



Digital Research

February 13/15



FIRST

- Let's talk about the Kocurek reading
- First example of entertainment history
- Thoughts?

SECOND

- Let's talk about Wikipedia and credible sources
- How do you currently do research (be honest!)
- Thoughts on the readings about searching/Wikipedia?

Pros and Cons?

Fast

Quick background

References

Crowd tries to keep accurate

Bias

Avoids controversy

Not good for original research

THIRD

- Thinking like a historian
- Anything new?
- Thoughts on the process?

What is a primary source?

Primary Source

- Provides firsthand evidence of people, events, objects, etc.
- Thoughts on what type of source qualifies?

Primary Sources Ct'd

- Letters
- Memos
- Diaries
- Art/Lit
- Speeches
- Photos
- Audio/Visual
- Posters
- Ads
- Newspapers
- Laws and legislation
- Court transcripts
- Census
- Physical objects
- Business Documents

Why do primary sources matter?

Primary Sources Ct'd

- Establish facts
- Critically think about events/people/objects and their relation
- Develop your own arguments on what happened and what it means

Primary Sources

Critical thinking MATTERS

Sourcing-- who produced the primary source? What can that change?

Close reading--What does it say and HOW?

Context!-- Where and when was it created?

Corroborating--Do other sources agree or disagree?

How does that work for non-written sources?



What are secondary sources?

Secondary Sources

- Information has been interpreted, analyzed, processed, or commented on by someone who did NOT experience or participate in what you're studying.
- Credible= based on primary research

Secondary Sources

- Textbooks
- Journal articles
- Encyclopedias
- Websites
- Documentaries
- Monographs

Why use secondary sources?

- Collect facts
- Expert opinions
- Examining the event from other perspectives/interpretations
- Form your own opinions

How to evaluate a secondary source?

Evaluate?

Who wrote it?

Credentials?

Based on primary sources?

Are they missing sources?

Citations?

Current works?

Current works?

Publishing date?

Who published?

In doubt?

American Historical Association has your back!

<https://secure.historians.org/pubs/free/journals/>

FOURTH

- What did you think about the sites I had you look into?
- Do you find them useful?
- If so, why? If not, why?

Zotero!

Installation

Web Browser Plugin

Word Installation

HOW DOES IT WORK!?

Questions?
