Primary sources provide firsthand accounts of the past. Examples include letters, photographs, diaries, newspaper accounts, interviews, oral histories, and speeches. Official documents such as laws, court decisions, treaties, party platforms, and constitutions are also primary sources.

**ONLINE DATABASES**

*American History Online* includes over 10,000 primary sources from over 500 years of American history. Under search box, click on sources, then primary sources, to limit search.

*FMG Archival Films & Newsreels Collection* Find archival and historical films depicting wars, cultural phenomena, and government programs. Search options include keyword and time period. Limit video type to “Newsreel or Primary Source” or “Lecture or Interview.”

*Heritage Quest* Search through census records, wills, city directories, military records, immigration records and much more.

*Issues & Controversies* includes historic documents with a focus on more recent history. Search by title or year. Use advanced search to limit results to primary sources.

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1914 - 1919  
1939 - 1945  
1966 - present  

*Newsweek*  
1940 - present  

*Time*  
1923 - present

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*American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers Project, 1936-1940*  
Life histories written by the staff of the Folklore Project for the U.S. Works Progress Administration from 1936-1940. Includes over 2900 documents.

*A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875*  
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Find diaries, letters, images, and military documents from the Civil War and Reconstruction

*Founders Online*  

*The Great Depression Interviews*  
Video clips and transcripts of interviews of people who lived through the Great Depression.
Making of America
Primary sources in American social history, a joint project of Cornell University and the University of Michigan.

HathiTrust
Access 267 books and over 100,000 journal articles from the 1800s, as well as Civil War documents.

University of Michigan
Access 10,000 books and 50,000 journal articles from the 1800s.

National Archives
The nation’s record keeper. Holdings include famous documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, as well as records of ordinary citizens. Documents range from slave ship manifests to military records to journals and photographs.

The Sixties Project
Includes the Sixties Personal Narrative Project and back issues of the Viet Nam Generation Journal as well as primary documents relating to the Vietnam War, Martin Luther King, Jr., the Black Panthers, SDS (Students for a Democratic Society), and much more.

Veterans History Project
Personal accounts of American war veterans from World War I through the Iraq War. Includes personal narratives (audio- and video-taped interviews and written memoirs), correspondence (letters, postcards, diaries), and visual materials (photographs, drawings, scrapbooks).

ONLINE CATALOG
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Use LC subject search terms of correspondence; diaries; interviews; oral history; personal narratives; sources; speeches, addresses, etc.; and treaties, along with keywords relevant to your topic.

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REF 328.73 L235  Landmark Documents on the U.S. Congress
REF 341.026 Am35  American Treaties and Alliances
REF 342.73 C738  The Complete Bill of Rights: The Drafts, Debates, Sources, and Origins
REF 815.08 In1  In Our Own Words: Extraordinary Speeches of the American Century
REF 970.5 Un3i  Indian Treaties, 1778-1883
REF 973 An7a  The Annals of America (18 volumes)
REF 973.099 B65n  The New York Times on the Presidency, 1853-2008
REF 973.7 C499w  The Civil War Chronicle: The Only Day-By-Day Portrait of America’s Tragic Conflict as Told by Soldiers, Journalists, Politicians, Farmers, Nurses, Slaves, and Other Eyewitnesses
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