A Three Hour Tour
Navigating primary source materials on the Internet

Skipper Kathy Schrock

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Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip.
That started from this tropic port, aboard this tiny ship.
The mate was a mighty sailin' man, the Skipper brave and sure.
Five passengers set sail that day for a three hour tour. A three hour tour.

Why Use Primary Sources?
A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to be always valuable.

*Thomas Jefferson, 1817*

Port to Visit: National Archives
The check for the purchase of Alaska

Port to Visit: American Memory
The first telegraph message sent by Morse with transcription, "What hath God wrought?"
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query?coll=mmorse&fileName=071/071009/071009page.db&recNum=0%0D%0D%0D

Port to Visit: 100 Documents
Kennedy's Draft Inaugural Address from 100 Milestone Documents (1776-1965)
http://www.ourdocuments.gov/content.php?page=milestone
Port to visit: Links to the Past

Frederick Douglass' cane made by John Brown, 1882
Abraham Lincoln's cane given to Frederick Douglass

http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/treasures

Port to visit: AM Movies

Annie Oakley by Thomas Edison, November 1, 1894

http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/edhtml/ednvalpha.html

Schedule of Events

• Definitions and explanations
• Primary resources across the curriculum
• Primary source super-sites
• Tying it all up!
• Supporting Web page:
  http://kathyschrock.net/navigating/

Definition 1

• Primary sources
  – actual records that have survived from the past, such as letters, photographs, videos, and articles of clothing
• Secondary sources
  – accounts of the past created by people writing about events sometime after they happened

http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/miptpedia/lessons/psources/source.html

Definition 2

• Primary sources
  – original records created at the time or after historical events occurred in the form of memoirs and oral histories
  – may include letters, manuscripts, diaries, journals, newspapers, speeches, interviews, memoirs, documents produced by government agencies, photographs, audio recordings, moving pictures or video recordings, research data, and objects or artifacts

http://www.lib.washington.edu/subject/History/RUSA/
Transmission of Primary Sources

- Written
- Oral
- Visual
- Electronic

Written Transmissions

- Books
- Journals
- Letters
- Annals
- Dissertations
- Public records
- Census data
- Eyewitness accounts
- Scripture
- Inscriptions
- Newspapers

Oral Transmissions

- Speeches
- Anecdotes
- Sagas
- Oral histories
- Music
- Interviews (not videotaped)

Visual Transmissions

- Sculpture
- Photographs
- Portraits
- Maps
- Cartoons
- Coins
- Videotapes
- Films
- Posters
- Engravings

Electronic Transmissions

- Faxes
- Electronic mail
- Machine readable databases
- Web pages
- Instant messaging logs
- Newsgroup postings
- Blog postings
- Voice mail messages
- Podcasts

Why Use Primary Resources?

- Primary sources expose students to multiple perspectives on great issues of the past and present
- Primary sources help students develop knowledge, skills, and analytical abilities

http://learning.loc.gov/learn/lessons/fw.html
Selecting Primary Resources

- **Interest**: kinds of sources to use
- **Reading Level**: help for use
- **Length**: excerpt or entire thing
- **Points of View**: fair representation
- **Variety of Sources**: all types included
- **Location**: where are the sources

Judging the Quality

- **Bias Rule**
  - Every source is biased and no piece of evidence should be taken at face value
  - The creator’s point of view must be considered
  - Evidence must be checked and compared

- **Time and Place Rule**
  - The closer in time and place a source and its creator were to the event, the more authentic the source

Questions for Analyzing

- Who created the source and why?
- Did the recorder have firsthand knowledge?
- Did the recorder produce the source for personal, small group, or large group use?
- Was the source meant to be public/private?
- Did the recorder wish to inform or persuade others?
- When was the info recorded?

Historical Records and Teaching

- **Personal Records**
  - Birth certificate
  - Driver’s license
  - Tax returns
  - Social security card
  - Scrapbooks
  - Diaries

- **School Records**
  - Yearbooks
  - School newspapers
  - Blueprints
  - School board minutes
  - Videotaped plays
  - Literary magazines

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Greenwood Press Series

- Using Internet Primary Sources to Teach Critical Thinking Skills in...
  - Geography
  - Government
  - History
  - Mathematics
  - Sciences
  - Visual Arts
  - World Languages
  - World Literature
Objective of geographical study
- Explain how places develop characteristics
- Explain why they are located where they are
- Explain how they are related to one another

Any first-hand source
- With spatial characteristics
- Dealing with environmental issues

Types of primary resources
- Maps
- Scientific data collection
- First person accounts
- Censuses and statistical reports
- Ground-level photographs
- Aerial and satellite images

Field Notes

“Clark Field Notes- Keelboat”
William Clark Field Notes, 1804

Personal Travel Narratives

This valley consists of an undulating prairie, (at intervals rough,) varying in width from the narrow limits of a few yards to the more ample dimensions of four or five miles.

Sometimes, the adjoining hills close in upon the river banks and force the trail among their rugged windings. In one place the road leads over a high stretch of table land for nearly a day's travel, when it again descends to the valley.

The stream, in places, is tolerably well timbered with cottonwood, oak, and aspen, and rolls over a rocky bed, with a clear and swift current.

