

FINDING PRIMARY SOURCES ONLINE

What are Primary Sources? For historians, primary sources are “first hand” accounts, which are generally written at the time, or shortly thereafter, of an historic event. These sources include letters, diaries, newspaper articles as well as records of governmental agencies and other organizations. They may be published or unpublished. Speeches and oral histories may be printed transcripts or audio recordings. Maps, photographs and advertisements can also be primary sources as can statistical data, video materials and artifacts.

[Academic Search Premier](#) (via NC-Live)

Go to the LRC’s electronic resources page

<http://cfcc.edu/lrc/databases/>

- Choose *Academic Search Premier*.
- Off campus? Log in with your CampusCruiser password.
- Check the Full Text box.
- Under Publication Type select Primary Source Documents.
- Type in your search terms.
- Click on the Search box.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier search page. The search bar contains the text "bill clinton". A red callout box points to the search bar with the text "Type in your search words". Below the search bar, there are several dropdown menus for "and", "in", and "in". A red callout box points to the "Search" button with the text "Click on Search". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Basic Search", "Advanced Search", "Visual Search", "Search History/Alerts", and "Preferences". A red callout box points to the "Advanced Search" tab with the text "Be sure you're on the 'Advanced Search' screen". Below the search bar, there are sections for "Search Options" and "Limit your results". In the "Search Options" section, there are radio buttons for "Boolean/Phrase", "Find all my search terms", and "Find any of my search terms". A red callout box points to the "Full Text" checkbox in the "Limit your results" section with the text "Select 'Full Text'". In the "Limit your results" section, there is a dropdown menu for "Publication Type" with "Primary Source Document" selected. A red callout box points to this dropdown menu with the text "Select 'Primary Source Document'".

Internet Resources

From Revolution to Reconstruction. . <http://odur.let.rug.nl/~usa/D/>

Selected documents important to American history from Christopher Columbus to George W. Bush.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

<http://arcweb.archives.gov/arc/action/AdvancedMultimediaSearchForm>

American primary sources. Search the “Digital Copies” portion of the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) to locate full-text documents, maps, photographs, etc. Limit by Type of Archival Material.

Library of Congress. American Memory Project. <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Includes written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music.

Valley of the Shadow Project. <http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/valley/VoS/choosepart.html>

Provides Northern and Southern views, 1859 to 1870, through a variety of resources from Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Pearl Harbor Working Group. WWII Resources. <http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/>

International relations leading to World War II and beyond.

Perseus Digital Library. Perseus Collection Greek and Roman Materials.

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection.jsp?collection=Perseus:collection:Greco-Roman>

Includes English translations for many documents.

Perseus Digital Library. Perseus Collection Renaissance Materials.

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection.jsp?collection=Perseus:collection:Renaissance>

Includes English translations for many documents.

Internet Modern History Sourcebook. <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html#Introduction>

Western history from the Reformation through the 20th century.

Internet African History Sourcebook.

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/africa/africasbook.html#African%20History:%20General>

Links to primary and secondary sources on the history of Africa.