NATIONAL HISTORY DAY
2013-2014

Guide to finding and using primary sources in Special Collections and Archives, Northern Kentucky University
Introduction:

This packet is a resource for teachers and students participating in National History Day. It includes NHD’s explanation of the theme Rights and Responsibilities and suggests topics based on primary sources available in Special Collections and Archives, NKU. The packet offers criteria and examples for determining whether a source is a primary source or a secondary source. It contains a list of websites to help students find primary sources from libraries, archives, and museums. Many of these websites feature digital images of original collections. Students can use the graphic organizer provided in the packet to conduct their primary source research. Lastly, it provides instructions for visiting Special Collections and Archives, NKU to find and use primary sources related to NHD projects. To assist students during the research process, Special Collections and Archives is hosting two special Research Days for NHD participants only. On Saturday, October 26 and Saturday, November 2 from 11 am-2pm, the Archives Research Room will be open exclusively to local NHD students. Space is limited to ten students per day – reserve a spot at http://nkuarchives.eventbrite.com.

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Address: 106 Steely Library, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY 41099

Website: archives.nku.edu

Directions, maps, and parking: http://library.nku.edu/about_the_library/maps_and_parking/

NHD Open Research Day Registration: https://nkuarchives.eventbrite.com
**Theme:** “What are rights? Are responsibilities always attached to rights? Are there times when rights protect some while disenfranchising others—and is that fair? Do we have economic rights? Are civil rights upheld at the same level for everyone in the United States? What are our rights as global citizens? And what about animal rights—do humans bear responsibility for non-humans? ... Rights have taken many different forms. With rights come responsibilities, whether they involve exercising rights within specified limits or ensuring the rights of others...Remember that this year’s theme also encompasses responsibilities. Learning about and explaining the correlation between rights and responsibilities might in fact help you become a better researcher... You must address questions about time and place, cause and effect, change over time, and impact and significance. Always try to do more than just describe what happened. Draw conclusions about how the topic affected individuals, communities, other nations, and the world as a whole.” [NHD 2014 available at http://www.nhd.org/images/uploads/397079_2014_NHD_ThemeSheet_FNL.PDF]

**Topic ideas supported by primary sources in Special Collections and Archives:**

- Various aspects of the American Civil Rights Movement:
  - integration of Holmes High School, 1957
  - Work of local civil rights leader Alice Shimfessel in Covington
  - SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee)
- Various aspects of the Civil War:
  - rights and responsibilities of states (particularly Ohio, Kentucky, and Missouri)
  - African Americans serving in Civil War
  - Veteran’s rights and government responsibility: Bureau of Pension Claims, land grants for veterans
- topics related to war and the military
  - POW rights- Civil War, World War II
- Coal mining in Appalachia:
  - Rights and responsibilities of companies, workers, communities, and government
  - Environmental rights and responsibilities related to Appalachia and coal mining
  - Harry Caudill and other Appalachian labor and environmental activists
- Various aspects of education and schooling:
  - African American schools: segregated schools and integration in northern Kentucky
  - Women’s education (late 19th century- present)
  - public education and government support – Falmouth schools; Covington schools; NKU’s founding (public colleges in the 1960s/1970s)
  - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974
- Animal rights:
  - Horse racing industry: rights of horses, responsibilities of owners
- Political rights and responsibilities
  - Voting and elections (late 19th and 20th centuries)
• Business and corporate rights and responsibilities:
  o 19th century business practices in Covington, Ky. and the surrounding area
    including business such as Queen City Coal Company, Newport Sandbank Company
    and the Covington-Cincinnati Bridge Company.

• Ensuring/protecting the rights of others: collective social responsibilities:
  o Philanthropic and social service organizations: Protestant Children’s Home in
    Covington, Ky.; Holly Hill Guild; Parent-Teacher Associations for several local
    schools; Newport Ministerial Association

• Citizen rights and government responsibilities:
  o Founding of towns and town charters: Newport and Falmouth, Ky.
  o Newport Clean-up, 1958-1970s: civic organizations pushing to reform the political,
    economic, and social landscapes of the town.
  o City government of Fort Thomas, Covington, Falmouth, and Florence, Ky.
  o Government right to collect taxes: Grand Ave Toll Bridge, property tax,

• Property rights:
  o Land ownership from late 1780s-1890s in northern Kentucky

• Immigrant rights
  o German immigrants to northern Kentucky and Cincinnati in the late 19th century
  o English immigrants to northern Kentucky and Cincinnati in the 19th century

• Rights denied:
  o Slavery in Kentucky
  o Oral histories with survivors of the Holocaust
  o Alvin C. Poweleit (survivor of Bataan Death March during WWII)

• Legal history:
  o Beverly Hills Supper Club fire, 1977: rights of victims and responsibilities of
    businesses, government (class-action lawsuit).
  o Justice system: rights of victims and the accused – the trial of George Remus for the
    murder of his wife and the impact of his insanity plea.

• Human rights:
  o Fugitive Slave Acts of 1793 and 1850
  o Salmon P. Chase
  o Anti-separate coach movement (1890s)

• Environmental rights:
  o Agriculture and farming practices in northern Kentucky

• Others:
  o Title IX, 1972: NKU’s female AD
  o Rights of patients at early 20th century hospitals, asylums, and infirmaries and
    responsibilities of society
What is a Primary Source?

