WISER: Primary Sources Online for Historians

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Aim
- What are primary sources?
- What are electronic resources?
- Subject guide to online primary sources
- Demonstrations
- Questions

Primary source materials: examples
- Letters
- Grants
- Charters
- Privileges
- Treaties
- Chronicles
- Diaries
- Tracts
- Wills
- Pamphlets
- Contemporary newspapers
- Maps
- Statistics & data
- Transcripts (of e.g. interviews)
- Literary works
- Artistic works
- Contemporary writings

Subscription services
- Via OxLIP
- Some off-campus access
- Digital texts which are usually fully searchable
- Texts which are out of copyright
- Downloading functionality

Remote access
http://www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/eresources/remote_access

Web resources
- Free on web
- Digital texts which are often fully searchable
- Limited downloading functionality
Online primary sources: advantage

- Alternative to print (24/7, concurrent use)
- Unique content
- Greater exploitation of sources
  - Searching across mass of documents/texts
  - Close textual analysis
- Discovery tool
- Viewing of original and transcription together
- Embedded information (textual comments, corrections, geo-spatial information)
- Conservation

Guides

A-Z list
- OxLIP

Subject Guide: General

- British History Online (BHO)
- EuroDocs
- Early Modern Online
- Acta Sanctorum
- Medieval SourcesOnline
- Monumenta Germaniae Historica (MGH)
- Papal Letters - UB per litteras apostolicas
- Parliament Rolls of Medieval England, 1275-1504
- Patrologia Latina Database
- Sacrae Impares (German and European History)
- Vetus Latina

Subject Guide: medieval

- Patro Latinorum
- Vetus Latina
- Patrologia Latina
- Papal Letters - UB per litteras apostolicas
- Parliament Rolls of Medieval England, 1275-1504
- Patrologia Latina Database
- Sacrae Impares (German and European History)
- Vetus Latina
Subject Guide: early modern

- 19th century House of Commons Parliamentary Papers
- American Periodicals Series, 1740-1900
- Calendar of State Papers, Domestic; Calendar of State Papers for Scotland & Ireland
- Digital Library of Classic Protestant Texts
- Digital Library of the Catholic Reformation
- Early American Imprints, I 1639-1800 (Evans)
- Early English Books Online (EEBO)
- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
- Empire On-Line, 1492-1999
- Hartlib Papers
- History of Parliament, 1386-1820
- Luthers Werke
- Making of the Modern World (MOMW)
- Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London, 1674-1834

Subject Guide: modern

- Declassified Documents Reference System
- Digital National Security Archive
- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
- Empire On-Line, 1492-1999
- Early American Imprints, I 1639-1800 (Evans)
- Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
- Empire On-Line, 1492-1999
- Hartlib Papers
- History of Parliament, 1386-1820
- Luthers Werke
- Making of the Modern World (MOMW)
- Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London, 1674-1834

Subject Guide: women's history

- British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries
- Defining Gender, 1450-1910
- The Garthwaite Collection: Women's History Online, 1543-1945
- North American Women's Letters and Diaries
- Orlando: Women's writings in the British Isles from the Beginnings to the Present
- Women and Social Movements in the United States (1600-2000)
- Women Writers Online

Subject Guide: US history

- American Memory
- American Periodicals Series, 1740-1900 (APS)
- Declassified Documents Reference System (DDRS)
- Digital National Security Archive
- Early American Imprints, I 1639-1800 (Evans)
- Early Encounters in North America
- Historical Statistics of the United States: colonial times to 1975
- North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries and Oral Histories
- North American Women's Letters and Diaries
- Women and Social Movements in the United States (1600-2000)

Subject Guide: Official Papers

- Parliamentary Rolls of Medieval England, 1275-1504 (PROHRE)
- British History Online (BHO)
- SOPCRISS (British Official Publications Collaborative Reader Information Service)
- 19th century House of Commons Parliamentary Papers
- Justice Statutes

Subject Guide: statistics & data

- Arts and Humanities Data Service - History (AHDS)
- Elections in Western Europe since 1815
- ESIDS (Economic and Social Data Services)
- Historical Statistics of the United States: colonial times to 1975
- Trade Unions in Western Europe since 1945
- UK Data Archive
- United Nations Statistical Yearbook (44th ed.)
Subject Guide: newspapers

18th Century Journals
19th Century British Library Newspapers
American Periodicals Series, 1740-1950
British Periodicals (http://britishperiodicals.chadwyck.co.uk/)
Chicago Defender, 1905-1975
Economist Historical Archive 1843-2003
Internet Library of Early Journals
Lexis Nexis News Service
New York Times Historical Archive, 1851-2003
Times Digital Archive, 1785-1985
Times Literary Supplement Centenary Archive, 1902-1990
Washington Post, 1877-1990

Demonstration

• British History Online
• Parliament Rolls of Medieval England 1275-1504
• Medieval Sources Online
• Digital Library of the Catholic Reformation
• Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO)
• Proceedings of the Old Bailey, London, 1674-1834
• Declassified Documents Reference System
• British and Irish Women’s Letters and Diaries
• Historical Statistics of the US
• AHDS History

Demonstration

British History Online  http://www.british-history.ac.uk/

Demonstration

Parliament Rolls of Medieval England 1275-1504
Demonstration

Medieval Sources Online

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Digital Library of the Catholic Reformation

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Demonstration
Historical Statistics of the US

Finding other primary sources

Intute: Arts & Humanities (RDN) http://www.intute.ac.uk/
Oxford Digital Library (ODL) http://www.odi.ox.ac.uk/
Oxford Text Archive http://ota.ahds.ac.uk/
Digitale Bibliothek (Bayernische Staatsbibliothek) http://mdz1.bib-bvb.de/~mdz/
Gallica (Bibliothèque nationale de France) http://gallica.bnf.fr/

Finding other primary sources

OAster http://www.oaister.org/
A Union Catalogue of digital resources. Aims to list:
- Digitized (i.e., scanned) books and articles
- Born-digital texts
- Audio files (e.g., wav, mp3)
- Images (e.g., tiff, gif)
- Movies (e.g., mp4, quicktime)
- Datasets (e.g., downloadable statistics files)
Citing e-resources


The Columbia guide to online style / Janice R. Walker and Todd Taylor. 2nd ed. (New York: Columbia UP, 2006).

List of useful websites is at Michigan State UL:
http://www.lib.msu.edu/harris23/general/citation.htm