

Conducting Public History:

What Sources are Available and Where Do I Find Them?

2014 Ohio Local History Alliance
Annual Meeting & Conference
October 4, 2014





Tutti Jackson

Reference Archivist

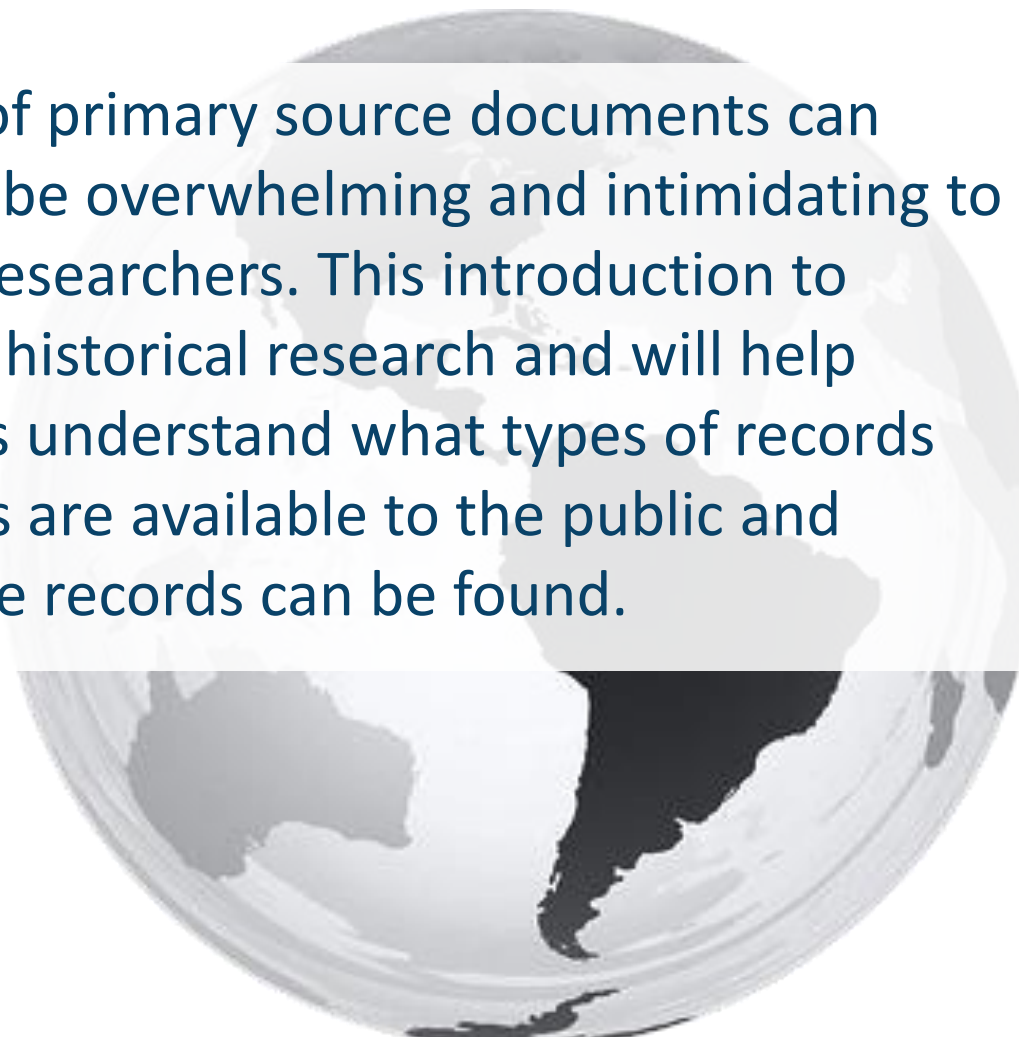
Research Services

Museum and Library Services Division



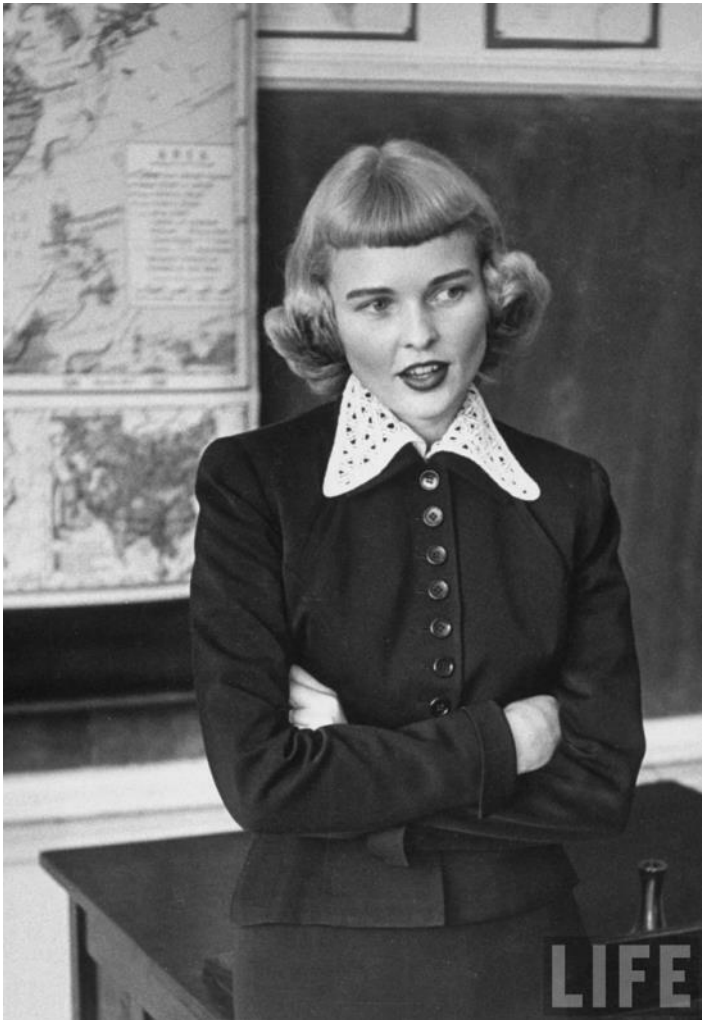
Session Description

