

Locating Primary Sources for Classroom Use

A lot of great primary sources are available online, with more being added every day. When evaluating online sources for classroom use, make sure to check the source: Look to recognized and reputable libraries and archives first. Materials from a reputable source will have robust information about the source including dates, where it came from, and what it relates to. Below are some recommended sources for primary sources related to Arizona history and more.

Great Starting Points

Robust digital content, lesson plans and more!

Library of Congress Digital Collections

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/>

Robust set of digital materials from the Library of Congress Collections, with a wide range of topics.

Materials for teachers, including guides for integrating primary sources into the classroom, curated sets of primary sources on specific topics, pre-made lesson plans, professional development materials, and more make integrating primary sources easy! Check them out here:

<https://www.loc.gov/programs/teachers/about-this-program/>

Arizona Memory Project

<https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/>

A project of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, a division of the Secretary of State. Provides access to digitized primary sources from Arizona based archives, museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions.

The Arizona Research Topics section contains curated sets of primary source materials highlighting the people, places, and events that have shaped Arizona. A great starting point for lesson plan inspiration:

<https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/45030>

Other sources for Arizona history primary sources

(Digital content is limited; you may need to contact the repository for scans or access.)

Arizona Historical Society Library and Archives

- <https://arizonahistoricalsociety.org/research/library-archives/>

Arizona State University Distinctive Collections and Archives

- <https://lib.asu.edu/collections/distinctive-collections>

University of Arizona Special Collections

- <https://speccoll.library.arizona.edu/collections>

Northern Arizona University Special Collections and Archives

- <https://nau.edu/special-collections/>
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Digitized Historic Newspapers

(Free access, most from 1923 or earlier due to copyright)

Chronicling America

- <https://www.loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america/about-this-collection/>

Chronicling America contains millions of selected (not every newspaper will be available online) newspaper pages from nearly every state and territory in the United States published through 1963.

Arizona Digital Newspapers

- <https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/nodes/view/3>

Papers are grouped by title, and county of publication, but also by community or topic: Black communities, Tribal communities, LGBT community, military publications, labor union publications, etc...

Historic Mexican and Mexican American Press

- <http://contentdm-landing.library.arizona.edu/contentdm/mmap/about.html>

Highlights historic Mexican and Mexican American publications published in Tucson, El Paso, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sonora, Mexico from the mid-1800s to the 1970s. Many publications are in Spanish, or bilingual.