

GNARP: New Resources for North American Studies, A Sampling
Handout
Marcia Pankake, 7 October 2006

I. Collections of Primary Sources: A Selection

I. A. Broad or Comprehensive

American Memory, from the Library of Congress

<http://memory.loc.gov>

Selected materials, but covers all subjects; browse by subject (advertising, architecture, cities & towns, environment, government, maps, performing arts, sports, technology).

Archive of Americana (Readex)

<http://www.readex.com/readex/?content=93>

A package of separate collections, including the two below, with others still underway.

Early American Imprints, Series I (Evans, 1639 – 1800)

Every book, pamphlet, and broadside (36,000) published in the American British colonies and the United States 1639 – 1900. Also part of the Text Creation Partnership (Univ. of Michigan)

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/>

U. S. Congressional Serial Set, 1817 – 1980

<http://www.readex.com/readex/product.cfm?product=9>

Will contain nearly 14,000 volumes and more than 12 million pages from the original 350,000 publications, along with 52,000 maps and thousands of illustrations and statistical tables.

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>

ICPSR provides access to a vast archive of social science data for research and instruction, and offers training in quantitative methods to facilitate effective data use. The ICPSR Web site provides to the social science research community efficient search capabilities, quick and easy access to data, information about ICPSR and its programs, and appropriate support and documentation. Particular studies can be done from segmented files like the [American national election studies : cumulative data file, 1952-1990](#). The General Archive acquires and processes data collections in a wide range of social science disciplines including political science, sociology, economics, psychology, and education. The Archive maintains and updates a number of longstanding serial data

collections and also acquires datasets for its Publication-Related Archive, which allows researchers to replicate published articles, books, or dissertations.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers

http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/pq-hist-news.shtml

Includes the New York Times 1851 – 2002, and other important newspapers from Chicago, Los Angeles, and other cities. Complete contents, with both full-page and individual article images.

I. B. Thematic Research Collections: A Selection

African American Sheet Music 1850 – 1920, from the collections of Brown University, also accessible from American Memory at the Library of Congress

<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/sheetmusic/afam/index.html>

1305 pieces of sheet music, of about 10,000 titles held at the Hay Library. Sheet music can be produced rapidly in response to an event or public interest, and thus is a source of relatively unmediated and unrevised perspectives on quickly changing events and public attitudes. Particularly significant in this collection are the visual depictions of African Americans which provide information about racial attitudes over the course of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Canadian Poetry

http://collections.chadwyck.com/home/home_cp.jsp;jsessionid=78D174BC338926CB672644878D3DB561

In partnership with the Electronic Text Centre at the University of New Brunswick Libraries, this collection contains the full text of more than 19,000 poems by 177 poets, offering a comprehensive survey of Canadian poetry from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth.

Early American Fiction 1789 – 1850

<http://etext.virginia.edu/eaf/>

http://collections.chadwyck.com/home/home_eaf2.jsp

Facsimile page images and keyword-searchable full text for more than four hundred works of American prose fiction published before 1850, including works by James Fenimore Cooper, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne. Sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the University of Virginia Library, and published by ProQuest Information and Learning in collaboration with the University of Virginia. One of the many collections contained within ProQuest's LION (Literature Online), below.

eHRAF: Human Relations Area Files, the electronic version of the old paper and microfiche files on world cultures.

<http://www.yale.edu/hraf>

<http://ets.umdl.umich.edu>

The Human Relations Area Files, Inc. (HRAF), an internationally recognized organization in cultural anthropology facilitates worldwide comparative studies of human behavior, society, and culture. Founded in 1949 at Yale University. HRAF produces two major collections (the HRAF Collection of Ethnography and the HRAF Collection of Archaeology), encyclopedias, and other resources for teaching and research. eHRAF Collection of Ethnography is a cross-cultural database that contains over 350,000 pages of information on all aspects of cultural and social life.

Search published and unpublished documents by subject codes (abandoned children, code 855, or apathy, code 152); by words (indexed to the paragraph level); or by culture (N for North America, NK07 for Haitian Americans). Combining the 855 with NK07 leads to 3 paragraphs in "American Odyssey: Haitians in New York City." published in 1984.

I. C. Images, A Selection

Archive of Early American Images, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/John_Carter_Brown_Library/pages/ea_hmpg.html

About 3000 woodcuts, copper engravings, and paintings (on paper and vellum), and when complete, about 6000 images. Images come from relatively obscure books printed in Europe in the early modern period that have in them material related to the Americas. Accessible by more than thirty different fields, and also searchable by any of the substantive words used in the title of the image or used in the Library's descriptive cataloguing. I.e. using "Florida; 1700–1750; Indigenous peoples," will show images of Indians in Florida produced within that fifty year period. Images have extensive bibliographical and descriptive information.