- The world of primary source documents can sometimes be overwhelming and intimidating to beginning researchers. This introduction to conducting historical research and will help participants understand what types of records and sources are available to the public and where those records can be found.

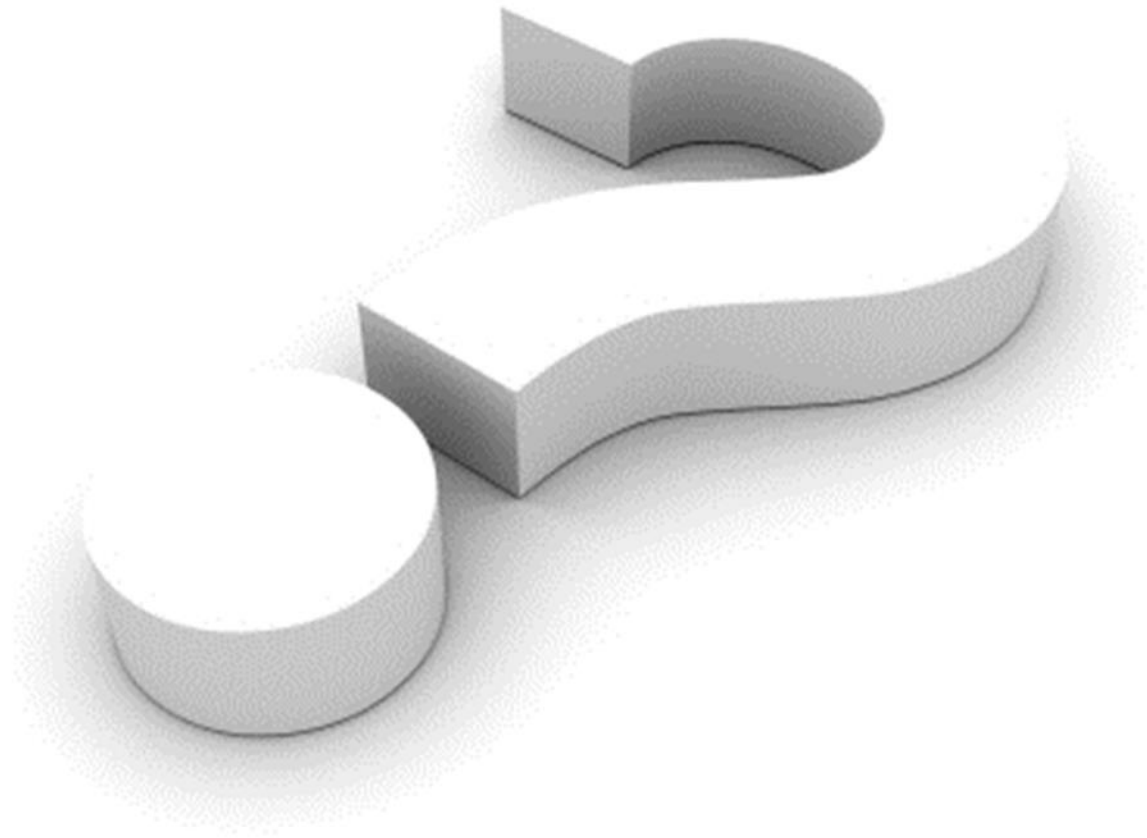


Goals

- Research 101
- Skills and Strategies
- (Re)Searching Online
- Super Resource Round-Up



What is Research?



