



Locating Historical Sources Online

Guide

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McINTYRE LIBRARY
Special Collections

Getting Started _____

When searching for historical resources online, please be aware that only a small fraction of the documentary universe has been digitized. While excellent collections are available on line, researchers can expect to find on the Web information about collections, rather than fully digitized collections. Records in library catalogs and finding aid databases help researchers discover where to go for relevant materials.

Selected Digital Archives _____

Digital archives and exhibits are frequently organized around a theme or topic. These digital collections are well suited to assignments and short papers, but generally not exhaustive research.

WHS Digital Archives and Library

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/collections/digital.asp>

University of Wisconsin Digital Collections

<http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/collections.html>

WHS Historical Images

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/index.asp>

Wisconsin Electronic Reader

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/WIReader/Contents.html>

Minnesota Visual Resources Database

<http://collections.mnhs.org/visualresources/>

American Memory (Library of Congress)

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amhome.html>

National Archives and Records Administration

Online Exhibits

<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/>

Online Archives of California Virtual Collections

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/about/oacprojects.html>

Selected Online Indexes, Records & Finding Aids _____

These tools help researchers search archival holdings in specific repositories or across the country by keyword or subject. They generally do not provide access to digitized materials.

ArCat (Wisconsin Historical Society / ARC Catalog)

<http://arcat.library.wisc.edu/>

Minnesota Historical Society Library Catalog

<http://www.mnhs.org/library/index.html>

National Archives and Records Administration

<http://www.archives.gov/aad>

National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC)

<http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>

Worldcat (available to UWEC Community)

<http://lib1.uwec.edu/joun#aspWORLDCAT>

Locating Archives Online _____

While not all archives have digital collections, online finding aids, or catalog records for collections, almost all have a Website that provides basic information, including location, hours, collection overviews, and staff contact information. Do not hesitate to contact archives staff by phone or email; sometimes that is the only way to find out about collections. Use the Repositories of Primary Sources list to find archives online:

Repositories of Primary Sources

<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

Not Finding What You Need? _____

In spite of modern technology, many archival collections remain hidden. Do not hesitate to contact the archives staff for assistance:

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