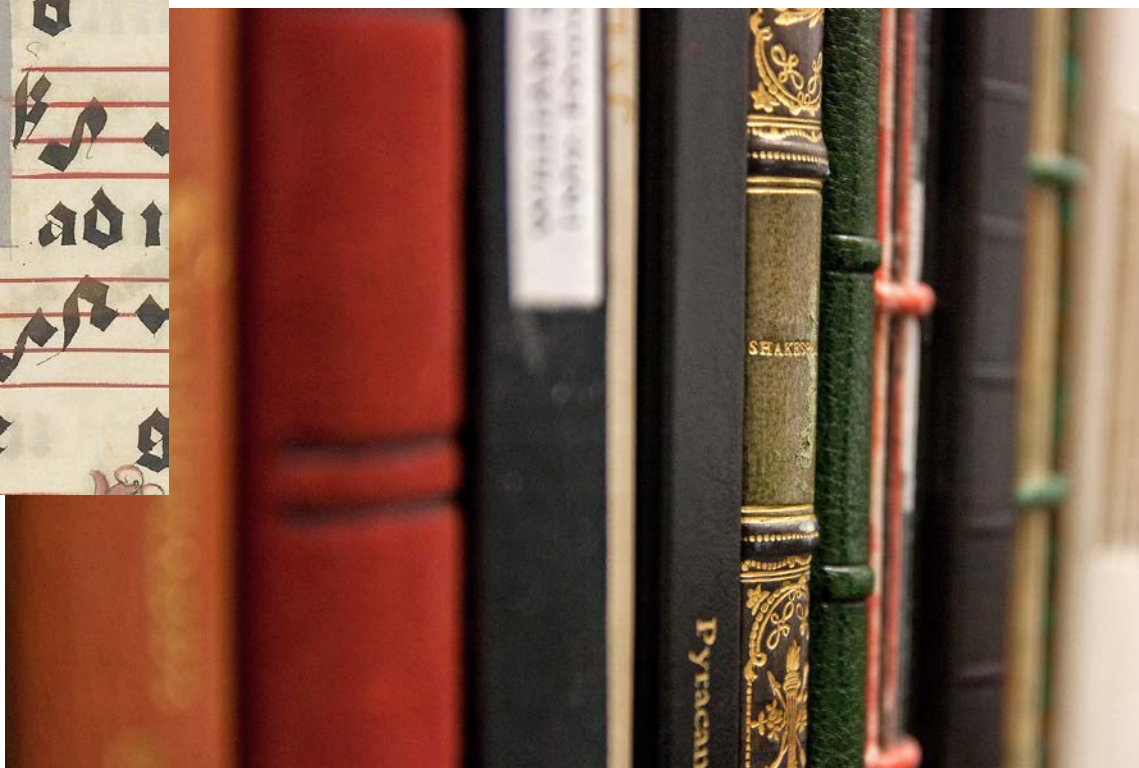


Reflections on Primary Sources and Special Collections in the 21st Century

Fiesole Collection Development Retreat
Barcelona
April 26, 2018

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University of Denver Libraries
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3, 1943 ¹³ Tuesday, October 19, 1943

air raids
semble,
into #2
killing
and.
injuring
the 2 Jay
ds. 2 Jay
he will
no planes
in the air, shot
down 11 bombers
and 9 Neros. Willie
and his gun shelled
us all afternoon
but didn't hit any-
thing. (I'll full
night). Took my
shells off for the first
time in Guadalcanal.

No bombings all
day. 36 Neros came
over. Shot down 21.
Lost 1's Finch and
Capt - also St. Sgt.
Salton. Neros were
falling all over the
island. They flared
up like tissue paper
when an incendiary
hit their gas tank.
Repelled an attack
of mosquitoes all
night but slept
pretty good. Got
a letter from Irene
and have been
happy as a lark
all day.

REVEAL DIGITAL



Help reveal ... a library's hidden collection.

