

# Primary Sources

## *A List of Topical Resources at the Chatham Square Branch Library*

**Primary sources** are created by people who witnessed or participated in an event and recorded it during or immediately afterwards. Some examples are manuscripts, contemporary records or documents, letters, photographs, interviews, historical records, maps and personal papers.

**Secondary sources** describe, summarize, analyze, evaluate, derive from, or are based on primary source material. For example, a review, critical analysis, second-hand account, or biographical or historical study.

### *Ancient History*

*The Roman Empire.* (1996)

Martyn J. Whittock

YA 937 W

An illustrated introduction to the beginnings, height, and decline of the Roman Empire. Includes primary and secondary source material, biographical essays, and maps.

### *Women's History*

*Women and the National Experience: Primary Sources in American History.* (1996)

Ellen Skinner, editor

305.4097 W

*Women's Rights in the United States: A Documentary History.* (1994)

Winston E. Langley & Vivian C. Fox, editors.

305.4209 W

*Sexual Harassment in America: A Documentary History.* (1999)

Laura W. Stein, editor

344.7301 S

*American Civil Rights, v. 4.* (1999)

Phillis Engelbert, editor

(Ref.) 323.173 E| Circulating copy available.

### *Race and Ethnicities in American History*

*Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America: Primary Documents.* (1999)

REF 305.8009 G

Jeffrey Lehman, editor

20 document types, including letters, poems, oral histories, autobiographies, political cartoons, recipes, speeches, and photographs are used to document 90 ethnic groups throughout the history of North America.

*The Columbia Documentary History of Race and Ethnicity in America.* (2004).

Ronald H. Baylor, editor

REF 305.8009 C

Documents immigration, racial and ethnic histories in America from 1600 to 2000.

*The Nation in Turmoil, Civil Rights and the Vietnam War, 1960-1973.* (1993)

Gene Brown, editor

YA 973.92 B

Covers major social and political events in United States history such as the civil rights movement, the Great Society, and the Vietnam War and anti-war sentiment.

## American History

*The Bill of Rights*. (2004)  
Tom Head, ed.  
342.7308 B

*Dictionary of American History, v. 9*. (2003)  
Stanley I. Kutler, editor  
REF 973.003 D  
The Colonial Period, Revolutionary War, Early Republic, Expansion, Slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction, Women's Rights, Industry & Labor, WWI, Great Depression, WWII, Cold War, Civil Rights, Vietnam War, through September 11, 2001.

*100 Key Documents in American History*. (1994)  
Peter B. Levy, editor  
REF 973 K  
Colonial America, Ante-Bellum Reform, Civil War and Reconstruction, Westward and Industrial Expansion, Progressive Era, Modernizing America, WWII and Cold War, up to 1988.

*Documents of American History, v.1 To 1898*.  
(1988)  
Henry S. Commager & M. Cantor, editors  
REF973 D  
Begins with Columbus, 1492. Includes *Presidential Documents: The Speeches, Proclamations, and Policies That Have Shaped the Nation from Washington to Clinton* by J.F. Watts & Fred L. Israel, editors.

## Websites

*American Memory*  
memory.loc.gov

"American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience."

*Making of America*  
moa.cit.cornell.edu

Covers American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction, with focus on education, psychology, American history, sociology, religion, and science and technology.

## NYPL Databases

[www.nypl.org/databases](http://www.nypl.org/databases)

These databases are available from home, just login using your library card number.

### *African-American History and Culture*

Covering more than 500 years of African-American history, features biographies, primary sources, images, timelines, and maps and charts.

### *World History Online*

Covers the important civilizations and cultures of world history from prehistoric times through the modern era. Topical entries, biographies, maps, primary source documents, and timelines provide a detailed and comparative view of the people, places, and events that have defined world history.

### *American Women's History*

Provides direct access to thousand of entries—biographies, historical and topical entries, speeches, maps, timelines, tables and charts, primary sources, and photographs—that are essential to understanding the experiences of American women throughout our nation's history.

### *American Indian History and Culture*

Covering more than 5,000 years of culture, legends, and leaders of over 500 Native American groups, this database provides entries on primary source documents, biographies, maps & charts, images, and timelines. It also features searchable tribe and culture area indexes, as well as the ability to search for tribes by region.

### *Ancient History and Culture*

This database provides a balanced, global view of the ancient world as it explores six ancient centers of civilization—Africa, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Mesoamerica, and Mesopotamia, spanning the period from the early Hominids 3 to 5 million years ago through 1522 CE.

Updated 9/21/05



The New York Public Library