

Opening Up the “Closed” Stacks:
What Archives & Special Collections Can Do for You & Your Patrons!
Presented at the VLA Annual Conference, October 2015

Below are some of the resources mentioned during the presentation, as well as some there just wasn't time to share. Be aware that there are plenty more resources out there! The presentation and this handout are available online: <https://goo.gl/15ChpK>. If you have questions, need more suggestions, or want to share ideas, you can find me at kadietz@vt.edu or on Twitter (@archivistkira).

Resources for Discovering Analog & Digital Primary Sources

Special collections and archives can be tricky to navigate, at times. We're a bit strange with our rules and closed stacks, but I promise, we WANT to be found. There are also lots of specific digital projects out there to discover, so you'll have to do some digging on your own.

- Local library catalogs, discovery systems, and digital platforms
- Virginia Heritage: <http://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/search> (state-wide consortium for finding aids)
- ArchiveGrid: <https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/> (OCLC discovery tool for finding aids and catalog records of manuscript materials)
- WorldCat: <https://www.worldcat.org/>

Sample Digital Primary Source Collections

- Library of Congress American Memory: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/browse/index.html>
- Digital Public Library of America: <http://dp.la/>
- National Archives and Records Administration Access to Archival Databases: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>
- Many organizations or consortiums have projects at the state/regional level that document cultural heritage and digitize primary sources, including DigitalNC (<https://www.digitalnc.org/>); the NYPL (<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/>); and others. These projects can contain materials specific to a geographic region, subject area, type of content, or some combination of those.



Resources for Teaching with/about Primary Sources

If you're looking to collaborate with a special collections or archives, or, if you're on your own and want to do something with primary sources, but you need some help or advice, here are some good places to get started:

- Teach Archives: <http://www.teacharchives.org/>
- Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources Program: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/>
- NARA Teaching with Documents: Lesson Plans: <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/>

Sample Collaborative Projects/Project Resources/Ideas (aka Inspiration!)

Some of these may not be feasible for organization (depending on size, resources, time, etc.), but even many large projects have scalable aspects. If you're in need of some inspiration, or curious to see what projects are going on, here are a few:

- Mass Memories Road Show: <http://blogs.umb.edu/archives/mass-memories-road-show/>
- Virginia Memory/James I. Robertson, Jr. Civil War Sesquicentennial Legacy Collection: <http://www.virginiamemory.com/collections/cw150>
- University of Illinois LibGuide on Edible Book Festivals: <http://guides.library.illinois.edu/friendly.php?s=ediblebooks>
- International Edible Book Festival website: <http://www.books2eat.com/>
- Need funding? The NEH has a new Common Heritage Grant to help with digitization and public programming: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/common-heritage>

Links to Virginia Tech Related Collaborations & Resources

- Edible Book Contests: <http://tinyurl.com/aebc2013>; <http://tinyurl.com/aebc2014>
- LGBTQ History at Virginia Tech: <http://digitalsc.lib.vt.edu/exhibits/show/vtlgbtq-history>
- International Archive of Women Online Collections: <http://iawa.lib.vt.edu/>
- Virginia Tech Special Collections LibGuide: <http://guides.lib.vt.edu/specialcollections/basicintroduction>
- Virginia Tech Special Collections Online: <http://digitalsc.lib.vt.edu/>

