Links for History Students and Teachers

(return to Chris Endy's homepage)



Table of Contents (Click on topic to jump directly to that section.)

Sites Especially for History Teachers
Advice on Using Google to Find Primary Sources
Resources for General U.S. History
Resources for the History of U.S. International Relations

Did you find a dead link on this page? Please send me an email (cendy@calstatela.edu) so I can fix it. Last update: January 2025.

Sites Especially for History Teachers

State of California History-Social Science Framework (key info and content for teachers)

California History Social-Science Project (sign up for their excellent email newsletter)

Here are some lists of **active learning strategies** to inspire your next lesson plan:

- -from Kevin Yee at University of South Florida
- -from Cynthia J. Brame at Vanderbilt University
- -from Donald Paulson and Jennifer Faust, former faculty at Cal State LA
- -from UC Berkeley Center for Teaching and Learning

History News Network Roundup: a great resource for connecting current events to history classrooms.

The History Teacher: a journal written by and for K-12 and college teachers. J-Stor and other library databases also have older volumes.

History Matters: a large site containing documents and designed for high school and university history teachers.

Cal State LA Library's list of teaching resources: maintained by our always helpful librarian Kendall Faulkner.

The Culture Wars Against Education: a list of documents and essays on efforts to limit history education in different states, sponsored by Historians for Peace and Democracy.

California's FAIR Act: resources for LGBTQ+ history in the K-12 classroom, from the UC Berkeley History-Social Science Project.

Stanford History Education Group (SHEG), also known as the Digital Inquiry Group (DIG): lesson plans, creative ideas on assessments of historical thinking, and more. Note: SHEG rebranded as DIG in late 2023 as part of its shift in emphasis toward lesson plans designed to combat online misinformation.

Teach in Spanglish: lesson plans and more from a team of history professors.

Classroom Lesson Plans: links from the History News Network.

Common Place: great resources for colonial and early U.S. history.

Best of History Websites: links to well-chosen lesson plans on other websites.

American Panorama: An Atlas of U.S. History: unique maps worth exploring.

H-Net Discussion Networks: over a hundred discussion groups on specialized topics in history, from H-California to H-Africa to H-Women.

World History for us All: big picture ideas for teaching world history, from UCLA.

Advice on Using Google to Find Primary Sources

1) One of the best ways to find a primary document is to visit a general search engine such as www.google.com and type "sources" or "documents" along with whatever subject you are interested in you are interested in (Native Americans, Reconstruction, etc.).

2) As a general rule, documents presented on academic websites (.edu) tend to be more reliable and significant. To limit your Google search to just academic sites, enter your search words and then type site:.edu as well. Clink on these links to compare two different Google searches, one searching all domains and one limited to just .edu sites. Guess which search gives you more useful resources!

-Try a search on just Bill Clinton.

-Then try a smarter search using Bill Clinton site:.edu

You can also have Google exclude certain domains by using a minus (-) sign.

-Try searching Bill Clinton -site:.com

Resources for General U.S. History

Library of Congress Digital Collections

The U.S. National Archives has some of its VAST collection on-line.

Internet Archive Moving Image Archive: a great source for old movies and TV programs; my favorite subgroup is the Prelinger Archives, which has great mid-20th century material.

Hathi Trust: a massive digital library, good for older books and government reports.

Zinn Education Project: history lessons plans and resources from progressive, bottom-up perspectives.

DocsTeach: a large collection of sources.

Ad Access: a very rich collection of historical print advertisements, in color and black and white, with a focus on the early and mid-20th century

The National Humanities Center offers documents and teaching ideas on U.S. history from 1492 through the 1960s.

Modern History Source Book: lots of links for U.S. and world history.

Duke University Library sources: digitized collections on advertising, medicine, Civil War, music, women's and African-American history, and more.

The American Presidency Project contains primary documents, including audio and video streams going back to the late 19th century.

Miller Center for Public Affairs: read and listen to speeches from U.S. presidents; also contains oral history collections on U.S. politics.

