

Primary Source Resources

What is a Primary Source? Materials that were created during the time

Types of Primary Sources (from the National History Day Rulebook – pg. 9):

- Eyewitness accounts
- Written materials, such as letters, speeches, diaries, newspaper articles, and other documents from the time
- Verbal testimony, such as oral history interviews with people from the time, and oral traditions (i.e. histories that are preserved and shared through word of mouth rather than writing)
- Images and artifacts such as photographs, paintings, drawings, maps, and objects from the time
- Unedited copies of primary materials found on credible internet sites, such as the websites of the National Archives and Records Administration and Library of Congress
- Anything else that provides a first-hand account of your topic

Primary Sources to Explore for Any (United States or Florida) Topic

- National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov>
- Presidential Libraries: <https://www.archives.gov/presidential-records/research/archival-collections>
- Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov>
- Florida Memory Project: www.floridamemory.com
- State Archives: depending on where your topic is based out of, each state should have a state archive to look through with many resources online
- Digital Collections at universities:
 - Florida Collections
 - University of Florida: <https://ufdc.ufl.edu/>
 - University of South Florida: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/digital_collections/
 - Florida State University: https://diginole.lib.fsu.edu/islandora/object/fsu:digital_library
 - Out of state collections: search for a university in the area of your topic and add “digital collections” into a search bar (i.e. the gold rush might search for “UCLA digital collections”)