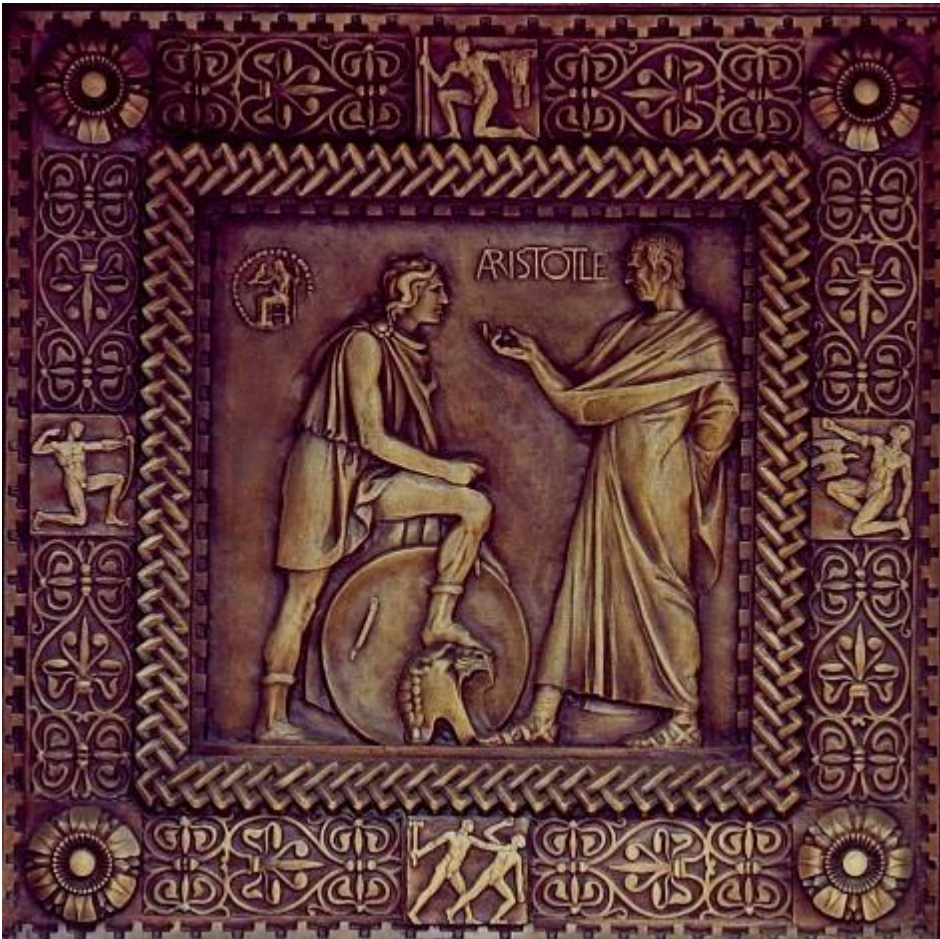
Research is the quest for knowledge

- Noun and a Verb
- From the French *recerche*, from *recercher*, to seek, to search again



