The Library of Congress collection is strongest between the 1870s and 1920s. Post-1945 materials on the Cold War are rarely digitized.

The Library of Congress does not own all of its materials. Many are still under copyright and not accessible through their digital collections.

If you find a source only featured as a thumbnail, it is not digitized and cannot be viewed or downloaded.

**Have a plan!**

- Create a search plan!
- Write down all the keywords you plan to use.
- Make sure to save the links or create a working bibliography to store all the sources you find.
- Keep adding to the search plan.

**Words, Words, Words**

- Use the “sort” feature to refine your search.
  - Sort by relevance, date, or title.
- Use the filters on the left side of the search bar to limit to online collections only, set location and date parameters, and more!

**Always refine your search**

- Check out the “subjects” on the right-hand side of a source to find new keywords.
- Look at the “More Like This” and “You Might Also Like” sections below a source.

**Other places to look**

- Ask a Librarian

Have a specific question about a source? Connect with a Library of Congress Librarian at ask.loc.gov.

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Pro Tip:

While you should also start on loc.gov, you can also do an advanced Google search limited to the Library. Use the site:loc.gov tag to add to your search. For example, you can enter Lincoln Douglas debates site:loc.gov into a Google search window, narrowing your search to the Library’s collections.
Looking for more?

- **Online Exhibits**: Discover more primary sources in the Library's Online Exhibits at loc.gov/exhibits/.
- **Digital Collections**: Explore the curated Digital Collections by visiting loc.gov/collections/.
- **Classroom Materials**: Explore the Library's Classroom Materials, including Primary Source Sets and Presentations by visiting loc.gov/classroom-materials/.
- **Chronicling America**: Search America's historic newspapers (1777-1963) through Chronicling America at chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/.*
  *You can refine your searches and use Boolean usesearches here too!