

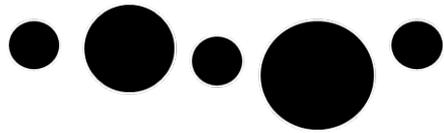


LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
TEACHING WITH **PRIMARY SOURCES**

Finding Primary Sources from the Library of Congress

Danna Bell dbell@loc.gov
Cheryl Lederle cled@loc.gov
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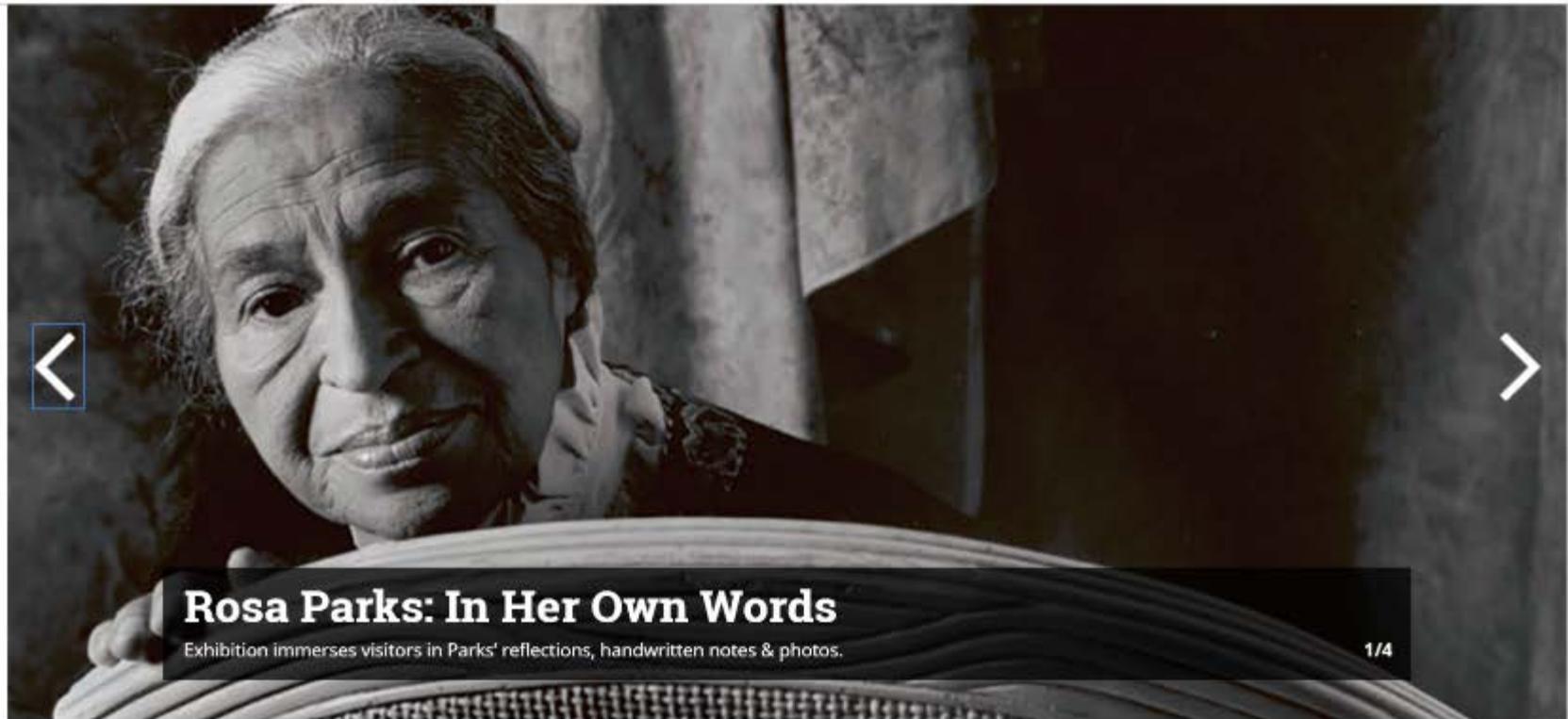


Agenda

Together, we will:

- Tour short cuts to finding primary sources on LOC.gov
- Explore techniques for constructing searches on LOC.gov

Shortcuts for finding primary sources



Rosa Parks: In Her Own Words

Exhibition immerses visitors in Parks' reflections, handwritten notes & photos.