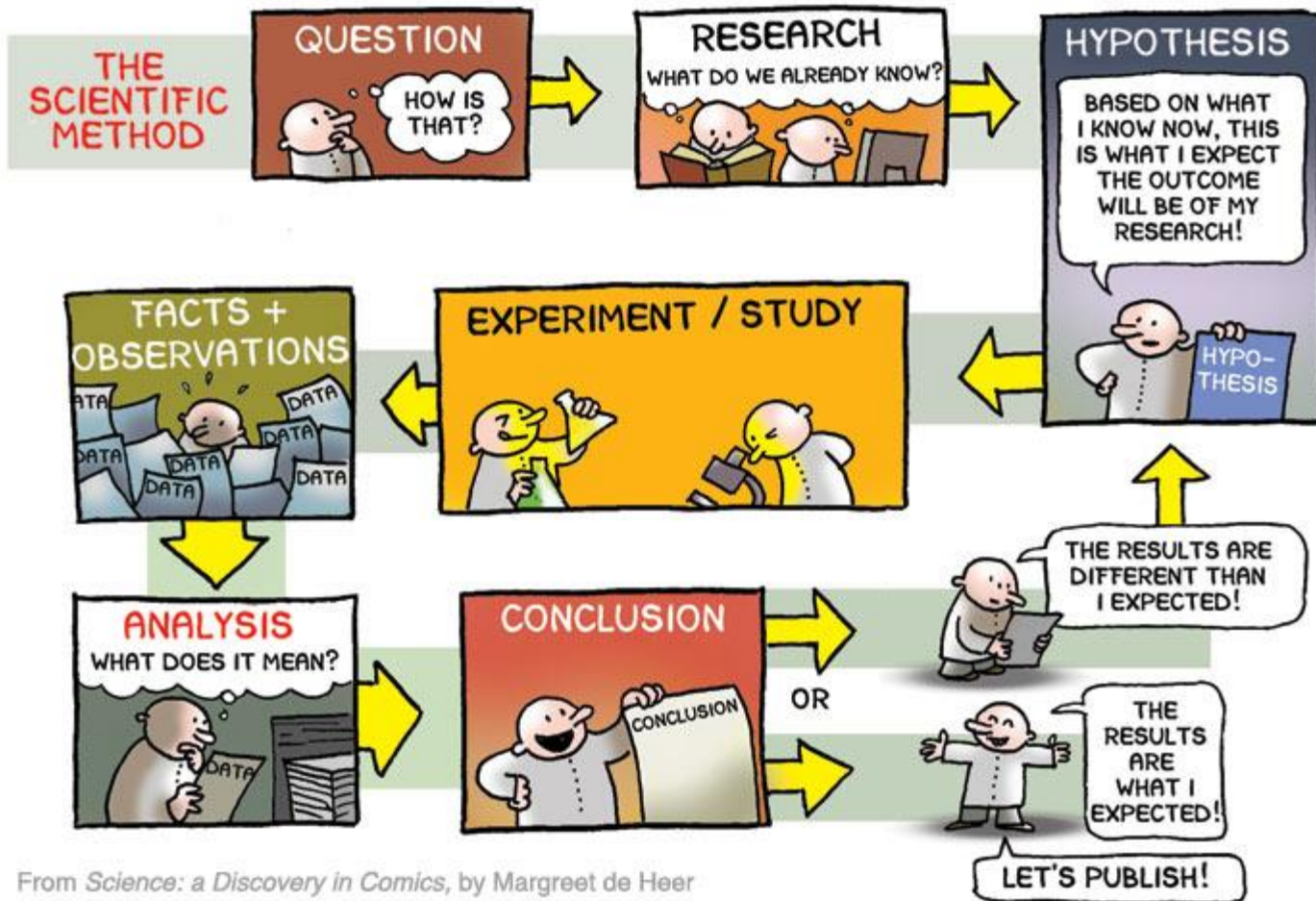
Research holding the torch of knowledge (1896) by Olin Levi Warner
Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson Building, Washington, D.C.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

Scientific Method



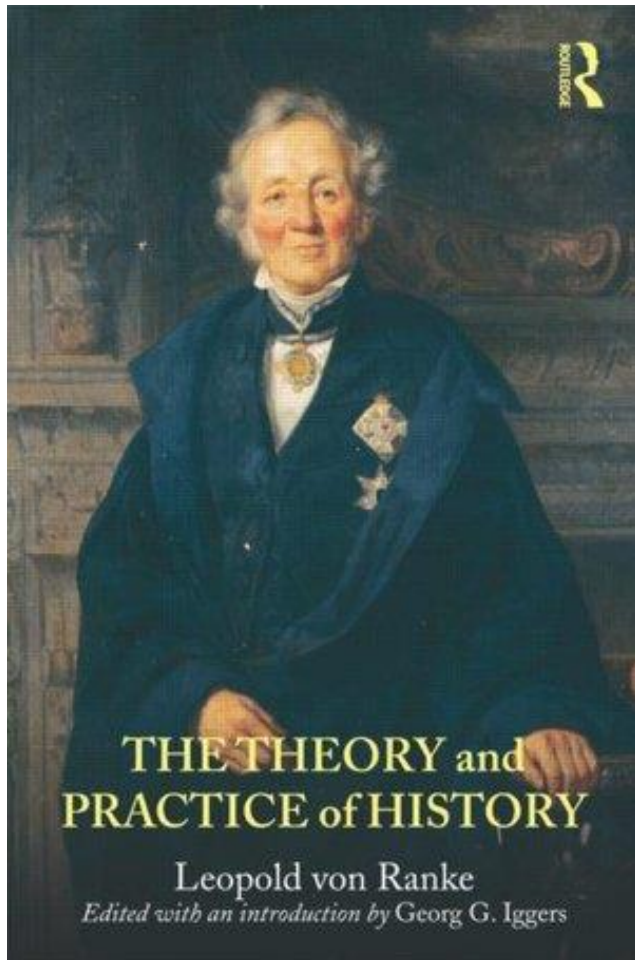
Aristotle door panel. National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

Scientific Method



<http://nbmpub.com/blog/2013/05/06/the-scientific-method/>

Historical Method



- Construction of a narrative
- Synthesis of knowledge
- Dependent on archival research
- Analysis of primary sources
- Question the source

"I see the time approaching when we shall base modern history, no longer on the reports even of contemporary historians...but rather on the narratives of eyewitnesses, and on genuine and original documents."



