

FINDING PRIMARY RESOURCES: AMERICAN MEMORY

Part 2 of Researching and Writing for History Majors

Review of Part 1



- Introduction to history major
- Introduction to historical research and writing
 - ▣ Primary Resources
 - ▣ Secondary Resources

Learning Objectives

- You will learn about the American Memory project.
- You will learn how to search for primary resources on the American Memory website.
- You will become familiar with some of the collections by exploring one for yourself and hearing about what your classmates explored.

ACRL Information Literacy Standards for Higher Education (2000)

- This lesson meets competency 2:
 - ▣ “The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.”

-Specific performance indicators include:

1. Selecting the most appropriate investigative methods or information retrieval systems for accessing the needed information.

3. Retrieving information online or in person using a variety of methods.

About American Memory



- Started with the Library of Congress' launch of the National Digital Library Program in 1994.
- Created to provide free online access to digitized historical materials
 - ▣ written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music
 - ▣ Over 9 million items

Searching American Memory

- Search all collections by using the search box on the homepage.
- Browse collections on the homepage by:
 - Topic
 - Title
 - Time period
 - Material type
 - Place

Searching All Collections

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the American Memory website. The address bar shows the URL memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html. The browser's search bar contains the text "Search all collections" and a yellow arrow points to it. The website header includes the Library of Congress logo and navigation buttons for HOME, BROWSE, ABOUT, HELP, and CONTACT. Below the header, there is a search bar with the text "Search all collections" and a "SEARCH" button. The main content area is divided into several sections: "Browse Collections by Topic" with a grid of links for various subjects like Advertising, African American History, Architecture, etc.; "Collection Highlights" featuring "American Colony" and "Abraham Lincoln"; "Today in History" for August 5; and "Teachers" and "Ask a Librarian" sections. The footer of the website includes "The Library of Congress | Legal" and a zoom level of 110%.

Browsing by Topic

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the American Memory website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `http://www.loc.gov/ammem/index.html`. The website header includes the text "The LIBRARY of CONGRESS AMERICAN MEMORY" and navigation buttons for HOME, BROWSE, ABOUT, HELP, and CONTACT. A search bar is located on the right side of the header.

The main content area is titled "Browse Collections by Topic" and features a grid of topic links. A green arrow points to the "Browse Collections by Topic" heading. A red arrow points to the "More browse options" link. A purple arrow points to the "List all collections" link. The "Collection Highlights" section on the right includes "American Colony" (Journey to Jerusalem) and "Abraham Lincoln" (The Stern Collection). The "Today in History" section for August 5 features a clock icon and text about historical collections. The "Teachers" and "Ask a Librarian" sections are also visible.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the system tray with the time 3:56 PM and date 8/5/2011. The browser's zoom level is set to 110%.

Browsing by Title

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'List All Collections' page on the Library of Congress American Memory website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse>. The page header includes the Library of Congress logo and navigation links: HOME, BROWSE, ABOUT, HELP, and CONTACT. A search bar is located in the top right corner with the text 'Search all collections' and a 'SEARCH' button. The main content area is titled 'List All Collections' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'The Library of Congress > American Memory Home > Browse Collections'. Below this, there is a navigation bar with letters A through W. The 'by Title' sorting option is selected. A list of collection titles is displayed, including 'Adams, Ansel ~ Japanese-American Internment ~ Photographs ~ 1943', 'Advertising ~ Multiformat ~ 1850-1920', 'African Americans ~ Daniel A. P. Murray ~ Pamphlets ~ 1818-1907', 'African Americans ~ Ohio ~ Multiformat ~ 1850-1920', 'African Americans ~ Pamphlets ~ 1824-1909', 'African Americans ~ Sheet Music ~ 1850-1920', 'African-American Music, Southern U.S. ~ Recordings ~ 1938-1943', 'African-American Odyssey ~ Exhibit ~ Multiformat', 'American Colony in Jerusalem ~ Photographs & Manuscripts ~ 1870-2006', 'Architecture and Interior Design ~ Gottscho and Schleisner ~ Photographs ~ 1935-1955', 'Architecture, Engineering and Landscapes ~ HABS/HAER/HALS ~ Multiformat ~ 1933-present', 'Arendt, Hannah ~ Papers ~ 1898-1977', 'Baseball and Jackie Robinson ~ Multiformat ~ 1860-1969', 'Baseball Cards ~ 1887-1914', 'Baseball Guides and Spalding ~ 1889-1939', 'Bell, Alexander Graham ~ Papers ~ 1862-1939', 'Berliner, Emile ~ Early Recording Industry ~ Multiformat ~ 1870-1956', and 'Bernstein, Leonard ~ Multiformat ~ ca. 1920-1989'. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Windows logo, several application icons, and the system tray with the time 3:36 PM and date 8/5/2011.