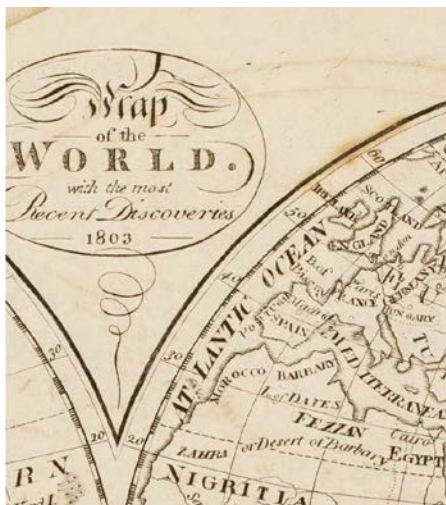
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Primary
Sources

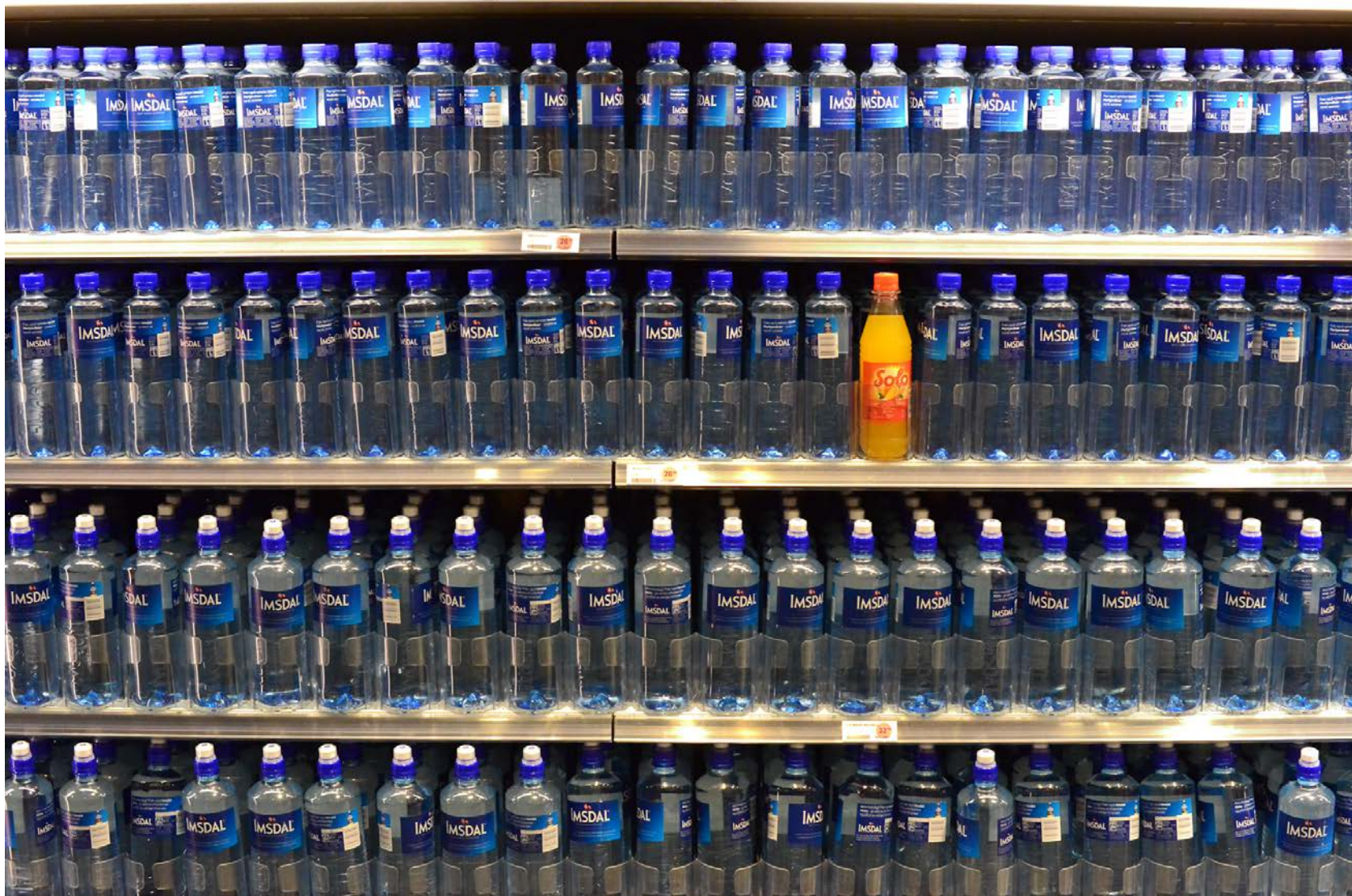
Readex
A Division of NewsBank

Four trends

1. Increased investment in special collections
2. Redefining special collections
3. Growth of digital primary source collections
4. Interplay between traditional and digital

Increased Investment in Special Collections

Digital collections are homogenous collections



<https://flic.kr/p/dhAL5t>

940 Databases found

A

[ABELL: Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature](#)

Lists monographs, periodical articles, critical editions of literary works, book reviews and collections of essays published anywhere in the world; unpublished doctoral dissertations are covered for the period 1920–1999.