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Primary Sources



- An artifact of its time
- A first-hand account of a historic event

Secondary Sources

- A commentary or analysis of a historic event based on primary sources



Secondary sources tell us

- Context
- Who is that?
- What's going on here?
- Clues to find out more



CDV of Circus Performer Col.
Noah Orr, "The Ohio Giant"
Cowan's Auctions

Public History



Skills and Strategies



Research is a Process

1. Identifying a Research Problem
2. Reviewing the Literature
3. Specifying a Purpose and Research Questions
4. Collecting Data
5. Analyzing and Interpreting Data
6. Reporting and Evaluating Research



Creswell, J.W. (2008). *Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research* (3rd). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. 2008.

Research Skills

- Plan Your Research Approach
 - Are there sources for my topic?
 - What are the best sources?
 - What keywords will I use?
 - Ask a librarian!



Research Like a Librarian: Using "Big6 Skills" for Better Grades!

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2013/11/18/research-using-big6-skills-better-grades>

Research Skills

- Location of Sources
 - Where are the best sources?
 - Can I access them?
 - Can I access them online, or will I need to visit the library?
 - Is there an index?



Research Like a Librarian: Using "Big6 Skills" for Better Grades!

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Research Skills

- Explore, Evaluate and Extract
 - Read, consider, reread
 - Does the source support my thesis?
 - Take notes
 - Keep track of citations

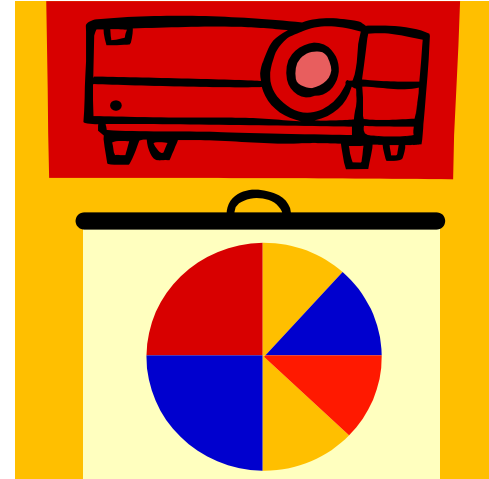


Research Like a Librarian: Using "Big6 Skills" for Better Grades!

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2013/11/18/research-using-big6-skills-better-grades>

Research Skills

- Synthesize
 - Organize multiple sources
 - Draw conclusions
 - Revise!
 - Present information



Research Like a Librarian: Using "Big6 Skills" for Better Grades!

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2013/11/18/research-using-big6-skills-better-grades>

Smarter (Re)Searching:

Tips and Tricks



(Re)Searching Online

- There are an estimated one trillion Web pages*



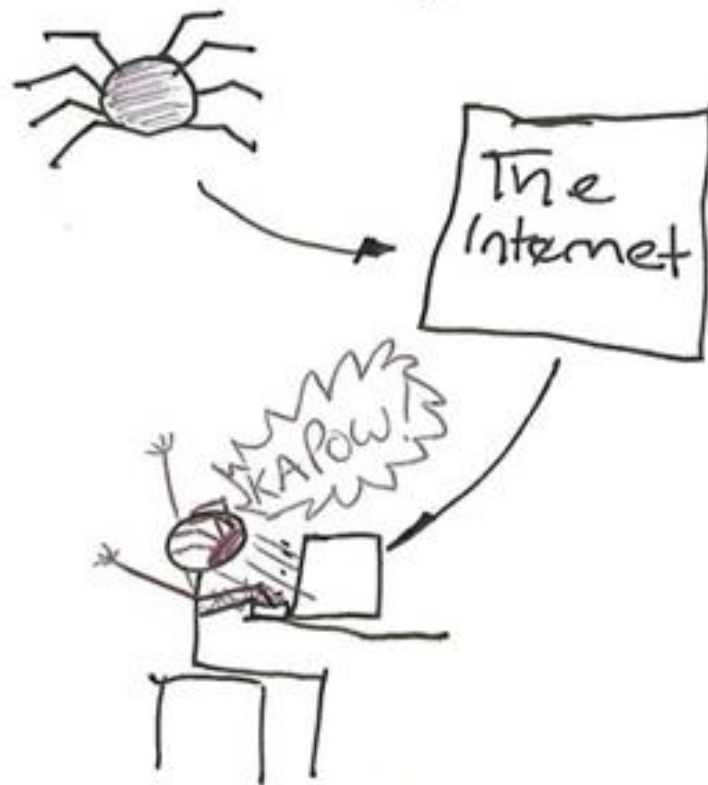
*Kelly, Kevin. 2010. *What technology wants*. New York: Viking.

