Web Resource Guide

The Internet is a great place to find resources of all kinds, but just remember that print sources are invaluable too! Beware of questionable internet sites, not all of them have been professionally vetted, you will want to check information that you find on one with another resource. This list contains some respected websites that may be able to help you get started with your research!

“Eye Witness to History” –  www.eyewitnessohistory.com
“Eye Witness to History” is your ringside seat to history – from the Ancient World to the present. This site present history through the eyes of those who lived it through primary source excerpts of witnesses to major historical events. Presented by Ibis Communications, Inc.

Library of Congress
“American Memory: Historical Collections for the National Digital Library”
http://memory.loc.gov
American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience. It is a digital record of American history and creativity. These materials, from the collections of the Library of Congress and other institutions, chronicle historical events, people, places, and ideas that continue to shape America, serving the public as a resource for education and lifelong learning.

“Chronicling America”  http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov
Digital collection of historic American newspapers from 23 states, from 1860-1922. Search by state, newspaper, dates, keyword, or use pre-determined search dates and keywords organized by topic, in “Topics in Chronicling America.”

“THOMAS” http://thomas.loc.gov
THOMAS was launched in 1995 in an effort to make federal legislative information freely available to the public. You can find search Bill Summaries and Status, Multiple Congresses, Public Laws by Law Number, House Roll Call Votes, Senate Roll Call Votes, Treaties, and the Congressional Record, etc. from 1973 to the present.

National Archives

“Research Our Records” www.archives.gov/research

“Our Documents - 100 Milestone Documents”  www.ourdocuments.gov
We invite all Americans to participate in a series of events and programs to get us thinking, talking and teaching about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our democracy. At the heart of this initiative are 100 milestone documents of American history ranging from 1776-1965.
The “Digital Vaults” exhibit delivers an online experience that is unlike any other. With a database of some 1,200 documents, photographs, drawings, maps, and other materials and a keywording system that visually links records, the Digital Vaults enables visitors to customize their exhibit experience and to create posters, movies, and games that can be shared by e-mail. Each record in Digital Vaults is also linked to the National Archives’ Archival Research Catalog (ARC), so visitors who want to know more can take the first steps toward a research journey into the National Archives

“DocsTeach” http://docsteach.org
Documents from 1754 to the present, sorted into eras and into document types. Includes historically significant documents as well as other historical documents, such as family trees, receipts, marriage announcements, arrest warrants and informational films.

Smithsonian Institute Collections http://collections.si.edu
Search over 7.8 million catalog records with 568,100 images, video and sound files, electronic journals, and other resources from the Smithsonian’s museums, archives, and libraries.

Smithsonian Institution Archives http://siarchives.si.edu
Search the Smithsonian Archives’ collections, which contain the office records of the Smithsonian, as well as personal papers, special collections, records of professional societies, and oral/video histories relating to the history of the Smithsonian.

“Making of America” University of Michigan and Cornell University http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa
A digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. The Making of America collection comprises the digitized pages of books and journals. This system allows you to view scanned images of the actual pages of the 19th century texts. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) has been performed on the images to enhance searching and accessing the texts.

Documents in law, history and diplomacy, ranging from 4000 BCE to the present. Documents are grouped by century and listed alphabetically. Full text for all documents, and source of document listed at the end.

The Medicine and Madison Avenue Project presents images and database information for approximately 600 health related advertisements printed in newspapers and magazines. The collection represents a wide range of products such as cough and
cold remedies, laxatives and indigestion aids. The ads illustrate the variety and evolution of marketing images from the 1910s through the 1950s.

“The Living Room Candidate,” Museum of the Moving Image. 
www.livingroomcandidate.org

The Living Room Candidate contains more than 300 commercials, from every presidential election from 1952 to 2008.

“The American Presidency Project,” University of California, Santa Barbara. 
www.presidency.ucsb.edu

Comprehensive collection of documents related to the study of the presidency. Documents include executive orders, State of the Union addresses, inauguration addresses, addresses to the nation and foreign nations. From Washington to Obama.

http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adaccess

Over 7,000 U.S. and Canadian advertisements covering five product categories – Beauty and Hygiene, Radio, Television, Transportation, and World War II propaganda – dated between 1911 and 1955.

“American RadioWorks” http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org

“Battles of Belief in World War II”
Two remarkable stories reveal the different fronts in the struggle for minds and hearts during wartime. During WWII, three dozen conscientious objectors volunteered for a starvation experiment at the University of Minnesota.

“Campaign ‘68”
The 1968 presidential contest was marked by surprising turns, tragic violence, and a momentous outcome. Three major forces shaped these events: a controversial war, fractious race relations, and the rising power of television.

“Hearing America: A Century of Music on the Radio”
Since the first broadcast, music on the radio in the U.S. has been a cultural battleground. It’s been a place where people who wanted to shape the nation’s society skirmished over what America should sound like, and should be like.

“Kings Last March”
Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Four decades later, King remains one of the most vivid symbols of hope for racial unity in America. But that’s not the way he was viewed in the last year of his life.

“Korea: The Unfinished War”
Examine the often-overlooked war that helped define global politics and American life for the second half of the 20th century.
“My Names is Iran”
In 1927, Iran developed a legal code doing away with gruesome Islamic punishments such as stoning and lashing. That all changed during the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

“Remembering Jim Crow”
Americans-blacks and white – remember life in the Jim Crow times.