New York Public Library Digital Gallery

<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm>

Over 480,000 images from primary sources and printed rarities in the New York Public Library, including [illuminated manuscripts](#), [historical maps](#), [vintage posters](#), [rare prints](#) and [photographs](#), [illustrated books](#), [printed ephemera](#), and more. Includes 16th-century maps and drawings depicting the landing of European explorers in the Western Hemisphere; contemporaneous engravings of battle scenes of the [American Revolution](#); portraits of [African Americans](#) in the mid-19th century; photographs recording the westward progress of the [American transcontinental railroad](#); sheet music covers and restaurant menus from the 1890s; and photographs of Depression-era New York City by [Lewis Hine](#) and [Berenice Abbott](#). Extensive metadata.

I. D. Sounds: A Selection

Database of Recorded American Music

http://dram.nyu.edu/dram/_html/about.html

A subscription collection of 20th-century and contemporary American music, browsable by album and track titles, recording label (nine labels), artist, and date of recording and composition. Includes liner notes, scholarly essays, bibliographies, and discographies. Offered by New World Records and New York University.

II. Digital Private Libraries: Reference, Primary, and Secondary Sources -- Two Examples

Black History and Literature, six collections so far

<http://www.alexanderstreet.com/products/black.htm>

Black Women Writers: more than 100,000 pages of literature and essays by black women from Africa and the African Diaspora.

African American Song: Fifty thousand pieces of jazz, blues, gospel, and other forms of African American music.

African American Music Reference: the first comprehensive reference database to chronicle African American music through 1970. It brings together important reference texts, including discographies, and bibliographies—together with songsheets, images, and other print resources.

Black Thought and Culture: from earliest times to 1975, the evolution of what it means to "be black." Includes a full run of The Black Panther - the party's newspaper - and 2,500 pages of oral history interviews. Figures include teachers, artists, politicians, religious leaders, athletes, veterans, entertainers, and others.

Black Short Fiction: 8,000 works by writers from Africa and the African Diaspora, from the earliest times to the present. Drawn from early literary magazines, archives, and the personal collections of the authors, much of the collection is fugitive, ephemeral, or previously unpublished, ranging from early African oral traditions to today's hip-hop.

Black Drama: 1,200 plays, almost a quarter of which are previously unpublished. Includes the complete works of more than 300 playwrights from North America, Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Australia, and other locations. Starting with Victorian plays and working up to the present, presents the writings together with biographies, playbills, images, production notes, and performance information.

LION: Literature Online

http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/literature_online.shtml

Materials for the study of almost every period and genre of literature in English with more than 350,000 works of English and American poetry, drama and prose. Can search within specific collections or across collections. Sources for criticism include 192 full-text literature journals. Bibliographic sources include the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature (ABELL); the Modern Language Association of America International Bibliography; and Jacob Blanck's Bibliography of American Literature. Some of the seventeen collections of literary texts:

20th Century African-American Poetry--10,000 poems by more than 75 African-American poets

20th Century American Poetry--More than 52,000 poems from over 750 20th-century American poets

20th Century English Poetry--More than 44,900 poems by over 285 authors in 598 volumes of poetry

African-American Poetry, 1760-1900--Nearly 3,000 poems written by African-American poets in the late 18th and 19th centuries

American Drama, 1714-1915—Over 1,500 plays from the beginning of American theater to the early twentieth century

American Poetry--Over 40,000 poems from more than 200 American poets

Canadian Poetry – (see above)

Early American Fiction, 1789-1875— (see above)

Twentieth Century Drama – 2,500 plays written in English from dramatists of the 20th century, women and men, many ethnicities and nationalities.

III. Specialized Subject Collections By Design: A Selection

Literature and Culture of the American 1950s

<http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/50s/home.html>

By Alan Filreis, English department, Univ. of Pennsylvania. Diverse materials with links to other sites.

North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries, and Oral Histories

<http://www.alexanderstreet2.com>

Letters, diaries, oral histories, interviews, and other personal narratives, 1840 – 1980, 2162 authors and 100,000 pages, on immigration to the U.S. and Canada, searchable by personal names, places, years, nationality, personal events, organizations, and subjects.

Perry Visits Japan: A Visual History

<http://dl.lib.brown.edu/japan/index.html>

A site built by students and faculty at the Center for Digital Initiatives, Brown University. Based upon a Japanese scroll illustrating Commodore Matthew Perry's landing in Japan, the first official contact between Americans and Japanese. This work of an anonymous Japanese artist was painted between 1854 and 1906. The popularity of Pokemon, anime, and Tokyo Disneyland remind us that the cultural interaction between Japan and the United States remains important to both countries. We want to investigate how it began.