(Re)Searching Online

- Visible Web (Good information vs. Good enough)
- Invisible Web (not indexed by Google)



How Google Works



How (We Think) Google Works

- Crawls the surface of the web, reads indexed pages and ranks results for relevance

How We Build Research Databases

- Many hierarchical layers of unindexed data



Myth of the Digital Native

- “Just because you’ve grown up searching things in Google doesn’t mean you know how to use Google as a good research tool.” - Anthropologist Andrew Asher, Bucknell University



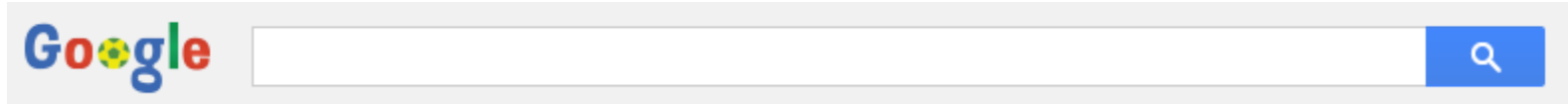
[What Students Don't Know](#), Inside Higher Ed, August 22, 2011
[ERIAL](#) (Ethnographic Research in Illinois Academic Libraries) Project



Myth of the Digital Native

- *The prevalence of Google in student research is well-documented, but the Illinois researchers found something they did not expect: **students were not very good at using Google**. They were basically clueless about the logic underlying how the search engine organizes and displays its results. Consequently, the students did not know how to build a search that would return good sources.*

Searching: Where to Begin



Reality Check

WIKIPEDIA

English

The Free Encyclopedia

3 752 000+ articles

日本語

フリー百科事典

770 000+ 記事

Español

La enciclopedia libre

831 000+ artículos

Français

L'encyclopédie libre

1 155 000+ articles

Italiano

L'enciclopedia libera

845 000+ voci

Polski

Wolna encyklopedia

832 000+ haset

中文

自由的百科全書

377 000+ 條目

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 bilnga • traži • खोजें

English

→



Reality Check

Using Wikipedia Responsibly

- Understand what it is and how it works
- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia>
- Look (critically) at the citations
- Links to more information?
- *Caveat: Don't cite Wikipedia. Seriously.*

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Firefox

W Battle of Iwo Jima - Wikipedia, the free e...

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Discussion

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Battle of Iwo Jima

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 24°47′N 141°19′E

The **Battle of Iwo Jima** (19 February–26 March 1945), or **Operation *Detachment***, was a major battle in which the **United States** fought for and captured the island of **Iwo Jima** from the **Empire of Japan**. The U.S. invasion, charged with the mission of capturing the three **airfields** on Iwo Jima,^[2] resulted in some of the fiercest fighting in the **Pacific Campaign** of **World War II**.

The **Imperial Japanese Army** positions on the island were heavily **fortified**, with a vast network of bunkers, hidden artillery, and 18 km (11 mi) of underground tunnels.^{[3][4]} The Americans were covered by extensive naval and air support, capable of delivering an enormous amount of firepower onto the Japanese positions. The battle was the first American attack on the Japanese **Home Islands**, and the Imperial soldiers defended their positions tenaciously. Iwo Jima was also the only **U.S. Marine** battle where the American overall casualties exceeded the Japanese,^[5] although Japanese combat deaths numbered 3 times that of Americans. Of the more than 18,000 Japanese soldiers present at the beginning of the battle, only 216 were taken prisoner.^[1] The rest were killed or missing and assumed dead.^[1] Despite heavy fighting and casualties on both sides, Japanese defeat was assured from the start. The Americans possessed an overwhelming superiority in arms and numbers; this, coupled with the impossibility of Japanese retreat or reinforcement, ensured that there was no plausible scenario in which the U.S. could have lost the battle.^[6]

