

# Searching the Library of Congress \*

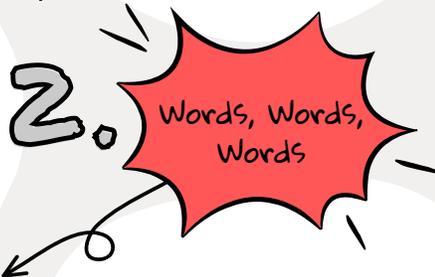
## of Congress

- 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.



- 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.

- Spelling counts!
- Use short phrases or keywords, not sentences.
- Try different keywords.
- Don't forget to try keywords popular during the time period.



- 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!



- 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.



Ask a Librarian

Have a specific question about a source? Connect with a Library of Congress Librarian at [ask.loc.gov/](https://ask.loc.gov/).

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?



Search America's historic newspapers (1777-1963) through Chronicing America at ([chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/)).\*  
\*You can refine your searches and use Boolean usesearches here too!

Explore the Library's Classroom Materials, including Primary Source Sets and Presentations by visiting [loc.gov/classroom-materials/](http://loc.gov/classroom-materials/).



Explore the curated Digital Collections by visiting [loc.gov/collections/](http://loc.gov/collections/).



Discover more primary sources in the Library's Online Exhibits at [loc.gov/exhibits/](http://loc.gov/exhibits/).



## Research Guides



Library of Congress reference librarians prepare and update fantastic Research Guides ([guides.loc.gov/](http://guides.loc.gov/)) to help researchers get started.

