

## SOME PLACES TO FIND & UNDERSTAND PRIMARY SOURCES

**Path: Library Homepage → Online Services → Online Tutorials → Primary sources (video)**

**Primary sources** are original records or firsthand reports created at the time events occurred, without added interpretation. Primary sources may also include memoirs, oral histories, and records created at a later date by a participant in the original events.

**Secondary sources** provide interpretation, explanation, or analysis of a primary source. Secondary sources frequently include primary sources to argue a point or influence the reader to a point of view.

**Tertiary sources**, such as indexes, bibliographies, etc. select, compile, and index both primary and secondary resources.

**NOTE: Always check with the instructor if you are unsure if a document or work is a primary source.**

### Butte College (Non-scholarly) Databases

Issues & Controversies in American History

- **Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → [choose a database]**
- Select Issues & Controversies in American History
- Then, under **Special Features**, click Primary Documents

Issues & Controversies on File

- **Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → [choose a database]**
- Select Issues & Controversies on File
- Then, under **Special Features** click Source Documents
- Can view Arranged by Year or Arranged by Title

CQ Press Encyclopedia of American Government

- **Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → [choose a database]**
- Select Congressional Quarterly Encyclopedia of American Government
- Then select Primary Sources (on the left)

SIRS Government Reporter

- **Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z → [choose a database]**
- Select SIRS Knowledge Source, then SIRS Government Reporter
- From bar on right, select either Historic Documents OR National Archives Documents
- You can browse both or search Historic Documents
- You can browse National Archives Documents

### Online Resources

Library of Congress (US Gov.)

- Primary Documents in American History  
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/PrimDocsHome.html>
- American Memory Project  
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

World History Resources (free)

- Website reviews describe online primary–source archives, evaluate resources, and provide classroom suggestions. Browse by time period or try the advanced search.
- <http://chnm.gmu.edu/worldhistorysources/whmfinding.php>