Finding Primary Sources

**Primary Source – a definition**

- Was created during the time period being studied
- Creator has first hand knowledge of the events being described
- Can be a document, photograph, painting, picture, recording...

**Secondary Source – a definition**

- Comments on, builds upon or cites a primary source
- Hindsight
To find primary sources, combine your topic with keywords such as:

- sources
- diaries
- personal narratives
- memoirs
- correspondence
- speeches
- treaties
- sermons
- songs
- cartoons
- papers
- photography
- letters

If your topic is a person, then do an AUTHOR search.
- Be sure to use the keywords that were used during the time period you’re researching
ProQuest Historical Newspapers

- Indexes articles from 9 major U.S. newspapers, most back to the 1800’s.
- Use the Date Range filter to find newspaper articles written in 1962

Google Scholar – Legal Documents

- Limit your search in Google Scholar to Legal Documents
Use the **Advanced Search** in Google Books to return **FULL VIEW ONLY** results

Limit your search by **Publication Date**

Popular magazine articles published during the time period you’re researching are primary documents
Use the Location Code in Encore to limit your search to US Documents

US Documents are shelved in the ODY Lower Level by their Superintendent of Documents Number
Published by the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Historian.

Covers U.S. foreign policy decisions and diplomatic activity since 1861.