“State of Siege: Mississippi Whites and the Civil Rights Movement”
Mississippi led the South in an extraordinary battle to maintain racial segregation. White set up powerful citizens groups and state agencies to fight the civil rights movement.

“Say it Plain, Say it Loud: A Century of Great African American Speeches”
This collection for the ear and eye, highlights speeches by an eclectic mix of black leaders.

“Song Catcher of Red Wing: Frances Densmore”
For nearly 60 years Densmore conducted a personal campaign to capture Native American traditional music before it vanished from the continent.

“Unmasking Stalin: A Speech that Changed the World”
On February 25, 1956, Nikita Krushchev, the formal Kremlin leader, revealed and denounced, for the first time in the history of the Soviet Union, the crimes of his predecessor, Joseph Stalin. Khrushchev condemned Stalin in a secret speech at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist party.

“AMDOCS: Documents for the Study of American History” www.vlib.us
Nearly 450 historical documents, organization by chronological period, from 800- 2009. Maintained by George Laughead, of the Kansas Heritage Group.

“Making of America (MoA)” http://quod.lib.umich.edu
Making of American is a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. The collection is particularly strong in the subject areas of education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology. The collection currently contains approximately 10,000 books and 50,000 journal articles with 19th century imprints.

“Hypertexts” American Studies Department at University of Virginia
http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/hypertext.html
Many classic texts in U.S. History, including The Education of Henry Adams, Letters from an American Farmer, Notes on the State of the Union (Thomas Jefferson), and My Twenty Years at Hull House (Jane Addams). Organized by author’s last name – a project of the University of Virginia.

“American Rhetoric: Top 100 Speeches” American Rhetoric
The Top 100 Speeches is an index to a substantial database of full text transcription of the 100 most significant American political speeches of the 20th
century, according to a list compiled by Professors Stephen E. Lucas, University of Wisconsin-Madison and Martin J. Medhurst, Baylor University. Some audio available.

“American Women's History: Digital Collections of Primary Sources” Middle Tennessee State University Library
http://frank.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wh-digcoll.html
Links to numerous collections of primary sources in women’s history from Ken Middleton, Middle Tennessee State University Library. Search sources listed under “digital collections”.

“Bartleby: Great Books Online” Bartleby.com www.bartleby.com
Selected classics of literature, nonfiction, and reference books have been made available online. Search by subject, title, or author.

“Digital History: Primary Source Document” Gilder Lehrmann Institute
www.digitalhistory2.uh.edu
A searchable database of 600 primary sources dealing with political, diplomatic, and social history, as well as supreme court cases, newspaper articles, and obituaries, speeches and more. From the Gilder Lehrmann Institute and the University of Houston.

“Documenting the American South” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Documenting the American South (DocSouth) is a digital publishing initiative that provides Internet access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture. DocSouth includes sixteen collections of books, diaries, posters, artifacts, letters, oral history interviews and songs.

“eHistory” Department of History, Ohio State University
http://ehistory.osu.edu/osu/sources
Ohio State University present a variety of sources including letters, diaries, historical texts, historical documents, oral histories, maps, images, and the Official Records of the Civil War. Collection is searchable with a heavy emphasis on Civil War era.

“Historical Census Browser” University of Virginia Library
http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu
On this site you can examine state and county topics for individual census years from 1790 to 1960. Categories to examine census data include general population, ethnicity/race/place of birth, education and literacy, agriculture, economy/manufacturing/employment, and slave population.

“National Park Service: History and Culture: Collection” National Park Service http://www.nps.gov/history/collections.htm
“National Security Archives” George Washington University  
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/  
This archive from George Washington University is a repository for declassified documents that journalists and scholars have obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Subject areas include Europe, Latin America, Nuclear History, China and East Asia, U.S. Intelligence Community, Middle East and South Asia, September 11th Sourcebooks, Humanitarian interventions, and Government secrecy.

“New York Public Library – Digital Gallery” New York Public Library  
http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm  
NYPL Digital Gallery provides free and open access to over 800,000 images digitized from the New York Public Library’s vast collections, including illuminated manuscripts, historical maps, vintage posters, rare prints, photographs and more.

Fordham University Internet History Sourcebook –  www.fordham.edu/halsall  
World History, Ancient History, primary sources.


Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library – Significant Documents Collection  www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/collections.html  

Herbert Hoover Presidential Library – Published writings of Herbert Hoover  
www.ecommcode.com/hoover/ebooks/browse.cfm  

Harry S. Truman Library – Online Documents  www.trumanlibrary.org/photos/av-photo.htm  

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library – Online Documents  www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/online_documents.html  


Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library – Research Collections  www.lbjlibrary.org/collections  

Nixon Presidential Library – Virtual Library  www.nixonlibrary.gov/virtual_library/index.php  *also see History Day specific section  

Jimmy Carter Library – Documents and Photographs  
www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/documents

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library – Archives www.reagan.utexas.edu

George Bush Presidential Library – Archives  
http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu/research/research.php

William J. Clinton Presidential Library – Digital Library  
www.clintonlibrary.gov/digital-library.html

“Oyez – U.S. Supreme Court Media” Chicago-Kent College of Law  
www.oyez.org

The Oyez Project is a multimedia archive devoted to the Supreme court of the United States and its work. It aims to be a complete and authoritative source for all audio recorded in the Court since the installation of a recording system in October of 1955.