

1

00:00:03,530 --> 00:00:06,270

Primary sources
are primarily

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00:00:06,270 --> 00:00:08,190

used in historical
research.

3

00:00:08,190 --> 00:00:10,200

But you may see these
types of sources

4

00:00:10,200 --> 00:00:12,390

being used across
all majors.

5

00:00:12,390 --> 00:00:13,890

In this video,
you will learn

6

00:00:13,890 --> 00:00:15,435

what a primary source is,

7

00:00:15,435 --> 00:00:17,025

why you might use them,

8

00:00:17,025 --> 00:00:18,900

how you might find
primary sources

9

00:00:18,900 --> 00:00:21,015

at the University of
Delaware and beyond,

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00:00:21,015 --> 00:00:23,190

and some tips for
locating them.

11

00:00:23,190 --> 00:00:25,935

Primary sources are
documents, accounts,

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00:00:25,935 --> 00:00:27,795

or testimonies
produced during

13

00:00:27,795 --> 00:00:29,190

a certain time period.

14

00:00:29,190 --> 00:00:30,735

They capture the thoughts,

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00:00:30,735 --> 00:00:32,190

feelings, reactions,

16

00:00:32,190 --> 00:00:33,360

and context of

17

00:00:33,360 --> 00:00:36,675

a particular event or
historical period.

18

00:00:36,675 --> 00:00:40,260

Primary sources might
include diaries,

19

00:00:40,260 --> 00:00:42,175

memoirs, interviews,

20

00:00:42,175 --> 00:00:44,975

audio recordings or
music, photographs,

21

00:00:44,975 --> 00:00:47,225

digital content,
government documents,

22

00:00:47,225 --> 00:00:48,710

or political cartoons.

23

00:00:48,710 --> 00:00:51,140

These types of
primary sources are

24

00:00:51,140 --> 00:00:53,495

typically used in
historical research.

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00:00:53,495 --> 00:00:55,070

But primary sources exist

26

00:00:55,070 --> 00:00:56,705

in all fields of study.

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00:00:56,705 --> 00:00:59,750

For example, digital contents like

28

00:00:59,750 --> 00:01:01,775

social media posts
would be considered

29

00:01:01,775 --> 00:01:03,770

a primary source
for researchers and

30

00:01:03,770 --> 00:01:07,040

political science,
journalism or sociology.

31

00:01:07,040 --> 00:01:08,870

Interviews can be used by

32

00:01:08,870 --> 00:01:09,470

journalists,

33

00:01:09,470 --> 00:01:11,885

psychologists are
criminologists.

34

00:01:11,885 --> 00:01:13,640

The sciences and the

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00:01:13,640 --> 00:01:15,140

social sciences
will often look

36

00:01:15,140 --> 00:01:16,400

for primary sources

37

00:01:16,400 --> 00:01:18,020

through empirical studies,

38

00:01:18,020 --> 00:01:19,190

specifically looking for

39

00:01:19,190 --> 00:01:22,145

the original research
data or experiments.

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00:01:22,145 --> 00:01:24,020

For example, a

41

00:01:24,020 --> 00:01:26,165

newspaper article
published yesterday

42

00:01:26,165 --> 00:01:28,070

about the status
of COVID-19

43

00:01:28,070 --> 00:01:29,960

vaccinations would not be

44

00:01:29,960 --> 00:01:31,580
considered a
primary source

45

00:01:31,580 --> 00:01:33,140
because it is providing

46

00:01:33,140 --> 00:01:34,310
current information on

47

00:01:34,310 --> 00:01:36,080
the state of the pandemic.

48

00:01:36,080 --> 00:01:38,735
It would be considered
a secondary source

49

00:01:38,735 --> 00:01:40,430
because it has an analysis

50

00:01:40,430 --> 00:01:42,020
of an event that
took place.

51

00:01:42,020 --> 00:01:44,420
However, the same
newspaper article would be

52

00:01:44,420 --> 00:01:45,770
considered a
primary source

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00:01:45,770 --> 00:01:47,195
50 years from now.

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00:01:47,195 --> 00:01:48,904
If a student
was researching

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00:01:48,904 --> 00:01:50,930
vaccination
rates in the US,

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00:01:50,930 --> 00:01:53,030
you have to consider the
publication date and

57

00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:55,010
contexts before
deciding if

58

00:01:55,010 --> 00:01:56,585
you can use a source,

59

00:01:56,585 --> 00:01:57,860
regardless of what

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00:01:57,860 --> 00:01:59,090
subject you're
looking for,

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00:01:59,090 --> 00:02:01,040
primary sources
in these types

62

00:02:01,040 --> 00:02:02,090
of sources can act

63

00:02:02,090 --> 00:02:03,170
as a foundation for

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00:02:03,170 --> 00:02:05,390
your argument and
provide evidence.

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00:02:05,390 --> 00:02:07,760

When you are analyzing
a primary source,

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00:02:07,760 --> 00:02:09,845

ask yourself
these questions.

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00:02:09,845 --> 00:02:12,260

Who created it? Why did

68

00:02:12,260 --> 00:02:14,345

the creator make
or produce this?

69

00:02:14,345 --> 00:02:16,160

What does this
primary source tell

70

00:02:16,160 --> 00:02:18,320

me about the time
period or event?

71

00:02:18,320 --> 00:02:20,150

What part of the story, or

72

00:02:20,150 --> 00:02:22,505

who, is the primary
source leaving out?

73

00:02:22,505 --> 00:02:25,310

So now that we know what
a primary source is,

74

00:02:25,310 --> 00:02:26,690

how do we find them?

