Finding Primary Sources from the Library of Congress

Danna Bell dbell@loc.gov
Cheryl Lederle cled@loc.gov
Stacie Moats smoats@loc.gov
Notice of recording

This session is being recorded. If you choose to participate, any of your comments or questions will become part of the Library’s collections.
Welcome. We’re glad you’re here! Use the chat box to introduce yourselves. Please select “all participants and panelists”

Let us know:

- Your first name
- Where you’re joining us from
- Why you’re here
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
Free to Use and Reuse: American Revolution and Founding Washington

The maps selected for this set represent cities, battles, and symbols involved in the founding of the United States. For more maps from the Revolutionary War period, see the digital collection "American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750 to 1789," Browse more content that is free to use and reuse.
Free to Use and Reuse: American Revolution and Founding Washington

The maps selected for this set represent cities, battles, and symbols involved in the founding of the United States. For more maps from the Revolutionary War period, see the digital collection “American Revolution and Its Era: Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750 to 1789.” Browse more content that is free to use and reuse.»
This page features items from the Library's digital collections that are free to use and reuse. The Library believes that this content is either in the public domain, has no known copyright, or has been cleared by the copyright owner for public use. Each set of content is based on a theme and is first featured on the Library's home page.

These sets are just a small sample of the Library's digital collections that are free to use and reuse. The digital collections comprise millions of items including books, newspapers, manuscripts, prints and photos, maps, musical scores, films, sound recordings and more. Whenever possible, each collection has its own rights statement which should be consulted for guidance on use. Learn more about copyright and the Library's collections.
Explore!
Share!

Please take a moment to browse the free to use and reuse sets (link in the chat, or scroll to the bottom of loc.gov)

Then add a comment to the chat:
• What’s a set that you might use?
• How might you use it in your teaching?
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.

Ouija is a talking board first manufactured in the Unites 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**

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

Ouija Board: Topics of Chronicling America

Introduction

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"
- "Enduring Mystery of the Ouija Board Reincarnation"
- "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"
Shortcuts for finding primary sources
About This Program

Charts and Graphs Primary Source Set

Build students' data literacy skills with charts and graphs from 100+ years of U.S. history
Learn more

The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the Library's vast digital collections in their teaching.

Getting Started with Primary Sources
The Power of Audience and Purpose: Teaching Complex Topics through Primary Source Portraits
June 17, 2021 by Danna Bell

Use the ideas in this post to help students understand the importance of knowing the purpose and intended audience for a primary source.

Posted in: African American History, Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-1877)
Add a Comment »

Free Webinar—Teaching Poetry: Poetry 180 with Billy Collins on June 23, 4-5 ET
June 16, 2021 by Danna Bell

Learn about Poetry 180, the project created by former Poet Laureate Billy Collins and how some teachers are using Poetry 180 in the classroom.

Posted in: News and Events, Poetry and Literature
3 Comments | Add a Comment »

Free Webinar – Foundations: Analyzing Primary Sources from the Library of Congress – June 22, 2-3pm ET
June 15, 2021 by Danna Bell
About This Program

Charts and Graphs Primary Source Set
Build students’ data literacy skills with charts and graphs from 100+ years of U.S. history
Learn more

The Library of Congress offers classroom materials and professional development to help teachers effectively use primary sources from the Library’s vast digital collections in their teaching.

Getting Started with Primary Sources
Classroom Materials

Created by teachers for teachers, these ready-to-use materials provide easy ways to incorporate the Library's unparalleled primary sources into instruction.

Search

Primary Source Sets
Sets of primary sources on specific topics.

Lesson Plans
Teacher-created lesson plans using Library of Congress primary sources.
Baseball Across a Changing Nation

Jump to: Teacher's Guide

A little pretty pocket-book
Download as PDF

Union Prisoners at Salisbury, N.C.
Download as PDF

Champions of America
Download as PDF
Teacher's Guides and Analysis Tool

Primary Source Analysis Tool for Students
Students can use this simple tool to examine and analyze any kind of primary source and record their responses.

Primary Source Analysis Tool (56 KB)
Students can download and fill in this PDF, then save, print, e-mail, or upload it.
Or, they can print it and fill it in by hand.

Teacher's Guides
Teachers can select prompting questions from a Teacher's Guide as needed to guide students through the analysis process.

Analyzing Primary Sources
(PDF, 56 KB)

Analyzing Books and Other Printed Texts
(PDF, 61 KB)

Analyzing Manuscripts
(PDF, 71 KB)
Pause and explore!
Online Reference Service Available
Ask a Librarian when you need research or reference help – trained experts standing by.
"The Eyes looked at her thoughtfully."
Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote
Suffragists from Seneca Falls to the 19th Amendment featured in a 100th anniversary exhibit.
100 Years Ago Today: 3/26/1920 (208 issues)

The Chattanooga news. [volume] (32pp.)
Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Camden chronicle. (4pp.)
Camden, Tenn.

The Progress-itemizer. (8pp.)
Water Valley, Miss.
CHRONICLING AMERICA
Historic American Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1789-1963 or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about American newspapers published between 1690-present. Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Humanities® and the Library of Congress. Learn more »

Search Pages
All Digitized Newspapers 1789-1963

Select State(s):
- All states
- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut

Or Select Newspaper(s):
- All newspapers
- The Abbeville banner. (Abbeville, S.C.)
- The Abbeville bulletin. (Abbeville, S.C.)
- The Abbeville messenger. (Abbeville, S.C.)
- The Abbeville press and banner. (Abbeville, S.C.)
- Abbeville press. (Abbeville, S.C.)
- Abbeville progress. (Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, La.)
- The Aberdeen Democrat. (Aberdeen, South Dakota)

Select Year(s)*
Newspaper pages are available for newspapers published between 1789-1963
- from 1789 to 1963

Or Date Range
- from to

Limit Search:
- only front page or Specific page

Language

Enter Search
- ...with any of the words:
- ...with all of the words:
- ...with the phrase:
- with the words:

Clear Search
Before You Go

Please take our survey
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_LOC_Webinar

Check your email for certification
• For participants who attended entire session live.
• Allow 48 hours for the email.
Questions?

• Library of Congress: http://www.loc.gov
• Ask a librarian: https://ask.loc.gov/
• Teacher resources: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/
• Teacher blog: http://blogs.loc.gov/teachers/
• Danna Bell dbell@loc.gov
• Cheryl Lederle cled@loc.gov
• Stacie Moats smoats@loc.gov
Before You Go

Please take our survey
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021_LOC_Webinar

Check your email for certification
• For participants who attended entire session live.
• Allow 48 hours for the email.