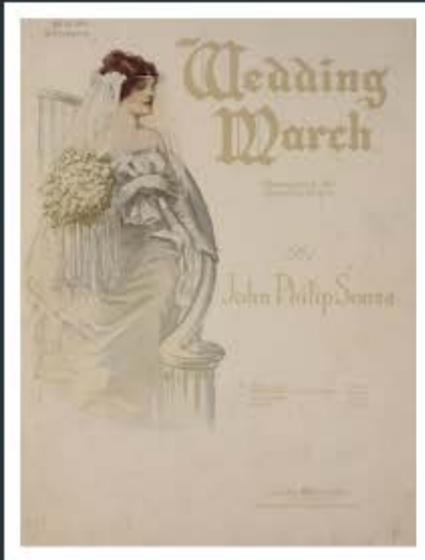
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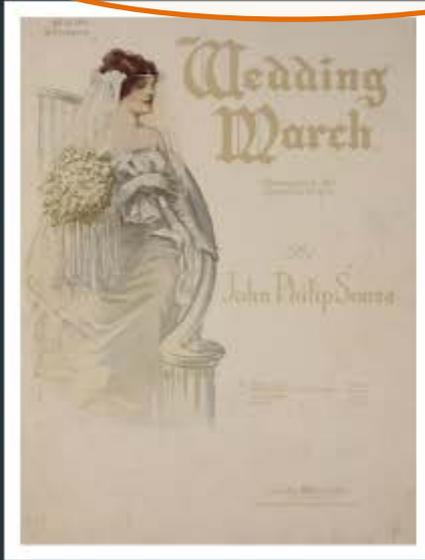


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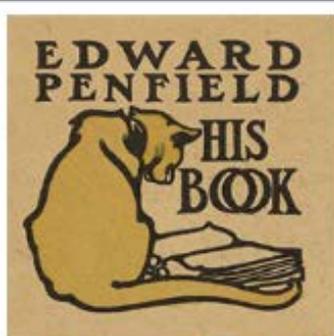
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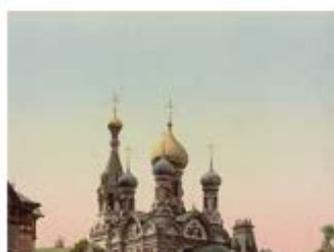
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Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote

Suffragists from Seneca Falls to the 19th Amendment featured in a 100th anniversary exhibit.

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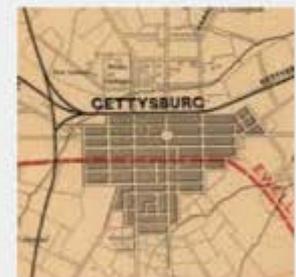
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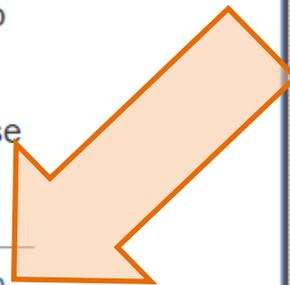
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Ouija Board: Topics of Chronicling America

In 1890, the Ouija board was created for supernatural communication. It was also the focus of several lawsuits. This guide provides access to materials related to the "Ouija Board" in the Chronicling America digital collection of historic newspapers.

Introduction

[Search Strategies & Selected Articles](#)

Newspaper & Current Periodical Reading Room



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About Chronicling America

[Chronicling America](#) is a searchable digital collection of historic newspaper pages from 1789-1963 sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

Ouija is a talking board first manufactured in the United States in 1890. A talking board is a board printed with letters and numbers that uses a sliding pointer to spell out messages in a mysterious way. The board that became Ouija was born in 1886 in Chestertown, Maryland and named in 1890 in Baltimore where it was first manufactured. Since Ouija's inception newspapers reported on its use as a way to communicate with the dead, predict catastrophes, solve mysteries, even commit crimes. As Ouija's popularity grew in the wake of World World I, newspaper coverage spread about Pearl Curran, a St. Louis housewife who used Ouija to talk with the spirit of a 17th-century woman named Patience Worth. Mrs. Curran went on to publish Patience's writings, many of which were met with critical acclaim.