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00:02:26,690 --> 00:02:28,970

In order to locate
primary sources,

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00:02:28,970 --> 00:02:30,500
you must first identify

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00:02:30,500 --> 00:02:32,599
the time period you
are researching.

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00:02:32,599 --> 00:02:35,150
For example, let's say that
I'm researching

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00:02:35,150 --> 00:02:36,650
the beginning reaction to

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00:02:36,650 --> 00:02:39,725
the COVID-19 pandemic
in March of 2020.

81

00:02:39,725 --> 00:02:42,320
That means that I want
to identify and find

82

00:02:42,320 --> 00:02:44,045
sources that were created

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00:02:44,045 --> 00:02:46,160
in and around
this time period.

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00:02:46,160 --> 00:02:48,050
Finding historical
sources as

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00:02:48,050 --> 00:02:49,310
a different process than

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00:02:49,310 --> 00:02:51,350

finding current
primary sources.

87
00:02:51,350 --> 00:02:53,330
Let's first
talk about tips

88
00:02:53,330 --> 00:02:55,280
for locating
historical sources.

89
00:02:55,280 --> 00:02:57,050
When searching
for historical

90
00:02:57,050 --> 00:02:58,220
primary sources,

91
00:02:58,220 --> 00:02:59,510
there are a few tips to

92
00:02:59,510 --> 00:03:01,415
keep in mind
while you search.

93
00:03:01,415 --> 00:03:04,505
Search broadly. It
can be hard to find

94
00:03:04,505 --> 00:03:06,200
a primary source
that specifically

95
00:03:06,200 --> 00:03:07,460
describes what
you are trying

96
00:03:07,460 --> 00:03:09,109
to show in your argument.

97

00:03:09,109 --> 00:03:10,940

Therefore, you
need to search

98

00:03:10,940 --> 00:03:13,175

in broad themes and terms.

99

00:03:13,175 --> 00:03:15,020

Use historical language

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00:03:15,020 --> 00:03:16,565

from that time period.

101

00:03:16,565 --> 00:03:18,020

This can often be

102

00:03:18,020 --> 00:03:20,540

the hardest part of
primary source research,

103

00:03:20,540 --> 00:03:23,300

but one of the most
important terms,

104

00:03:23,300 --> 00:03:26,750

descriptions and phrases
change over time.

105

00:03:26,750 --> 00:03:29,300

For example, vaccinations had

106

00:03:29,300 --> 00:03:31,505

several different names
throughout history.

107

00:03:31,505 --> 00:03:33,650

If you are researching

vaccinations

108

00:03:33,650 --> 00:03:35,915

during early colonial
times and America,

109

00:03:35,915 --> 00:03:38,495

inoculations would
be the word to use.

110

00:03:38,495 --> 00:03:40,655

Don't know
historical terms?

111

00:03:40,655 --> 00:03:42,080

Take a look at
your secondary

112

00:03:42,080 --> 00:03:43,490

sources to see
how they are

113

00:03:43,490 --> 00:03:45,110

using words or look

114

00:03:45,110 --> 00:03:46,820

up your word in
the dictionary.

115

00:03:46,820 --> 00:03:48,620

The University
of Delaware has

116

00:03:48,620 --> 00:03:50,915

a very large collection
of databases,

117

00:03:50,915 --> 00:03:53,015

that only have primary sources.

118

00:03:53,015 --> 00:03:54,530

These databases usually

119

00:03:54,530 --> 00:03:56,330

cover as specific theme.

120

00:03:56,330 --> 00:03:57,800

Having trouble finding

121

00:03:57,800 --> 00:03:59,405

a primary source
collection?

122

00:03:59,405 --> 00:04:00,830

Visit the UD primary

123

00:04:00,830 --> 00:04:02,210

sources research guide for

124

00:04:02,210 --> 00:04:04,085

our list of primary
source databases

125

00:04:04,085 --> 00:04:05,600

based on region.

126

00:04:05,600 --> 00:04:08,000

Current primary
sources are typically

127

00:04:08,000 --> 00:04:09,290

two current to be found

128

00:04:09,290 --> 00:04:10,745

in a library database.

129

00:04:10,745 --> 00:04:12,980

Using your preferred
search engine is

130

00:04:12,980 --> 00:04:15,335

the best tool to find
social media posts,

131

00:04:15,335 --> 00:04:18,574

interviews, news footage,
or current reports.

132

00:04:18,574 --> 00:04:20,120

Here are some
tips to keep in

133

00:04:20,120 --> 00:04:21,440

mind when trying to find

134

00:04:21,440 --> 00:04:25,520

current primary sources.
Search broadly.

135

00:04:25,520 --> 00:04:28,040

Use specific keywords for

136

00:04:28,040 --> 00:04:29,975

what type of source
you are looking for,

137

00:04:29,975 --> 00:04:32,510

like "diary" or "interview".

138

00:04:32,510 --> 00:04:35,525

Consult current
news sources.

139

00:04:35,525 --> 00:04:37,610

It's important

to note that

140

00:04:37,610 --> 00:04:39,950

primary sources can
often be difficult to

141

00:04:39,950 --> 00:04:42,800

locate and identify
because the material for

142

00:04:42,800 --> 00:04:44,540

the topic might not
have been deemed

143

00:04:44,540 --> 00:04:46,894

worthwhile to collect
and preserve,

144

00:04:46,894 --> 00:04:48,500

or the source might
be considered

145

00:04:48,500 --> 00:04:50,000

a secondary source.

146

00:04:50,000 --> 00:04:52,610

It can often help to
talk to a librarian or

147

00:04:52,610 --> 00:04:53,885

an archivist if
you are having

148

00:04:53,885 --> 00:04:56,640

trouble locating
primary sources.