The Living Room Candidate: Presidential Campaign Commercials, 1952-2020: a great way to watch TV commercials for each election cycle.

Sources on Immigration History (1790-1930) from Harvard University Library

The Triangle Shirtwaist Fire: an exhibit on a deadly 1909 factory fire

The Anti-Saloon League, 1893-1933: Prohibition history materials

America in the 1930s

National Home Front Project :oral histories from World War II era.

The Literature and Culture of the American 1950s

America from the Great Depression to World War II: a Library of Congress site with thousands of archival photographs.

Spanish Language Newspapers: includes newspapers published in the United States and Mexico, going back to the 19th century.

Resources for Chicano Studies from the UCLA Chicano Studies Resource Center.

Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project: a source for information on Japanese-American internment during World War II.

The American Soldier in World War II

UCSB Cylinder Preservation and Digitization Project: listen to popular music from the early 20th century. These songs were originally recorded on wax or aluminum, but now you can stream or download them.

Bay Area Television Archive: see what was on TV in the 1960s and 1970s!

Internet Movie Database: looking for a movie set in a certain historical period or place? Type in some keywords on this site.

Maximum Rock N' Roll: coverage of punk music and culture from the 1980s on.

LA Free Press: independent journalism in Los Angeles, 1964 to 1977.

Independent Voices: publications from "feminists, dissident GIs, campus radicals, Native Americans, anti-war activists, Black Power advocates, Hispanics, LGBT activists, the extreme right-wing press and alternative literary magazines during the latter half of the 20th century."

Know Your Meme: originally titled the Internet Meme Database; keep track of pop culture history as it happens.

Resources for the History of U.S. International Relations

Foreign Relations of the United States (FRUS): This valuable series is the U.S. State Department's collection of important policymaking documents. You can find bound volumes for all years in the third floor of JFK library in the JX233 section of the stacks.

Please note that, due to declassification delays, this series currently has nothing more recent than records from the Carter and Reagan administrations.

The National Security Archive: a large collection of declassified U.S. government documents spanning the Cold War era through current events; hosted by George Washington University.

Wilson Center Digital Archive: International History Declassified: a good site for declassified government documents from outside the United States, especially from former Communist states like China, Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and Warsaw Pact countries.

FRUS online: an alternative way to access FRUS, up to 1960, via University of Wisconsin.

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR): links, blog posts, information on how to join SHAFR and receive your own copies of the great journal, *Diplomatic History*, at a substantial student discount.

Crises Research Project: Michael H. Hunt's primary-source reader, *Crises in U.S. Foreign Policy* is a great teaching resource. Unfortunately, newer documents have become public since the book's 1996 publication. In the Crises Research Project, students at Cal State LA add new primary sources to update and improve the volume.

SHAFR Digital Collections: online source collections for international history research, organized by country.

Professor Nick Sarantakes has a good set of general links on primary sources.

Avalon Project at Yale Law School: an extensive collection of documents from the 18th century up to the 9-11-2001 attacks.

CIA Electronic Reading Room

NATO Archives Online

Project Diana: Online Human Rights Archive

History Beyond Borders E-Dossiers: emphasis on Native Peoples and Third World topics.

Dr. Seuss Went to War: Yes, the famous children's author also drew war-related cartoons.

Documents on the Decision to Use Atomic Bombs in 1945

Another good documents site on the 1945 atomic bombings, from the National Security Archive.

U.S. Civil Rights Era in Global Context

A Visual Guide to the Cold War: especially good on Communist imagery.

CIA Maps, 1947 to 2015: great primary source maps from the U.S. National Archives.

Reconceptualizing the Cold War: bottom-up histories from Asia.

The Wars for Vietnam, 1945 to 1975

PBS Frontline "The War Behind Closed Doors": on George W. Bush's foreign policy in the Middle East.

H-Diplo Resources page: a good place to learn about different archives and organizations in the field.