The LIBRARY of CONGRESS
AMERICAN MEMORY

HOME BROWSE ABOUT HELP CONTACT

Search all collections

List All Collections
The Library of Congress > American Memory Home > Browse Collections

A B C D E F G H I J L M N O P Q R S T U V W

Sort Collections: by Subject | **by Title**

[Show Collection Description](#)

[Adams, Ansel ~ Japanese-American Internment ~ Photographs ~ 1943](#)
[Advertising ~ Multiformat ~ 1850-1920](#)
[African Americans ~ Daniel A. P. Murray ~ Pamphlets ~ 1818-1907](#)
[African Americans ~ Ohio ~ Multiformat ~ 1850-1920](#)
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[Bell, Alexander Graham ~ Papers ~ 1862-1939](#)
[Berliner, Emile ~ Early Recording Industry ~ Multiformat ~ 1870-1956](#)
[Bernstein, Leonard ~ Multiformat ~ ca. 1920-1989](#)

110% Desktop 3:36 PM 8/5/2011

More Browse Options: Time, Material, Place

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the American Memory website. The browser's address bar shows the URL gov/ammem/browse/index.html. The page content is organized into several sections:

- Browse by Topic**: A grid of topic categories with links to "more" information for each.
 - Advertising**: [Early Advertising, more](#)
 - African American History**: [Slave Narratives, more](#)
 - Architecture, Landscape**: [Historic Buildings, more](#)
 - Cities, Towns**: [New York City Films, more](#)
 - Culture, Folklife**: [September 11, Dust Bowl, more](#)
 - Environment, Conservation**: [Florida Everglades, more](#)
 - Government, Law**: [Continental Congress, more](#)
 - Immigration, American Expansion**: [Chinese in California, more](#)
 - Literature**: [Walt Whitman, more](#)
 - Maps**: [Civil War Maps, more](#)
 - Native American History**: [Pacific Northwest Culture, more](#)
 - Performing Arts, Music**: [Music for the Nation, Creative Americans, more](#)
 - Presidents**: [Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, T. Roosevelt, more](#)
 - Religion**: [Southern Black Churches, more](#)
 - Sports, Recreation**: [Jackie Robinson, more](#)
 - Technology, Industry**: [Alexander Graham Bell, more](#)
 - War, Military**: [Civil War Photographs, WWI Rotogravures, more](#)
 - Women's History**: [National Woman's Party Photographs, more](#)
- List all collections**: A link to view all available collections.
- Browse Collections by Time Period**: A list of time periods with links to "more" information for each.
 - [1400-1699](#) [1700-1799](#)
 - [1800-1849](#) [1850-1899](#)
 - [1900-1929](#) [1930-1949](#)
 - [1950-1969](#) [1970-present](#)
- Browse Collections Containing**: A list of collection types with links to "more" information for each.
 - [Maps](#)
 - [Manuscripts](#)
 - [Motion Pictures](#)
 - [Sheet Music, Song Sheets](#)
 - [Photos, Prints](#)
 - [Sound Recordings](#)
 - [Books, Other Printed Texts](#)
- Browse Collections by Place**: A list of geographical locations with links to "more" information for each.
 - [Northeast U.S.](#) [All U.S.](#)
 - [South U.S.](#) [International](#)
 - [Midwest U.S.](#)
 - [West U.S.](#)

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Windows Start button, several application icons, and the system tray with the date and time: 3:44 PM, 8/5/2011.

Tips for Searching

- ❑ Collections with * not searchable
- ❑ Do not use quotation marks when searching for phrases
- ❑ Do not use accent marks
- ❑ Stop words: not, the, and
- ❑ Not case-sensitive
- ❑ Keep historical terms in mind

Please see the
Search Help
guide at:

http://memory.loc.gov/amem/help/search_help.html

Your Turn to Explore!



Performing Arts: Beth B.

Native American History: Joe B.

Presidents: Pamela H.

Maps: Kaitlin H.

Sports, Recreation: Jennifer H.

Technology, Industry: Ann M.

Literature: Dolly M.

Women's History: Laura R.

Architecture, Landscape: Addie R.

Environment, Conservation: Laura W.

Review of Part 2

- You learned about the American Memory project.
- You learned how to search for primary resources on the American Memory website.
- You became familiar with some of the collections by exploring one collection and hearing about some of the collections your other classmates explored.

Questions? Comments?

Contact me:

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**Thank you for attending
and participating!**