Qualities: “...the raw materials of history — original documents and objects which were created at the time under study.”
- Unpublished
- the one original or a limited number [not mass produced]
- created around the same time as the information recorded
- linked to/part of someone’s personal experience of the past
- used in the past or present
- sometimes not widely seen by the public

Examples:
- correspondence – personal letters, private email
- diaries
- speeches
- newspapers from the period you are studying
- objects [clothing, tools, equipment]
- images [photographs, drawings, illustrations, home movies (non-commercial)]
- records which document a transaction [bills; receipts; birth, death and marriage records, land/property sales; tax payments; military enlistment forms]
- blueprints
- conversations, orally told stories, oral history interviews
- data obtained through original research
- original poetry, plays, stories, novels which are unpublished; would include drafts of works which were later published, but not the final published version itself

Created by: private individuals, government of all levels, schools, churches, civic organizations, clubs, for profit businesses

What is a Secondary Source?

Qualities: “...accounts or interpretations of events created by someone without firsthand experience.”
- published
- Hundreds [many] copies
- Can be created immediately after or long after an event in the past took place
- Someone’s analysis or interpretation of a past event they did not personally experience
- Often the interpretation of primary sources [by someone other than its creator]; or the interpretation of other secondary sources
- Mass/commercially produced
- Intended for wide distribution, use or viewing

Examples:
- published books
- Journals, magazines, pamphlets, brochures
- Commercial movies not from the period you are studying
- Maps
- Critiques of published books, or films

Created by: for profit businesses, government, private individuals

Local and regional sites:

- Special Collections and Archives, Northern Kentucky University
  
  http://archives.nku.edu/

- Genealogy and Kentucky History, Kenton County Public Library
  
  http://www.kentonlibrary.org/genealogy/index.cfm

- Local history and genealogy, Boone County Public Library
  
  http://www.bcpl.org/lhg/

- Campbell County Historical and Genealogical Society
  
  http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kycchgs/

- Behringer-Crawford Museum
  
  http://www.bcmuseum.org/

- Kentucky Digital Library
  
  http://kdl.kyvl.org/

  Includes digitized collection content and access to primary sources held by many Kentucky institutions.

- Kentucky Historical Society
  
  http://history.ky.gov/

- Cincinnati History Library and Archives
  
  http://library.cincymuseum.org/

National sites and projects:

- American Memory, Library of Congress
  
  http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html

- Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress (digital images of primary sources)
  
  http://www.loc.gov/pictures/

- Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress
  
  http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/

- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
  
  http://www.gilderlehrman.org/collections

- National Archives and Records Administration
  
  http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/

- Smithsonian Institution
  
  http://www.si.edu/Collections

- Repositories of Primary Sources
  
  http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html

- Flickr Commons, world’s public photo archives (digital images)
  
  http://www.flickr.com/commons

- NASA Images
  
  http://www.nasa.gov.multimedia/imagegallery/index.html#Ugzac20bh2A
**Type of source (circle):** document  image  sound recording  cartoon  poster  map  artifact  video

If you circled document, what type: newspaper  letter  report  press release  advertisement  census record  patent  other

**Does the source have a title?** Yes  or  No  If yes, what is the title?

**Can you find the date of the source?** Yes  or  No  If yes, what is the date(s)?

**Can you find an author or creator of the source?** Yes  or  No  If yes, who or what is the author?

**Can you tell the audience of the source?** Yes  or  No  If yes, who or what is the audience?

**Where did you find the source? What collection, box, and folder is it from?**

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<th><strong>OBSERVE- What do you see?</strong></th>
<th><strong>REFLECT- What do you think?</strong></th>
<th><strong>KNOW AND QUESTION- What can you learn from the source and what questions do you have? Why is it important?</strong></th>
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Step by step instructions for visiting Special Collections and Archives

1. Register for a research day (Saturday, Oct. 26, 11am-2pm or Saturday, Nov. 2, 11 am-2pm) at http://nkuarchives.eventbrite.com.

2. Park in the Welcome Center Garage. There is a fee for visitor parking. Walk across parking lot D. Enter the 1st floor of Steely Library by the fountain. The Archives Research Room, room 106 is the first door on your right as you enter the library.

3. When you arrive, Special Collections and Archives staff will help you register as a researcher. You (and your guardian/chaperone) will read about our policies for using the archives and then sign a short form.

4. We’ll provide you with a locker and ask that you keep coats and bags in it during your visit. We’ll have pencils for you to use in the room but you can also bring your own laptop, tablet, or paper. To help us preserve the primary sources, we’ll ask you to wash your hands before you use the materials.

5. During the first part of your visit, we’ll explain how to find specific primary sources based on your topic (or potential topic) in Special Collections and Archives and how to request to see them. We’ll show you how to handle fragile materials and how to order reproductions if you need any.

6. The majority of your visit will be spent actually looking through and using primary sources to help with your History Day research. Staff will be on hand to answer specific questions, help you locate other resources, and assist in working with the collections. For example, if you find a photograph that relates to your topic, we’ll show you how to handle it carefully as you use it.

7. At the end of your visit, we’ll make any photocopies you order (.25 cents per page).

8. Visit our website (archives.nku.edu) for more details or contact Anne at 572-5892 or at ryckbosta1@nku.edu.