Basic Guide to On-Campus Primary Resources

Surviving a primary research paper is a daunting task for most students when they attempt their first one(s). As a means of easing the task, this document supplies a basic catalog of primary sources available to students from this campus. It is by no means a comprehensive list of all existing sources, but it is a foundation on which to build. This guide is divided by format (database, internet, print, microform), and you should check each section even if you do not care for the format. Ignoring potential sources because you do not like the format limits you, and could mean missing a gem.

Databases:
Bell Library has a number of databases that can be accessed from their home page either on campus or at home via remote access. From the main library page click on the Find Article icon. Once there, you can either select “History” from the popular subject list on the right, or if you know the database name you can select it under the alphabetical listing at the top of the page.

American Civil War Collection
This database is a family of three collections that provide the researcher with military documents, letters, diaries, and images. The database deals primarily with the actual war (1861-1865).

Civil War Research Collection
Contains resources for researching the soldiers, regiments, and battles of the American Civil War. The collection includes 15,000 photographs, census data, regimental rosters, officer profiles, and a record for virtually every soldier who served in the war.

American Civil War Letters and Diaries
More than 1,000 sources of diaries, letters, and memoirs written by people from all walks of life, providing Northern, Southern, and foreign perspectives on almost every aspect of the war. A unique thesaurus of Civil War terms and chronology of events enrich this collection.

Images of the American Civil War: Photographs, Posters, and Ephemera
Provides a vivid visual history of a nation in crisis, containing dramatic images from the fields of battle, politics, and general society. The database currently holds over 1400 images, but will include over 75,000 when it is completed. The current release is a beta version.

Archive of Americana
This family of historical collections contains books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, government documents, and ephemera printed in America over three centuries.

Early American Imprints, Series I. Evans (1639-1800)
Books, pamphlets, broadsides and other imprints.

Early American Imprints, Series II. Shaw-Shoemaker (1801-1819)
Books, pamphlets, broadsides and other imprints.

America's Historical Newspapers
Includes Early American newspapers, Series 1 – 5 (1690 – 1922) and Hispanic American Newspapers (1808 - 1980).

Early American Newspapers, Series 1-5 (1690-1922)
Hispanic American Newspapers (1808-1980) Series I (Readex)
Archive of many of the Spanish language newspapers printed in the U.S. during the early 20th century, documenting the role of Mexican immigrants and providing an outlet for Hispanic voices. The newspapers date from the 1800’s to the 1950’s, representing locations such as Indiana and Missouri, although most locations focus on New Mexico and Texas cities and towns.

America State Papers
Legislative and executive documents, many originating from the important period between 1789 and the beginning of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set in 1817.

U.S. Congressional Serial Set
Searchable and browseable interface for content of the U.S. Serial Set, from 1817 to 1870. Search or browse by subject, by Congress, by committee, or publication category. Publication categories include annual reports, congressional journals, executive department publications, hearings, monographs, treaties and conventions, and other types of documents. A work in progress covers up to 1870.

American Periodicals Series Online
American independence, general interest, children's publications, journal articles for women, Civil War - magazines and journal articles. Covers 1740-1940.

Chicano Database
Index on Mexican-American topics and Chicanos. Provides coverage from the 1960s to the present, and coverage back to the early 1900s. Records have been added to include the wider Latino experience, including Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, and Central American immigrants.

Heritage Quest
A collection of research materials helpful in tracing family lineage and American culture, such as the complete US Federal Census from 1790-1930. The “Search Books” feature supplies the text of many books, articles, and pamphlets on Texas. It contains indexes and original page images of historical documents. Local history journals and periodicals and Revolutionary War Pension documents make up some of the primary sources for researching local history and genealogy.

In First Person
Covers 1550s to 2000s from multiple countries. An index and full-text resource for personal narratives in English, including narratives such as diaries, letters and oral history (transcripts) entries. Some indexed entries may lead to copyrighted materials not available at this time. Audio and video files are included where available.

Texas Digital Sanborn Maps
Description: Contains detailed information on towns and cities in Texas during the later part of the 19th and first half of the 20th century. Maps include information such as the outline of each building, the size, shape and construction materials, heights, and function of structures, location of windows and doors. The maps also give street names, street and sidewalk widths, property boundaries, building use, and house and block numbers.

