

Introduce a WASP Project

Project Overview

In this project, your group will choose a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) to research and find *primary sources* from the Library of Congress about her life. Then, you will present to your classmates to introduce her story to others.

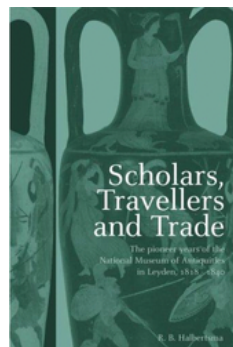
Group Members: _____

First, let's review: What is a *primary source*?

Circle which of these would be a *primary source*:



This photograph of cats celebrating a birthday from 1914



This History Textbook



This poster for an early film projector from 1896



This map of Seattle, Washington from 1891



This oral history interview with Olympian and Civil Rights Leader John Carlos about his protest at the 1968 Olympics



This issue of the *Manzanar Free Press*, the newspaper at the Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp from 1945

Inventor and Scientist

In 1876, at the age of 29, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. In 1877, he formed the Bell Telephone Company, and in the same year married Mabel Hubbard and embarked on a yearlong honeymoon in Europe.



Alexander Graham Bell's design sketch of the telephone. Sketches, undated, handwritten over top and bottom of page, 1876. Box 275, "Notes for the Telephone Drawing of the Telephone, Bell Original." Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers, Alexander Graham Bell Library of Congress.

near Baddeck, where he would assemble other teams of bright young engineers to pursue new and exciting ideas.

Among one of his first innovations after the telephone was the "photophone," a device that enabled sound to be transmitted on a beam of light. Bell and his assistant, Charles Sumner Tainter, developed the photophone using a sensitive selenium crystal mirror that would vibrate in response to a sound. In 1881, they successfully sent a photophone message over 200 yards from the

Read to top

This article about Alexander Graham Bell from the Library of Congress

Hopefully, you circled all but the *history textbook* and the *Alexander Graham Bell article* on the last page. Primary sources come in many different formats: photographs, newspapers, posters, drawings, maps, books, and many more! Sources written by historians after the event has occurred (like the textbook and article) are usually secondary sources.

Listen to a Life Story: Oral History

Using the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, find the oral history of a Women Airforce Service Pilot (WASP) that you want to research. This will provide the topics of research for your project.

Which WASP did you choose? _____

Why did you choose this WASP?

What is included in this WASPs Veterans History Project (VHP) Collection? Check everything that you find:

☐

A Video Oral History

☐

An Audio Oral History

☐

Photographs

☐

Memoir Excerpts

☐

Newspaper Articles

☐

Other. Write what you found down below!

**Now that you have chosen your pilot, listen to their *oral history* and pay close attention to these details!
Write your answers on the lines below.**

When was this pilot born? _____

In what year was this
interview conducted? _____

When did this pilot join the WASPs? _____

Does the pilot give the reason why they joined the WASPs? If so, what is it?

What are two or three elements from this WASP's story that interest you, and why?

● _____

● _____

● _____

Use this page to take notes on interesting elements of your WASP's oral history. These notes will help you to come up with *search terms* when you begin researching.

Some suggestions on what to take notes on:

- Early life (hometown, her parents or caregivers, school experience, college names, name of the airport where she learned to fly, the type of plane she flew)
- Time in the WASPs (where and when she trained, any interesting stories, unique experiences, what duties she had, what she liked/disliked about her experience)
- Later life (career or life choices after the WASPs, whether or not she continued flying, family or spouse names, any reflections)

Time to Research!

