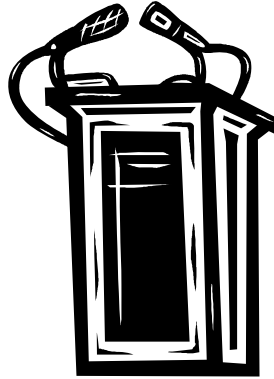


USING PRIMARY SOURCES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

What are Primary Sources?

A primary source is an original document that contains firsthand accounts . Examples would be statistical data, historical documents, research reports, art & literary works, policy statements, court proceedings, etc.



Speeches, diaries, and letters

This also includes other papers in which individuals describe events in which they were participants or observers.



Examples: The Gettysburg Address, Diary of Anne Frank, newspaper articles that provide eyewitness accounts, collected correspondence, collections of government email, and interviews.

Memoirs and autobiographies. These may be less reliable than diaries or letters since they were usually written long after events occurred and may be distorted by bias, dimming memory, or the revised perspective that may come with hindsight. On the other hand, they are sometimes the only source for certain information.

Examples: Winston Churchill's writings on World War II, autobiographies of presidents written after their terms, Tom Brokaw's interviews with veterans.

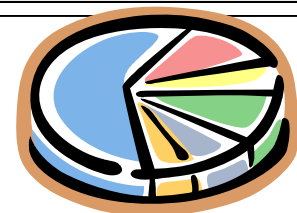


Records of organizations. The minutes, reports, memos, correspondence, etc. of an organization or agency serve as an ongoing record of the activity and thinking of that agency.

Examples: Position statements from the National Rifle Association on gun control, statements from Planned Parenthood on abortion rights, and court decisions regarding consumer rights.



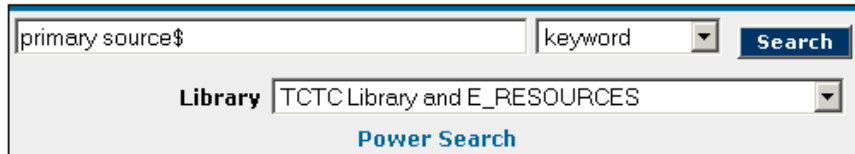
Information collected by government agencies. Governments are the largest producer of sponsored research. Additionally, they collect vast amounts of data that document conditions in society, such as census information, permits and licenses, and vital statistics (birth, death, and marriage information), etc.



Examples: Statistical Abstracts, US Census data on the internet, ship passenger lists, and probate records.

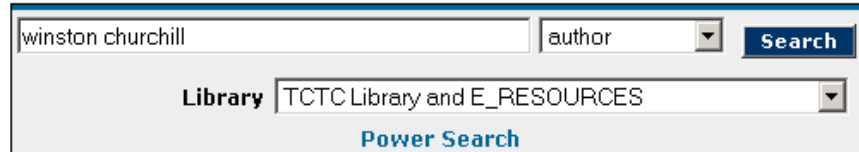
FINDING PRIMARY SOURCES

Library catalog: Adding a \$ symbol as shown will retrieve books with the term "primary source" as well as those with the term "primary sources" in the same search. Use the keyword search for the most inclusive list.



Other searches to try would be your subject and the terms "letters", "correspondence", "journals", "speeches" or "diaries".

If you know that individuals involved in events have written books, do an author search for them.



Article Databases: Several databases have primary sources tabs in the results list. First you must search for a topic, then click on the particular tab you want. Keep in mind that materials that are considered primary sources may also be categorized as newspapers, magazines, and statistics.

Results for **Basic Search** (SU ("Capital punishment"))

Opposing Viewpoints database



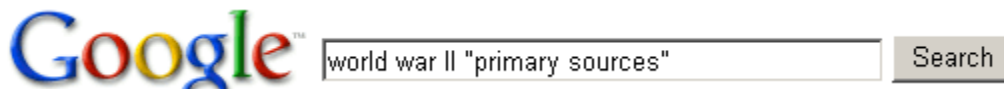
History Resource Center database

Your search (Keyword= **apollo**) returned the following results.



Primary Source Documents. Below are items 1-2 of 2 found.

Using the internet: By enclosing the term "primary sources" in quotation marks and including it in your initial search, you can retrieve only those websites that include such documents.



[The Avalon Project: World War II: Documents](#)

Read the text of **World War II** documents including agreements, declaration of UN, and important speeches.

www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/wwii.htm - 11k - [Cached](#) - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

[Internet Modern History Sourcebook: World War II](#)

War In Europe. **WEB World War II** - Documents, 1940-45 [At Yale] ... 8, 1941 [At U Oklahoma]; Japanese Surrender Documents of **World War II** Sept. ...

www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook45.html - [Similar pages](#) - [Note this](#)

[American Women's History: World War II](#)

In Women of the Far Right: The Mother's Movement and **World War II**. The Books with **Primary Sources** section includes suggestions for finding additional ...

www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wh-wwii.html - 17k -