Gale Virtual Reference
This database is primarily secondary, but it has two primary collections imbedded in it: Government, Politics, and Protest: Essential Primary Sources and Terrorism: Essential Primary Sources. To find these collections type Gale Virtual Reference in the databases search. Then, when the database pops up, scroll down to the social sciences tab and open it. The two collections are linked from there.

Internet Resources:
AMDOCS: Documents for the Study of American History
http://www.vlib.us/amdocs/
This site provides links to maps, charters, speeches, letters, and many other primary source materials that document various aspects of U.S. history from the 11th century to the present. Arranged chronologically.

American History Online
http://www.americanhistoryonline.org/
Provides access to over 500,000 digitized primary sources from major historical collections. A project of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the University of Illinois.

Discovering America’s Women’s History Online
http://library.mtsu.edu/digitalprojects/womenshistory.php
This database provides access to digital collections of primary sources that document the history of women in the United States from the 17th to the 21st century. Researchers can browse by subject, place, time period, and primary source type.

Documenting the American South (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
http://docsouth.unc.edu/
While this site’s scope is the entirety of Southern history, it necessarily offers a wealth of primary documents for students of the ante- and post-bellum periods, as well as the Civil War itself.

History Matters
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/
This collection is designed for college and high school teachers that teach survey courses in American history. There are both secondary and primary sources scattered on this site, but many of the primaries come with commentary.

H-Net
http://www.h-net.org/
This site, while not a housing of sources, is a great place to get ideas. The people that post on this site are historians and other professionals that want to engage in discussion about their research and areas of interest. The site also offers book reviews and other resources.

Library of Congress
This site is great for finding primary sources. It has multiple collections. While the website is somewhat hard to navigate, it is well worth the effort. The most useful area is the American Memory section.

American Memory from the Library of Congress
URL: http://memory.loc.gov/ammem
This extraordinary collection of primary documents includes maps, diaries, letters, photographs, and audio & video materials. It chronicles life in the United States, spanning pre-colonial times to the present day. You can browse by topic, time period, place, or you can perform a guided search. It also has a section on the law making with the documents and congressional publications from the early republic.

Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers
http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
Search select pages of America’s historical newspapers from 1860-1922. Also available is a Newspaper Directory that describes and lists the locations of thousands of American newspapers published between 1690 and the present.

Primary Resources for History (University of Washington)
http://guides.lib.washington.edu/history
This site covers the U.S., Europe, Middle East, and Asia. Links are organized by geographic area & topic. These all link to sites that have primary documents from their respective time periods.

**Portal of Texas History**  
[http://texashistory.unt.edu/](http://texashistory.unt.edu/)  
The Portal is a gateway to Texas history materials. You may discover anything from an ancestor’s picture to a rare historical map. From prehistory to the present day, you can explore unique collections from Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, genealogical societies, and private family collections. The Portal continues to grow as additional partners contribute digital versions of their collections. We hope you’ll return often to discover our latest additions.

**Valley of the Shadow (University of Virginia)**  
This unique site offers a parallel look at all kinds of primary documents (letters, diaries, newspapers) from two communities: Augusta County, Virginia, and Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Though one was Union and the other Confederate, the voices of ordinary citizens and soldiers resonate without regard to political allegiance.

**World Digital Library**  
The World Digital Library (WDL) makes available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world.

**Microform:**  
The library and Special Collections and Archives hold a number of microfilmed sources. Unlike the collections below, they are not necessarily contained in a single large group. Using a keyword search in portal will often turn up a number of sources, some of which could be microfilm. Newspapers and periodically are generally a good start for many topics especially if you know the paper title or place of publication.

**History of Women (HOW)**  
The collection is a comprehensive collection of literature by and about American and European women from the 1700s through 1920. The microfilm collection consists of books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts and photographs. Included in the collection are resources on topics such as birth control, education, the professions, women's rights, women's organizations, social reform, and the role of women in the settling of the American West. Access to the History of Women collection is provided through the library's online catalog, Portal, and through a printed History of Women: Guide to the Microfilm Collection. The guide is shelved in the microform area.

**Library of American Civilization (LAC)**  
The Library of American Civilization (LAC) is a collection of 4,500 titles focused on all aspects of American life and literature from their beginnings to the outbreak of World War I. It includes books, pamphlets, periodicals and documents, many of which are out of print.

**Print:**  
This listing includes a sample of the printed primaries available. To make an exhaustive list of all of these sources would be nearly impossible. For others, try a subject or keyword search in Portal, the library’s online catalog. Writings, papers, and letters are often good indicators of primary sources.