[Read more about it!](#)

The information in this guide focuses on primary source materials found in the digitized historic newspapers from the digital collection [Chronicling America](#).

The timeline below highlights important dates related to this topic and a section of this guide provides some suggested search strategies for further research in the collection.

TIMELINE

1890	Elijah Bond and Charles Kenner begin manufacturing Ouija boards in Baltimore after reportedly holding a seance with Helen Peters.
1891	William Fuld buys the rights to the game and records a patent.
1901	Fuld's brother Isaac has his license revoked by Ouija Novelty; he tries to keep making the game but is blocked by a judge.



"The typical ouija board." November 23, 1919. *New-York Tribune* (New York, NY), Image 71. Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers.

Search Strategies & Selected Articles

The links below provide access to a sampling of articles from historic newspapers that can be found in [Chronicling America](#). You can further explore the topic of the "Ouija Board" using the following search strategies:

- Use the following terms in combination, proximity, or as a phrase:
Ouija board, talking board, planchette, alphabet board, witch board, Patience Worth, Mrs. Curran, William Fuld, Isaac Fuld, Ouija Novelty Company
- It is important to use a specific date range if looking for articles for a particular event in order to narrow your results. To narrow your results for this topic, search between 1890 and 1922.

SELECTED ARTICLES FROM CHRONICLING AMERICA

- ["The New Talking Board"](#)
The Democratic Northwest (Napoleon, OH), April 29, 1887, Image 3, col. 2.
- ["The Ouija: The Wonder of the 19th Century"](#)
The Sunday Herald and Weekly National Intelligencer (Washington, DC), December 21, 1890, Page 2, Image 2, col. 4.
- ["Weird Writings: Planchette Craze Has Broken Out Again"](#)
The Morning Call (San Francisco, CA), November 14, 1893, Page 8, Image 8, col. 3-4.
- ["Ouija Board Again Brings Marvelous Mysterious Messages"](#)
The Ogden Standard (Ogden, UT), December 11, 1915, Image 17, col. 1-7.
- ["Patience Worth, the Newest Literary Marvel"](#)
New-York Tribune (New York, NY), December 12, 1915, Page 3, Image 33, col. 1-6.
- ["Enduring Mystery of the Ouija Board Reincarnation"](#)
New-York Tribune (New York, NY), November 23, 1919, Page 5, Image 71, col. 1-8.
- ["Who Invented Ouija?"](#)
Charlevoix County Herald (East Jordan, MI), June 25, 1920, Image 3, col. 3.
- ["The Baby that is Being Raised by a Ghost"](#)