[ABI/INFORM Collection](#)

Includes important full-text journals and much sought-after titles from the business press as well as key trade publications, dissertations, conference proceedings, and market reports



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Specializes in hard-to-find regional business publications with news and analysis of local companies and markets.



[ABI/INFORM Global](#)

Provides cover-to-cover, full-images complete with illustrations and advertisements. Contains complete runs of key business and management journals, providing a unique historical perspective on hundreds of topics, including corporate strategies, management techniques, marketing, product development, and industry conditions worldwide.



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Provides business professionals with critical information about companies, products, and executives as well as in-depth news and analysis of industry trends and developments.



[Academic OneFile](#)

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Designed for academic institutions, this database provides complete coverage of multidisciplinary, full-text academic journals.

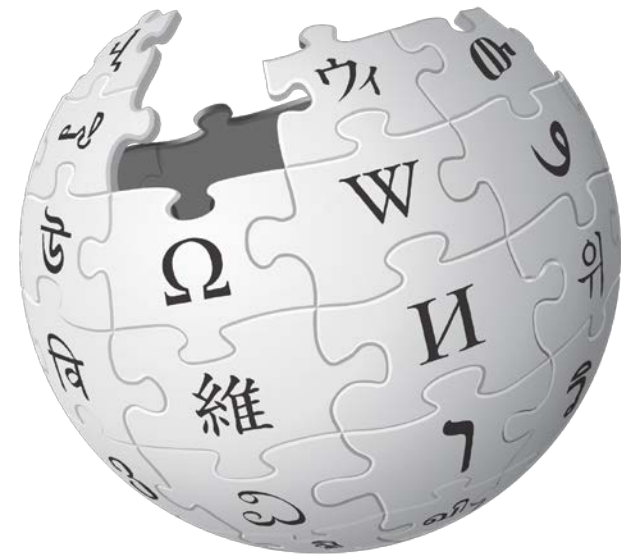


[Access World News](#)

Provides extensive news coverage at any level—local, state, regional, national and international. Features the vast majority of U.S. newspapers by circulation, along with almost one thousand hard-to-find local and regional titles, and offers searchable news video clips and over two thousand international news sources from scores of countries on six continents, translated into English when written in other languages.



Google



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Increased Emphasis on Special Collections

- Make a library stand out
- Give students a “special” experience
- Increased investment
- Increased use



Redefining Special Collections

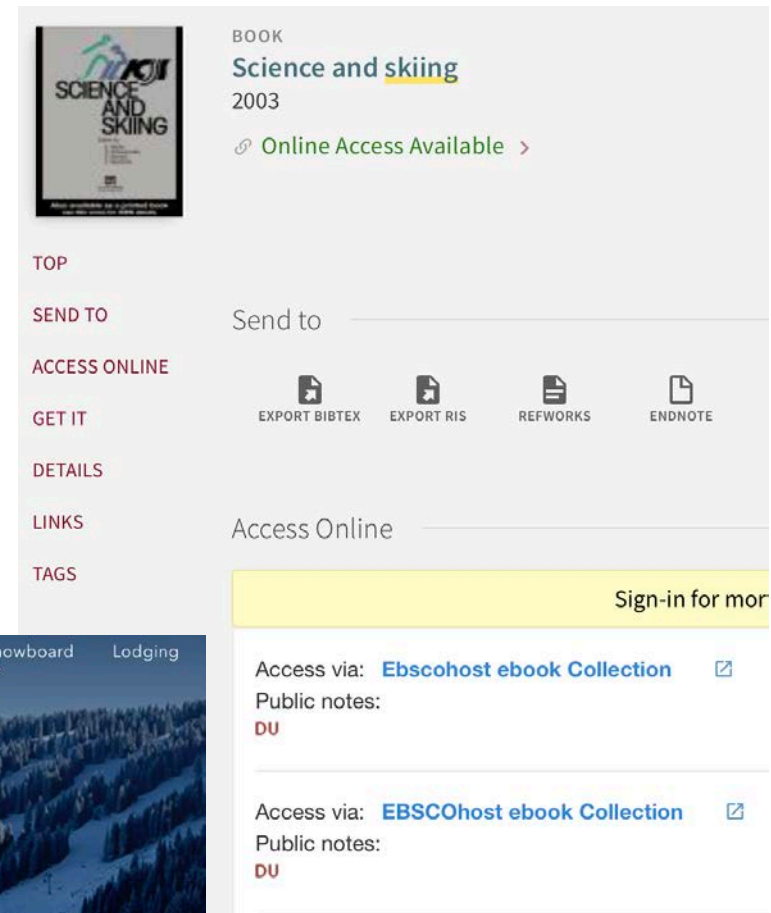
Traditional Special Collections

- Rare, scarce, and unique materials
- Common materials aggregated into a collection
 - The whole is greater than the sum of its parts



