right side.

### 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.

### 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 use the **Explore** section on the home page: When you click your way down to an article, at the bottom of the column on the left there will be a **Primary Sources** link.

If you use the **Analyze** section on the home page: When you click your way down to an article, go to the **Need to Know** section and look in the **Research List** column on the right side.

### **ABC-CLIO cont'd....**

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. Check these off and then click on "Filter My Results."

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.

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

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 (**1700s**, **1800s**, or **1900s**). Then 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.

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

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

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.)

### **EBSCOhost databases** (click on **High school & middle school databases**)

Two databases within EBSCOhost are best for finding primary sources:

- **History Reference Center** (2<sup>nd</sup> database listed) – for history topics.
- **MasterFile Premier** (3<sup>rd</sup> database listed) – for more recent topics; but includes some history as well.

Keyword searching (the default): Use either of these two methods:

- a) After you do a search, click on the **Primary Source Documents** link in the left-side column.
- b) When you enter your search term on the opening screen, select **Primary Source Document** from the **Publication Type** pull-down menu in the **Limit your results** section. [Note: not an option in History Reference Center.]

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

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

For a list of Web pages with links to many primary source documents, see <http://tinyurl.com/nnsy7>

*notes by M. Kemble, MPI Library*