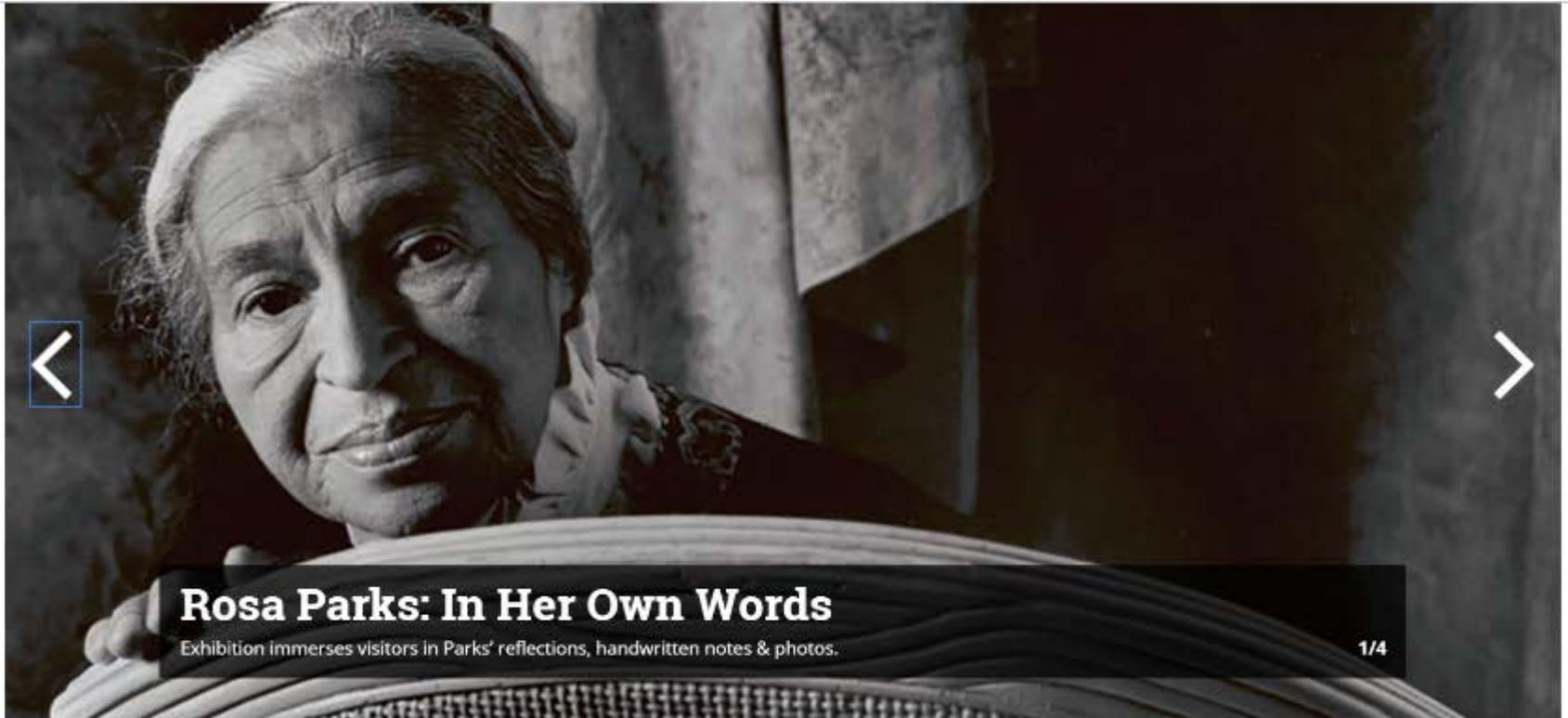
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May 1, 2020 by Danna Bell

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April 30, 2020 by Danna Bell

This post is by Jen Reidel, the 2019-2020 Library of Congress Teacher in Residence.

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Posted in: [Government and Law](#)