The battle was immortalized by **Joe Rosenthal**'s photograph of the **raising of the U.S. flag** on top of the 166 m (545 ft) **Mount Suribachi** by five **Marines** and one **Navy Corpsman**. The photograph records the second flag-raising on the mountain, which took place on the fifth day of the 35-day battle. The picture became the iconic image of the battle and has been heavily reproduced.^[7]

Contents [hide]

1 Background

2 Planning and preparation

2.1 Japanese preparations

3 Invasion

4 Raising the flag

5 Northern Iwo Jima

Battle of Iwo Jima

Part of **World War II, Pacific War**



A U.S. 37 mm (1.5 in) gun fires against Japanese cave positions in the north face of Mount Suribachi

Date

19 February – 26 March 1945

Location

Iwo Jima, Japan

Result

Decisive American victory

Belligerents

 United States

 Japan

Commanders and leaders



Super Resource Round-Up



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Ohio History Connection

15,000
Maps

85,000 Rolls
of Microfilm

20,000 Volumes
of Newspapers

142,555
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Feet of Gov't
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Over 50 Historic
Sites

1 million Historical
and Archaeological
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45,000 Cubic Feet of
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Photographs, and
Special Collections



Going Local



Going Local

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<http://www.ohiolha.org/members/>
- Local Chapters of the Ohio Genealogical Society
<http://ogs.org/chapters/index.php>
- OPLIN Find a Library:
<http://www.oplin.org/content/find-a-library>



Know Before You Go



- Procedures
- Hours
- Costs
- Copy/Photo/Scan Policies
- Cash/Credit?
- Restrictions?
- Items Available?

Going National



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Research in Person



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News and Notices



Maintenance Notice
Scheduled maintenance **October 1 - 3, may interrupt access to Archives.gov**. We apologize for any inconvenience.



All National Archives research rooms will be **closed Monday, October 13**, for Columbus Day. Museums in **Washington, DC**, and at the **Presidential libraries** will be open. [View all Federal Holidays.](#)



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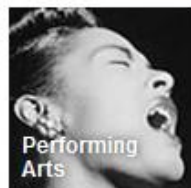
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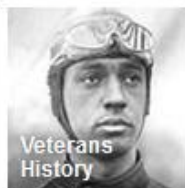
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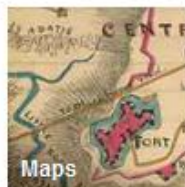
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New York [N.Y.]



[Fair play. \(4pp.\)](#)
Ste. Genevieve [Mo.]



[The evening herald. \(8pp.\)](#)
Albuquerque, N.M.

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Mexican Migrant Workers



Pottery from New Mexico



Postcards



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Family History Pals



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First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Birth

Year

Location

Lived In

Location

Arrival

Year

Location

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Day

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Year

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+ Add family members (*mother, father, spouse, siblings, children*)

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

About this collection

The U.S. has taken a census of its population every ten years since 1790. The most recent census available to us at present is the 1940 census, due to a 72-year privacy restriction. While the questions in U.S. census records varied from year to year and in state censuses, from state to state, you can find information like names of other household members, ages, birthplaces, residence, occupation, immigration and citizenship details, marriage information, military service and more. The 1890 census was largely destroyed in a fire, but we have compiled a "substitute" with various other records to help bridge the gap.



[See Amelia Earhart living in Des Moines, Iowa in the 1910 U.S. Federal Census.](#)

[View all collections included in this search](#)



US Federal Census



SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. <u>14</u>		SHEET NO. <u>18</u>		
ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. <u>179</u>		WARD OF CITY <u>5</u>		
NAME <u>Morris Roth</u>		ENUMERATOR.		
Whether able to speak English.	OCCUPATION.			
	Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as engineer, salesman, laborer, etc.	Industry, business, or establishment in which he works, as section men, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Employer, name of man, or name of firm, or name of bank.	Number of family.
35	36	37	38	39
<u>40</u>	<u>Laborer</u>	<u>Rutherford</u>	<u>W</u>	
<u>400</u>	<u>Laborer</u>	<u>Rutherford</u>	<u>W</u>	



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- <http://www.ohioweblibrary.org/heritagequest>

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Noah B Orr

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Birth:

Sep. 19, 1836
Union County
Ohio, USA

Death:

Jul. 1, 1881
Marysville (Union County)
Union County
Ohio, USA

Noah B. Orr was born to William Orr and Mary. At the age of 18 Noah joined the Barnum and Bailey Circus where he was known as the Union County Giant and The Ohio Giant. He was 550 pounds and stood 9 feet tall with high top shoes and a top hat. Noah toured the U.S. and Europe as a performer from the 1850's to 1882. He even performed for Queen Victoria of England. From 1878 to 1882 he traveled with the Liliputian Opera Company, a group of midget actors who performed musical comedies. He could hold up to eight men.

