



# **Book Searches and Website Evaluation**

**Books** are a great source of information, especially for history!

Finding books in [STM library](#)

Finding books at Hamilton Public Library ([HPL](#))

Tip: check to see if book has bibliography. Use what they used.

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**Internet** searching...use Google [advanced search](#)

# Big publishing companies publish books...

- Harper Collins
- Random House
- Penguin



**-ensures reliability of information**

Question...



**Who publishes Internet material?**

**Answer...**



**Anyone!**

**-is that good or bad?**

**Both!**

**Good**

you can find anything

**Bad**

much info. is unreliable

# Your responsibility...

- To make sure website are reliable
- To be critical about who is telling you what
- To always question.

**think, think, think!!**



# Question...



- What search tool do you use to find websites?

**Answer:** probably Google

# Check this out...

Sites on “women aids facts”

**Site #1**      [Reliable?](#)

**Site #2**      [Reliable?](#)

Now plug in a [Google](#) search for “women aids facts”

Look at the hits



# Google is NOT God

Google does NOT find only “good” sites.

Finding good sites **is your job!**



# Determining if a website is reliable?

- it's not easy
- “good looking” vs. good



# Check the URL



http://www.

- Is it someone's [blog](#) or [personal page](#)?  
(look for ~ or % or “users” or “members”)
- domain .com (commercial)  
.gov (government)  
.net (network infrastructure)  
.org (organization)  
.edu (education)

Is the domain appropriate for the content?

# Who is responsible for the site?

- Is there an author?
  - contact information?
- Is the author an expert?
  - What are his credentials? Is he controversial?
  - look up the author in Google (Dr. Kary Mullis)



Note: go back to home page or “about us.”

# Why is the site on the Net??

- To give information, to instruct
- To sell us something (to make money)
- To persuade us

- Is it free of bias??



# Dated??

- When was the page or site published or last updated?
  - at top or bottom of page? On home page?
- Is the date current enough?
- If not dated, should you trust the site?



# Links...

- Are the links on the page appropriate for the subject?
- Do they all work or are they dead links?
- If a website has ads, is it reliable?

\*newspapers have ads, TV news has ads

\*Websites make \$\$ by selling ad space

-not necessarily unreliable



# Is information altered?

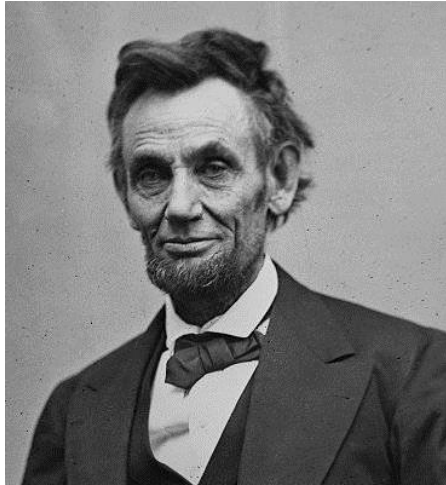
- Is information a primary source available via PDF?
- Is information summarized or re-typed by author? Is it reputable?
  - If so, why?
  - Has it been altered?
  - Are there errors?





# **Primary Sources Research**

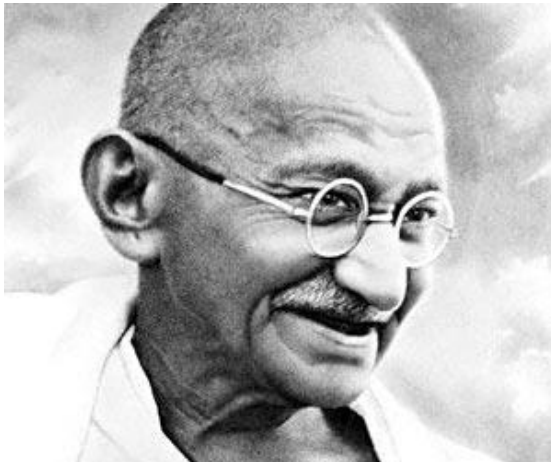
# Primary Source VS. Secondary Source



Abraham Lincoln



Laura Coates



Mahatma Gandhi



Anderson Cooper

# Primary Source

- Firsthand information
- Someone was there
  - He wrote about it (at the time or after)
  - filmed it, photographed it, drew it, etc.
- Could be an official gov't document or report on a scientific finding.

