### Beyond Books

#### Learning Objectives for Section
- Differentiate between primary and secondary sources, recognizing how their use and importance vary with each discipline
- Collect data from disparate sources to create new ideas
- Recognize unique materials available in an archive or special collection may be the most appropriate resource

#### Related ACRL Standards Addressed
- **STANDARD ONE**: The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
  - **Performance Indicator 2** - The information literate student identifies a variety of types and formats of potential sources for information.

- **STANDARD TWO**: The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.
  - **Performance Indicator 3** - The information literate student retrieves information online or in person using a variety of methods.

#### Multimedia
- **Video**: Primary and Secondary Sources (2:30)
- **Quiz**: Primary and Secondary Sources (10 questions)
- **Video**: Government Information (4:52)

#### Introduction (real world relevance)
A wealth of resources exists beyond literature, non-fiction books, and journal articles; explore information from the government, archives, and special collections for your research project.

#### Topics for Discussion
**Primary and Secondary Sources**
- Definitions of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources
- Compare primary sources to first-hand information, secondary sources to second-hand
- Outline of video
- Differences by discipline

**Government Documents**
- Types of government information
- Mostly available to the public for free
- Levels of government information/structure of government
- How to find government information

**Archives and Special Collections**
- Archives are collections of records that document data or information about an event, group, institution, or place. They also can be a physical location where materials are stored.
• **Special collections** refers to a reserve of items designated as having particular value, and typically are housed separately from the rest of an organization's collection. They often are maintained according to unique preservation standards.

• Many primary sources

• Also non-print resources

• Plan ahead – contact library staff before visiting in person

• Letter of introduction

• [Digital Public Library of America](https://www.dpl.org): This recently launched site serves as a channel for access to offerings from numerous archives, libraries, and museums.

• [Internet Archive](https://archive.org): The Internet Archive was founded in 1996 and offers the opportunity to retrieve archived web pages, audio recordings, and software.

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### Activities

One-minute writing assignment on common activity among the students (e.g., what students had for breakfast; campus or local event of which all the students would be aware) describing their experience, or lack of experience, if applicable. Share the pieces with partners/small groups/class and then discuss similarities or differences in answers, and how answers could be converted into a secondary source.

Have students compare either two primary sources about the same event, or a primary and a secondary source about the same event. How did the student determine if each piece was a primary or a secondary source? How do the pieces differ? What additional research questions does the student have after reading the pieces?

Scavenger Hunt – find URLs for a health statistic, a labor statistic, the text of a new law, a map used for environmental studies, tax help, a government-funded scientific study, a description of a veteran benefit, name of a high-ranking official in the military, a database, resources for teachers, and the most surprising thing the student found while browsing a government website.

Explore two government websites from different levels of the same geographic area (e.g., a town and a county, a county and a province, a town and a state). Find two pieces of information that are only available at the lower level, two pieces that are only available at the higher level, and two pieces that are available at both levels.

Using the Digital Public Library of America website, or another digital collection, have students either search for an item that could be used for a research assignment or browse by location to find items nearby.
Teaching with Primary Sources Program by the U.S. Library of Congress - 
http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/

The following list offers examples of well-known archives open to the public.

- **Boston Public Library**
  BPL became the first free library in America. Musical scores, prints, and rare books and manuscripts are just a few unique items in its collection.

- **The British Library**
  Not only does The British Library have access to copies of every publication produced in Ireland and the United Kingdom, it also occasionally displays the world's "earliest dated printed book, the Diamond Sutra" and is home to patents, stamps, and old sound recordings, among other materials.

- **Library and Archives Canada**
  This collection covers Canadian history and includes art, drawings and maps, films from as far back as 1897, photos, videos and sound recordings, and the Canadian Postal Archives.

- **Library of Congress**
  The oldest federal cultural institution in the United States and the world's largest library, the LOC houses books, manuscripts, maps, photos, and other materials.

- **National Archives and Records Administration**
  Visitors can access preserved documents such as business documents, military records, and photos at the Archives in Washington, D.C.

- **Basque Digital Collection**
  Produced by the University of Nevada, Reno, this photographic collection documents Basque people's experiences in the Western United States and Europe as far back as 1870.

- **Digital Archive of Popular American Music**
  As a research collection, the archives are an offshoot of the UCLA Music Library, and includes digital versions of sheet music and recorded performances that have entered the public domain.

- **The Getty Research Institute**
  The institute offers collections, such as Hindu Excavations in the Mountain of Ellora, in digital form on its website.

- **University of Missouri Digital Library**
  The school has digitized selected maps from its Sanborn Maps of Missouri Collection.

**Readings**