**The American Revolution and Early Republic**  
- The Revolutionary Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States (Ref. E249 .U583)  
- The Papers of George Washington (E312.7 .P37)
• The Writings of George Washington (E312.7 1970)
• Papers of John Adams (E302 .A26)
• The Writings of Thomas Jefferson (E302 .J465)
• The Papers of Alexander Hamilton (E302 .H247)
• The Works of Benjamin Franklin (E302 .F765)
• The Papers of Henry Clay (E337.8 .C597)
• Correspondence of Andrew Jackson (E382 .J115 1969)

Antebellum, Civil War, Reconstruction
• Texas slave narratives (E444 .T49 2003)
• I was born a slave: an anthology of classic slave narratives (E444 .J18 1999)
• Complete works of Abraham Lincoln (E457.91 1894)
• Official records of the Union and Confederate navies in the war of the rebellion (E591 .U58)
• The War of the Rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. (E464 .U6)
• The papers of Ulysses S. Grant (E660 .G74)

Westward Expansion, Territories, Indians
• The diary of James K. Polk during his presidency, 1845 to 1849, (E416 .P76 1970)
• The Indian removals (Ref. E93 .U979 1974)
• The Indian papers of Texas and the Southwest, 1825-1916 (E78.T4 T42 1966)
• The American Indian and the United States (E93 .W27)
• The territorial papers of the United States (E173 .C32)

20th Century
• The Public Papers of the Presidents, Herbert Hover- George W. Bush (Ref. J80.A283)
• The State of the Union messages of the Presidents, 1790-1966. (J81 .C66)
• Woodrow Wilson; life and letters (E767 .B16)
• F.D.R.: his personal letters (E807 .R649)
• Investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy; hearings before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (E842.9 .A54)
• American Decades: Primary Sources (Ref. E 169.1 .A471977 2004)
• The American Nation: Primary Sources (Ref. E 173.A747 2008)
• Historic documents 1972-1999 (Ref. E839.5 .H57)

Mexico, Texas
• The writings of Sam Houston, 1813-1863 ( F390 .H828)
• The papers of the Texas Revolution, 1835-1836 (F390 .P225 1973)
• Gaceta to gazette: a check list of Texas newspapers, 1813-1846 (Z6952.T5 W3)
• Texas newspapers, 1813-1939 : a union list of newspaper files available in offices of publishers, libraries, and a number of private collections ( Spe. Col. Kilgore 508)
• Index to Spanish and Mexican Land Grants (Texas Doc L 600.8 In2s)
• Texas Migrant Labor Annual Report (Texas Doc G500.3 .M588)
• Documents of Texas History (Ref F 386 .W3 v.1)
• The 1840 Census of the Republic of Texas (Ref F 390 .W59)
• Historical Atlas of Texas (Ref Atlas F 386 .S86 1989)
Description: Many historical lists and maps including Federal Military Posts before the Civil War, Indian Reservations in the 1850's, WWI and WWII Military Installations, the Butterfield Overland Mail Route, Cattle Trails, Major Oil and Gas discoveries, and more.
Documents on the Mexican Revolution (F1234 .D738)

**Race, Ethnicity, Civil Rights**
- The papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. (E185.97.K5 A2 1992)
- The Hispanic Population in the United States (Federal Doc C 3.186/14-2)
- The Hispanic Population of the U.S. Southwest Borderland (Federal Doc C 3.186:P-23/172)

**General American**
- American Decoder (Ref. E169.1.A471977)
- The State of the Union Messages of the Presidents, 1790-1966 (Ref. J81.C66)
- A compilation of the messages and papers of the presidents, 1789-1908 (Ref. J81 .B96)
- Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States (Ref. J80 .A283)

**Special Collections and Archives:**
Special Collections is located on the second floor of the Library, and contains a vast array of resources. Its holdings include items dealing with history, urban and ethnic studies, literature, folklore, art, photography, government, anthropology, sociology, education, the sciences, business, and other disciplines. It also contains approximately 20,000 books, periodicals, and other printed primary and secondary items dealing with Corpus Christi, South Texas, Texas and Mexico. In addition, the division has an active oral history program to supplement the written and visual materials. For more details including a selection of their collections see: [http://rattler.tamucc.edu/dept/special/sp_title.html](http://rattler.tamucc.edu/dept/special/sp_title.html)

The best way to get acquainted with how the university's archives work is to simply go. The archivists will willing assist you, and can often suggest resources you were unaware of.