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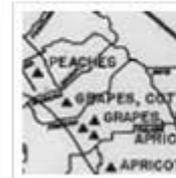
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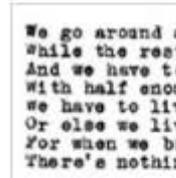
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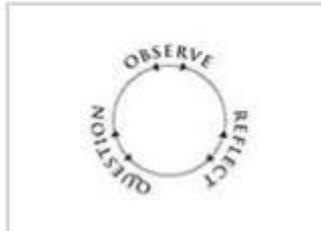
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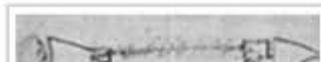
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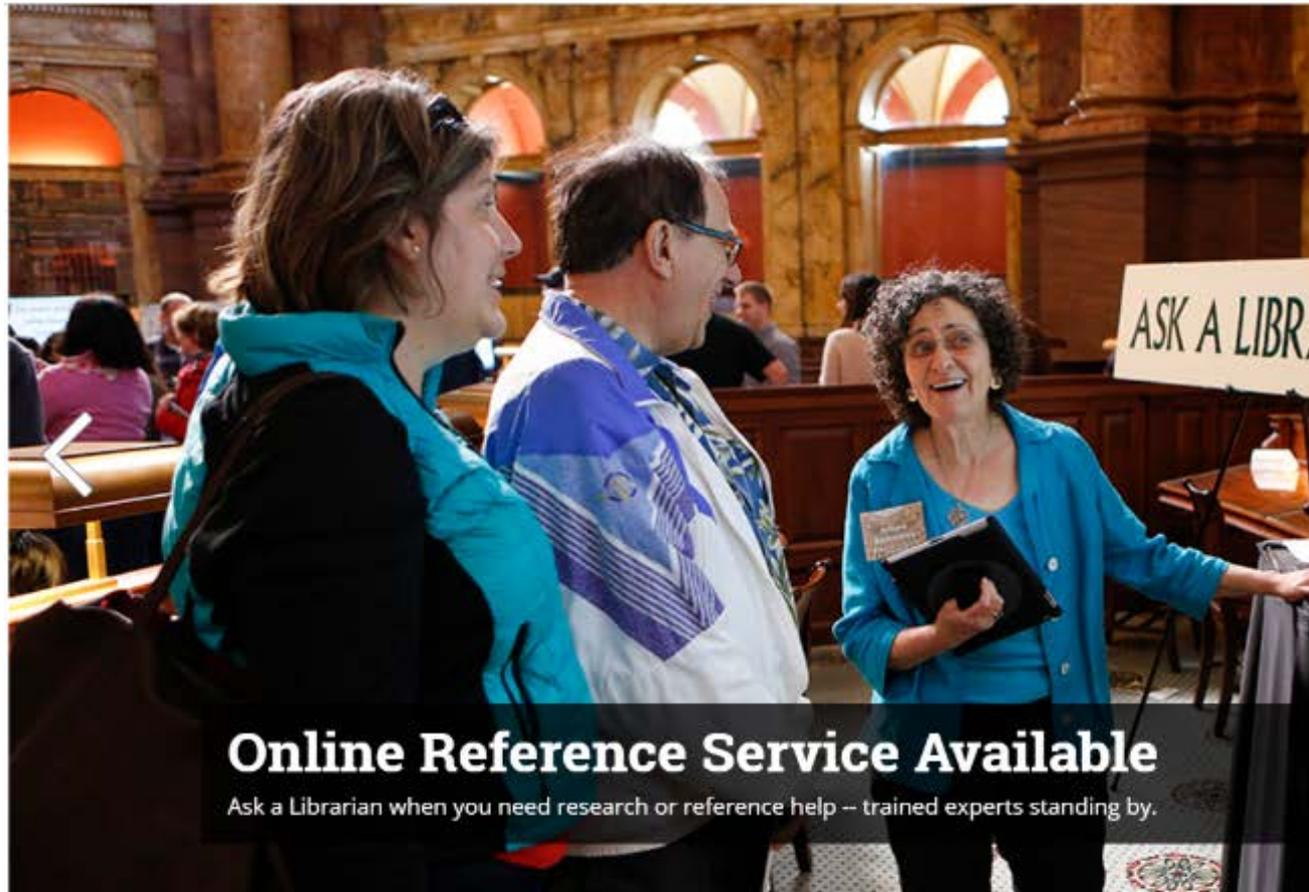


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 Suffragists from Seneca Falls to the 19th Amendment featured in a 100th anniversary exhibit. 2/4



Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote

Suffragists from Seneca Falls to the 19th Amendment featured in a 100th anniversary exhibit. 5/5

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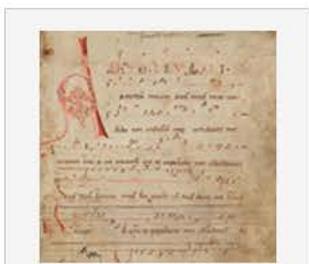
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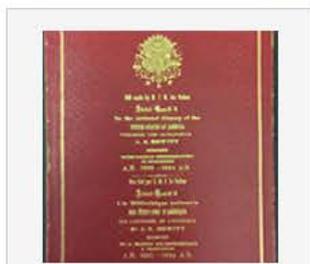
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