Family links:
Parents:
[William Orr \(1801 - 1866\)](#)
[Mary Orr \(1802 - 1840\)](#)

Siblings:
[Garrett Orr \(1823 - 1847\)*](#)
[Abraham Orr \(1833 - 1904\)*](#)
Noah B Orr (1836 - 1881)
[Joshua Orr \(1856 - 1926\)**](#)

*[Calculated relationship](#)
**Half-sibling

Burial:
[Oakdale Cemetery](#)
Marysville (Union County)
Union County
Ohio, USA

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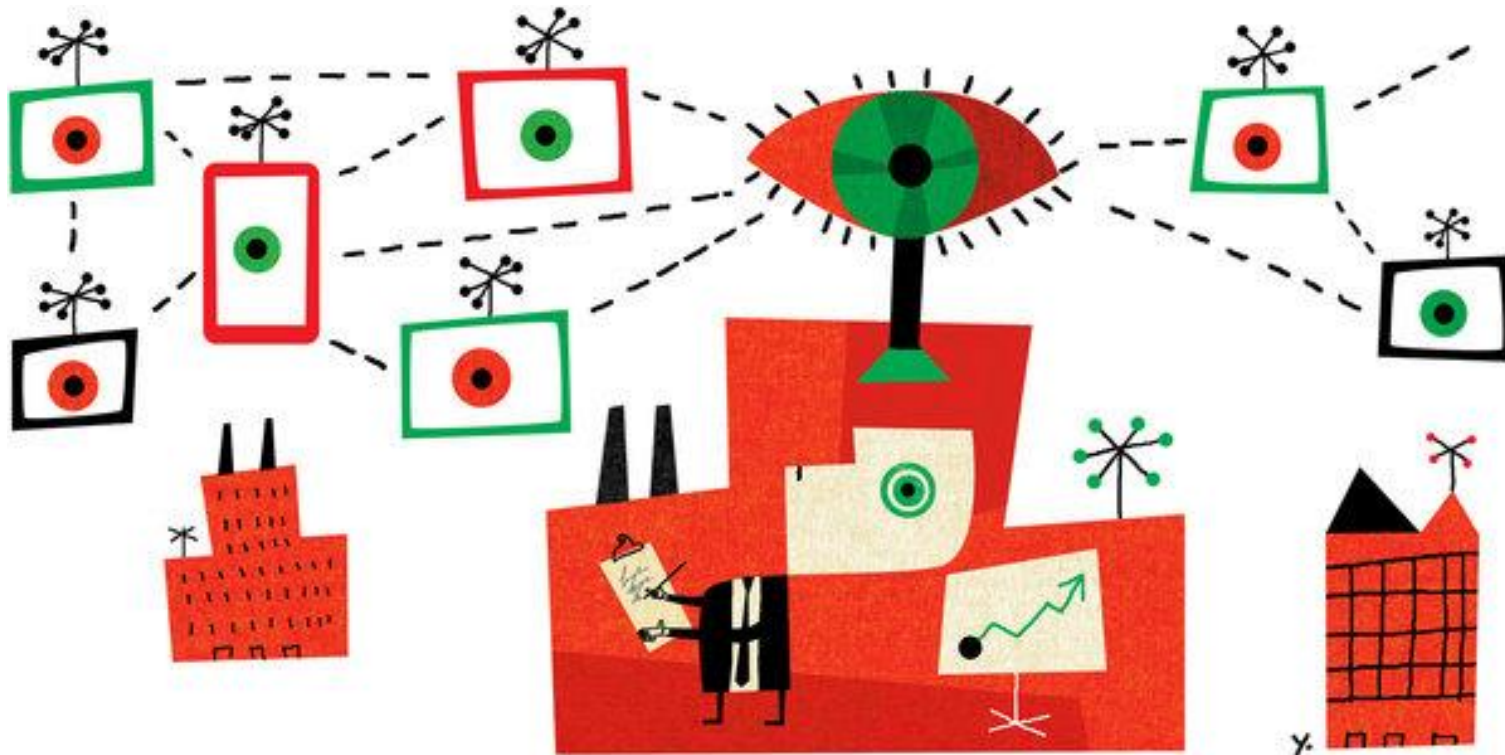
Family Booklet

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- [Ohio Memory](#)
- OhioPix
- Cleveland Memory
- Cleveland Public Library Digital Gallery
- Columbus Memory
- [Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County Virtual Library](#)
- [Southeastern Ohio Digital Shoebox Project](#)
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- And so much more!



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