Integrating Digital Content into Special Collections

- Free ephemeral content on the web
- Digital records of the institution
- Licensed electronic resources that fit into collecting areas
- Long-term preservation and access strategies are essential



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Science and skiing
2003
[Online Access Available >](#)

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ACCESS ONLINE
GET IT
DETAILS
LINKS
TAGS

Send to

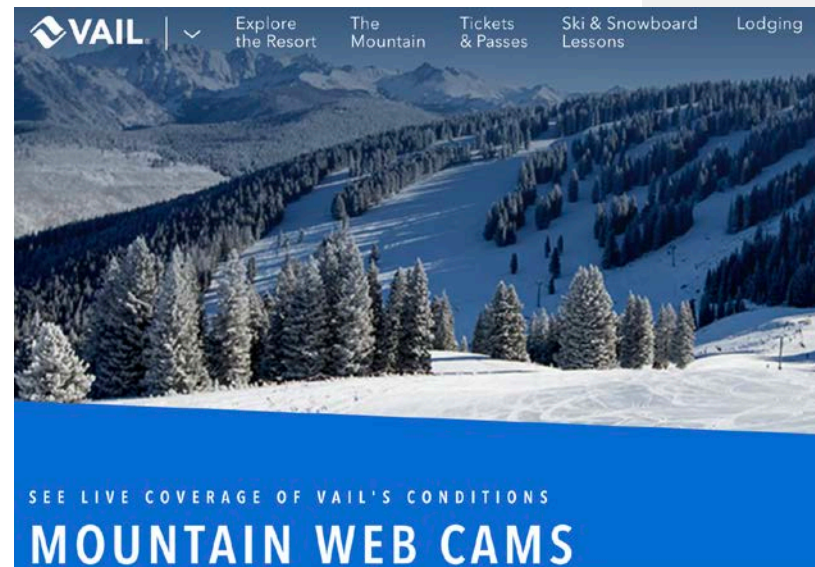
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Growth of Digital Primary Source Collections – Licensed or Free

REVEAL DIGITAL



Help reveal ... a library's hidden collection.

Content sourced from: Firestone Library, Princeton University

Hemeroteca Digital



La Hemeroteca Digital forma parte del proyecto Biblioteca Digital Hispánica, que tiene como objetivo la consulta y difusión pública a través de Internet del Patrimonio Bibliográfico Español conservado en la Biblioteca Nacional de España.

Nace en marzo de 2007 para proporcionar acceso público a la colección digital de las revistas y prensa histórica española que alberga la Biblioteca, con una colección inicial compuesta por 143 títulos de prensa y revistas.

[Más información](#)

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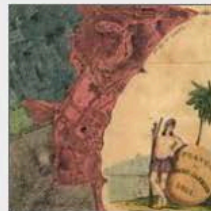
Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic



Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers



Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information ...



Cities and Towns



Civil War Maps



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This guide provides information on both primary and secondary resources useful for American History research.

[Home](#)[Finding Books and Articles](#)[Newspapers and Periodicals](#)[Primary Source Collections](#)[Government Publications and Census Resources](#)[US Foreign Relations](#)[Archival Sources](#)[County and Regional Histories](#)[Genealogy](#)[Videos and Images](#)[Citing Sources](#)

What is a Primary Source?

Correspondence, diaries, memoirs, interviews, account books, inventories, and other original documents, created at the time of an event or during the lifetime of an individual or institution, that can be used to understand people and events of the past, are considered primary source material. Depending upon the project, newspaper and magazine articles, images, film, and so forth may also be considered primary source materials.

The University Libraries have primary source materials in [Special Collections & Archives](#), with some of the materials scanned and available via [Digital DU](#).

To the right are strategies for finding original, transcribed, reprinted, and surrogate versions of primary sources. Tabs on this research guide lead to digital collections of primary sources we own.







Strategies for Finding Primary Source Materials

The library catalog is a good place to start when searching for primary source materials such as correspondence, diaries, memoirs, records, and other types of documents, either held in the library's Special Collections and Archives division, reprinted as books, or microform or digital surrogates of the original.

Monographs written at the time of the event can make useful primary source material.