“Rocky Mountain Life”
Rufus B. Sage, 1857

Maps

The Canal Zone: Profile of the Canal
The Historical Atlas
William R. Shepherd, 1923

Aerial Photographs and Images

“Topographic Map of Eastham MA”
Mathematics

- Types of primary resources
  - Interactive microworlds
    - User manipulates objects to recognize patterns
  - Data sets
    - User makes decisions about selecting data
  - Mathematical procedures
    - Tools that produce a specific outcome

Interactive Microworlds

- Bath Time with Archimedes

Data Sets

- Hobbes’ Internet Timeline

Mathematical Procedures

- Image Tool
**Visual Arts**

- Online image galleries and virtual tours
  - Paintings
  - Sculptures
  - Prints
  - Drawings
  - Photographs
  - Films and videos
  - Tapestries
  - Architecture

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**Architecture**

- Architecture and Interior Design (LOC)

http://www.painetworks.com/photos/ib/ib2372.JPG

Reproduction number: LC-G612-T-53352 DLC

http://www.dne.org/business/camp_info/Indianhead_photosite/images/dining-all-upper-level.jpg

Reproduction number: LC-G613-T-59949 DLC

http://www.painetworks.com/photos/ib/ib2372.JPG

Reproduction number: LC-G613-T-48296 DLC
**Architecture**

- Architecture and Interior Design (LOC)

Reproduction number: LC-USZC2-4250 DLC

**World Languages**

- Type of primary resource material
  - Literary sites
  - Online museums and galleries
  - Sites about a particular place
  - Historical figures and events
  - Online media sites

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**Museums and Online Galleries**

- Hermitage Museum

**Museums and Online Galleries**

- The Hermitage: The Malachite Room

**Sites about a Particular Place**

- Berlin (Official) Site
Sites about a Particular Place

• Berlin (Official) Site: The Berlin Wall

Primary source advantages

– They provide an instantaneous representation of events
– They furnish information not found in other sources
– They do not interpret evidence after the fact
– They assist in the discovery of truth


Instructional Strategies

• Approaches
  – Assignment: given a question to answer
  – Thematic
  – Database
  – Role-playing
  – Class involvement
  – Counter-factual
  – Simulation


Themes

• Thematic
  – Traces a pattern or theme
  – Similar incidents compared
  – Develops historical perspective

Photojournalism: A Record of War
  – http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/97/photo/home.html

Sample War Photographs

1

2

3

4

Databases

• Database
  – Online databases of primary sources
  – Example: Census and weather databases
• Weather On Your Birthday
  – http://wunderground.com/
Sample Info

- Role-playing
  - "You are there"
  - Put themselves in another's place
  - Green-screening and movie

- Class Involvement
  - Use of primary sources to conduct debates or host mock trials

Counter-Factual

- Counter-Factual
  - "What if?"
  - Research and think critically
- What are We Fighting for Over There?
  - [http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/00/lincoln/teacher.html](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/00/lincoln/teacher.html)

Simulation

- Simulation
  - Re-create past historical events
  - Enlives the study of history
- In Their Own Words Podcasts
  - Letters Written by the Pilgrims
    - [http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/PrimarySources/letters.php](http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/PrimarySources/letters.php)

Sciences

- Primary source material
  - Real-time data observation
    - NASA
    - Weather
  - Scientist's own words and discoveries
    - Tie-in to history

Ideas For Science Sources

- Read the Hippocratic oath and discuss past and current medical ethics situations

Excerpt:

- I will apply dietetic measures for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgment; I will keep them from harm and injustice.
- I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect. Similarly I will not give to a woman an abortive remedy. In purity and holiness I will guard my life and my art.
- I will not use the knife, not even on sufferers from stone, but will withdraw in favor of such men as are engaged in this work.

Ideas for Science Sources

• Read Virginia Apgar’s paper and discuss how the Apgar Scale is a bit different today

Ideas for Science Sources

• Have students research a scientific anomaly at the Science Frontiers site

…(image)...

Ideas for Science Sources

• Discuss the understatement in Watson and Crick’s DNA paper
  “It has not escaped our notice that the specific pairing we have postulated immediately suggests a possible copying mechanism for the genetic material.”

Ideas for Science Sources

• Discuss what aspect of nature Alexander Graham Bell sought to duplicate

…(image)...

Ideas for Science Sources

• What is an OCTOTHORPE and how/why was it named?
  Hint: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 # 0

…(image)...

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…(image)…
The Living Room Candidate

http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php

United Streaming

http://unitedstreaming.com/

Internet-Only Primary Sources

Internet-Only Primary Sources

Internet-Only Primary Sources

Internet-Only Primary Sources

The Living Room Candidate

United Streaming

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Internet-Only Primary Sources

Photo courtesy of David Warlick and his new MotorolaQ phone
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Tying it all up...

- Students need to understand the difference between primary and secondary sources
- Primary sources expose students to differing points of view
- Primary sources can easily be used across the curriculum in various ways
- Great super-sites are available

D.W. Griffith (1915)

"Imagine a public library of the near future, for instance. There will be long rows of boxes of pillars, properly classified and indexed, of course.

At each box a push button and before each box a seat. Suppose you want to "read up" on a certain episode in Napoleon's life.

D.W. Griffith (1915)

Instead of consulting all the authorities, wading laboriously through a host of books, and ending bewildered, without a clear idea of exactly what did happen and confused at every point by conflicting opinions about what did happen, you will merely seat yourself at a properly adjusted window... press the button...

D.W. Griffith (1915)

...and actually see what happened."
The End

- Presentation support site
  - http://kathyschrock.net/navigating/

- Sites to suggest?
  - kathy@kathyschrock.net