Western Trails, An Online Journey

<http://www.cdpheritage.org/exhibit/westernTrails/index.cfm>

Several institutions including the University of Wyoming American Heritage Center

<http://ahc.uwyo.edu/sitemap.htm>

and its Digital Initiative

<http://digital.uwyo.edu/default.htm>

The Valley of the Shadow

<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/>

<http://valley.vcdh.virginia.edu/choosepart.html>

Edward Ayers's famous site of primary sources about people in two communities during the American Civil War, 1859 – 1870 showing letters and diaries, census and government records, newspapers and speeches, which record different aspects of daily life. From the Virginia Center for Digital History at the University of Virginia. An electronic archive; a book, a library?

III. Thematic or Subject Gateways: A Selection

Data on the Net

<http://odwin.ucsd.edu/idata/>

Internet sites (363) of numeric social science statistical data, data catalogs and libraries, and gateways.

History Matters

<http://www.historymatters.gmu.edu/>

A gateway to web resources and materials for research and teaching in U.S. history.

Intute: Arts & Humanities (formerly Humbul Humanities Web)

<http://www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/american/>

From the Resource Discovery Network (RDN), to uncover best Internet resources for education and research in Creative Arts and Humanities, maintained by the University of Oxford; Manchester Metropolitan University; and the University of the Arts, London. Distinguished for its indexing and description, as well as its broad scope.

Literary Resources on the Net

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/>

Jack Lynch established this collection of more than 6000 links to sites on the Internet for English and American literature, excluding most single electronic texts.

Online Archive of California

<http://oac.cdlib.org/>

Historical materials from California museums, historical societies, and archives. Over 120,000 images; 50,000 pages of documents, letters, and oral histories; and 8,000 guides to collections in a single, searchable database of "finding aids" to primary sources and their digital facsimiles. Primary sources include letters, diaries, manuscripts, legal and financial records, photographs and other pictorial items, maps, architectural and engineering records, artwork, scientific logbooks, electronic records, sound recordings, oral histories artifacts and ephemera.

Voice of the Shuttle

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/>

American Studies page: <http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2706#id189>

Since 1994, VOS provides a structured and briefly annotated guide to online resources that at once respects the established humanities disciplines in their professional organization and points toward the transformation of those disciplines as they interact with the sciences and social sciences and with new digital media. (See such pages as [Cultural Studies](#), [Sci-Tech and Culture](#), [Cyberculture](#), and [Technology of Writing](#).) VOS emphasizes both primary and secondary (or theoretical) resources. It allows group accounts that enable classes, organizations, conferences, etc. to build subsets of VoS resources that will appear both on the regular VoS pages and on a special page set aside for the group (e.g., the "English 130," "History 186," or "Conference 2001" VoS Resources Page). VoS will thus be an open platform serving the needs of both general and specific communities of users.

IV: Locating Archives, Primary Sources, Special Collections: A Selection

ArchiveGrid from RLG, the Research Libraries Group

<http://archivegrid.org/web/jsp/index.jsp>

ArchiveGrid is a service of RLG, a not-for-profit membership organization of over 150 universities, national libraries, archives, historical societies, and other institutions. Thousands of libraries, museums, and archives have contributed nearly a million collection descriptions to ArchiveGrid. Researchers searching ArchiveGrid can learn about the many items in each of these collections, contact archives to arrange a visit to examine materials, and order copies.

Archives Canada

<http://www.archivescanada.ca/english/index.html>

Archives in 800 repositories. Search or browse by keyword, title, provenance. Exhibits searchable in more ways.

ArchivesUSA

http://www.proquest.com/products_pq/descriptions/archives_usa.shtml

Indexes 5500 repositories, 154,500 collections of primary source materials, including the contents of NUCMC, the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, 1959 to present, 103,000 collections; the 62,000 finding aids in NIDS, National Inventory of Documentary Sources in the U. S., the ProQuest microfiche, and other sources.

Digital Library Federation

<http://dlf.grainger.uiuc.edu/DLFCollectionsRegistry/browse/>

Indexes 754 publicly accessible digital collections hosted by the partners and allies of the Digital Library Federation (DLF). The Digital Library Federation is an international association of libraries and allied institutions. Links 419 collections about North America.

Repositories of Primary Sources, Univ. of Idaho Library

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

Links to 5000 websites describing holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs, and other primary sources for the research scholar compiled by Terry Abraham. Web sites that describe physical collections of rare books, manuscripts, archives, historical photographs, oral histories, or other primary sources. Focuses on actual repositories; excludes virtual collections and exhibitions.

University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign Gateway to Cultural Materials

<http://nergal.grainger.uiuc.edu/cgi/b/bib/bib-idx>

The UIUC Digital Gateway to Cultural Heritage Materials currently contains approximately 538,485 metadata records from 32 collections. Includes both electronic collections and those without digital versions.