The terms, *diaries*, *personal narratives*, *correspondence*, *interviews*, *sources*, *archives*, *manuscripts*, and *document** can be added to a keyword search, to locate primary sources in the library catalog, *Prospector*, and *WorldCat*. For example, if looking for primary source materials regarding Che Guevara, you can do a keyword

Primary Source Collections on North American History

- [American Broad­sides and Ephemera](#) DU 
Based on the American Antiquarian Society's landmark collection of American broadsides and ephemera, this full-color digital edition offers fully searchable facsimile images of approximately 15,000 broadsides printed between 1820 and 1900 and 15,000 pieces of ephemera printed between 1749 and 1900.
- [American Memory: The 19th Century in Print](#) 
Presents twenty-three popular periodicals digitized by Cornell University Library and the Preservation Reformatting Division of the Library of Congress.
- [American National Biography Online](#) DU 
The national biography for the United States. More than 17,000 biographical sketches for deceased individuals who contributed to shaping the U.S.
- [American State Papers, 1789-1838](#) DU 
Enables students and scholars to easily search and browse legislative and executive documents of the first 14 U.S. Congresses.
- [Black Studies Center](#) I DU 
Brings together essential historical and current material for researching the past, present and future of African-Americans, the wider African Diaspora, and Africa itself. It is comprised of several cross-searchable component databases.
- [Confidential Print: North America, 1824-1961](#) DU 
Issued by the Foreign and Colonial Offices since around 1820, the Confidential Print series originated out of a need for the Government to preserve all of the most important papers generated by the Foreign and Colonial Offices. Some of these were one-page letters or telegrams; others were large volumes or texts of treaties. All items marked 'Confidential Print' were printed and circulated immediately to leading officials in the Foreign Office, to the Cabinet and to heads of British missions abroad.

Does the widespread availability of digital primary source collections makes special collections less special (or even not special at all)?

Or does it change the emphasis of special collections?

- Collect what hasn't been digitized / can't be digitized
- Collect what hasn't been collected
- Collect things that are intended to be touched and held



Interplay between Traditional Special Collections and Digital Primary Source Collections

Using print and digital together

- Digital for depth and breadth, better searching
 - Far more than any one library could ever acquire, and easier to use
- Combined with print to provide experience with using physical objects and/or a local flavor

HIST 1360: World War I: Home

Home Historic Newspapers and Magazines Digital Documents and Sources Images Websites Military Records

Hints for finding books and articles on the First World War


World War 1914-1918 is the standard subject heading for World War I, and can be used to search most library catalogs and databases, as well as within the collections of national libraries and museums. It is still useful to search for variants, such as *World War I*, *First World War*, and *Great War*.

To find first person accounts in the library catalog, combine *World War 1914-1918* with *correspondence*, *diaries*, or *personal narratives*, for example:

world war 1914 1918 diaries


When searching the full text of primary sources, you will not be able to search by any of the standard ways we now refer to the war because it wasn't called World War I until World War II happened. The war was frequently referred to as the Great War or the European War while it was happening.

World War I Portal

- [First World War Portal](#) DU  A collection of primary source documents drawn from archives across the globe varying in scope and offering a window on the lives and experiences of men and women during the First World War. Showcases a wealth of primary source material for the study of the Great War, complemented by a range of contextual secondary features.

Finding Books

Books published during World War I are out of copyright in the United States, so we've included Google Books, HathiTrust, and Internet Archive to find digital versions of published sources that are freely available.

- [Library Catalog](#)
Books, Periodical Titles, Videos and other cataloged materials
This is the library catalog for University Libraries. Your search will help you locate materials owned by University Libraries, including books, magazines, and other cataloged materials.
- [Prospector](#)
A unified catalog of many Colorado area libraries. Books held by the libraries can be requested via Prospector and are delivered to the Main Library Lending Desk in 3 to 5 days.
- [Google Books](#) 
Google has worked with many major universities such as Stanford, Princeton, the University of Michigan and Oxford University to scan their out-of-print and current books.
- [HathiTrust ebook collection](#)
Over 700,000 volumes of electronic in the public domain are digitized by the HathiTrust.

HIST 1360: World War I

Most students agreed that the emphasis on primary sources gave them a ***deeper understanding*** of the war. Several students went out of their way to find soldiers' diaries and trench journals, for a ***“very real”*** understanding of what it was like to be involved in the war. They felt ***more invested*** in the class and learning about the war; one student said she felt like she was ***“taking charge” of her education*** in this class.

Final Thoughts

- Special collections more important than ever
- We can redefine "special" –
 - Needs to include digital content
 - New subjects and material types
- The connection between print and digital provides students with a richer experience

Questions

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