**\*\* if it was a trial in court, it would be the eyewitness testimony or physical evidence**

# Secondary Source

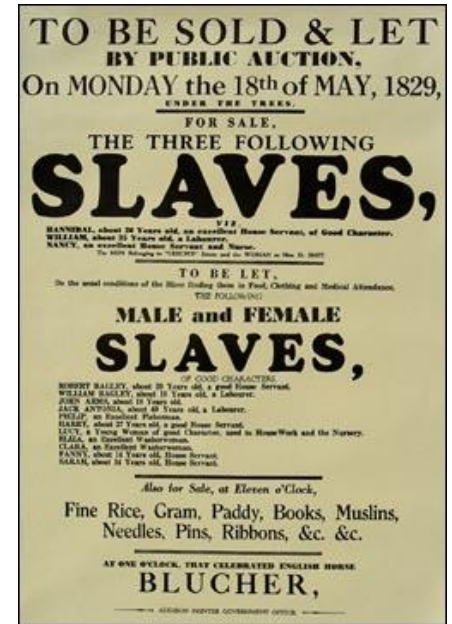
- It is not firsthand information
- Someone else has digested the info.
- you use this *other person's analysis or commentary*

-books on a topic are often second hand sources.

\*\* At a trial, it is when the lawyer tells you what he thinks has happened and what you should think...it is hearsay evidence.

# Examples of Primary Sources

- Diaries
- Journals
- Paintings
- Advertisements
- Interviews
- Memoirs
- Fiction
- Music
- Letters
- Book
- Cartoons
- Gov't docs
- Scientific studies
- Clothing



And so many more...

# Locating primary sources

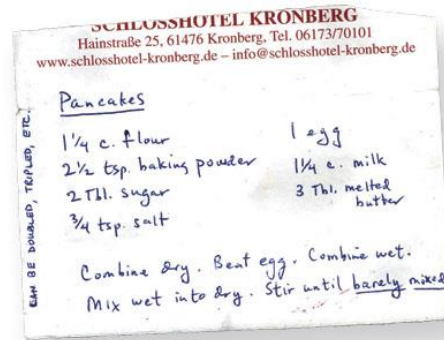
# YOU MUST DO THE FINDING

- A primary source will not come to you
- YOU MUST SEARCH IT OUT!



# Step 1...Plan

- formulate a plan for what you need to complete the assignment and where you will get it.



- ask yourself what primary sources have been produced that you may be able to find and use (eg. Newspaper articles, gov't docs, diaries)



# Plan.....continued

- ask yourself what group or organization may have produced a primary source (soldiers, a company, a non-profit group, a poet, a photographer, the government)



\*\* Florida school shooting??? Who produced stuff???

## Step 2 – Search term list

- when searching for specifics, you need to know what the specifics are.



- Start compiling a list of relevant vocabulary on your topic (names, key players, dates, places, legislation, etc.)
  - \*\* from background reading and other

# Step 3 – Specific Searches

- Use the search terms/vocabulary list you put together to look for specific info. (primary sources).



- use descriptors like diaries, letters, journals, pictures, documents, memoirs, legislation, etc. to find primary sources

continued...

# Specific searches...continued

- Internet
  - Databases (articles)
- Become familiar with “advanced search” features

# Specific searches.....continued

- Use specific years of publication when doing a search

ex. Internet

Vietnam AND protest (from 1960-1975)

OR

WWII AND united states (from 1939-1945)

\*\* should find information from those years

“World war 2 news coverage  
1946”  
-letters

- [Google searches](#) (advanced)