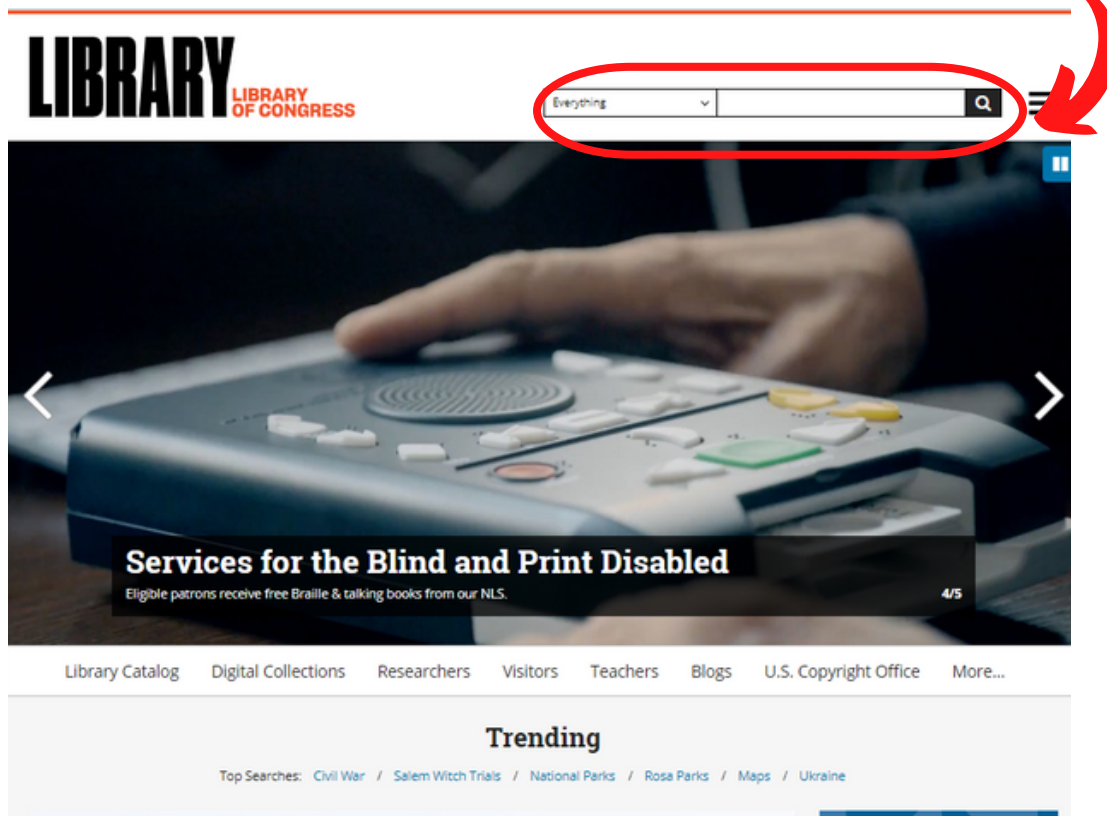
Now that you know about your pilot's life and experience in the WASP Program, explore the collections at the Library of Congress to find *3 primary sources* that relate to your pilot's life.

For your next step, you will be asked to find 3 *primary sources* from the Library of Congress related to your WASP's life. You can choose any three sources, but they all have to be in different *formats*. (You can choose a photograph, but your other sources would have to be different, maybe a newspaper article and a map)

Watch the video on navigating the Library of Congress with your class.

Let's do a practice search.
Go to www.loc.gov

In the search box in the top right of the screen, type "Baseball"



Explore some of the options on the left, like "Original Format," or "Date"

Results: 1-25 of 153,842 | Refined by:

Refine your results

☒ Available Online 153,842
☐ All Items 169,767

Original Format

Newspaper	79,236
Legislation	52,216
Book/Printed Material	7,648
Photo, Print, Drawing	7,601
Web Page	5,458
Periodical	1,285
Manuscript/Mixed Material	1,023
Notated Music	318
Film, Video	261
Personal Narrative	171
Audio Recording	68
Event	39
Software, E-Resource	33
Map	29
Classroom Material	12
3D Object	9
Web Archive	9

Online Format



Explore | Baseball Americana | Exhibitions at the Library of Congress

Americans had been playing baseball long before they agreed on the rules or even settled on how to spell it.



RESEARCH GUIDE

Baseball Resources at the Library of Congress: Introduction

A comprehensive guide to the extensive physical and digital collections held by the Library of Congress related to the country's National Pastime, baseball.

Date: 2021-05-24



RESEARCH GUIDE

Sports Industry: A Research Guide: Introduction

The resources included in this guide are intended for anyone researching the business aspects of professional sports and venue management with a focus on football, baseball, basketball, tennis, soccer, and golf.

Now that you have your bearings, you are ready to start your own search!

Search Terms

An important part of research is figuring out the right *search terms*.

Searching the LOC requires *specific* and *clear* search terms.

You might need to use *historic language* to help find resources from your time period. If you are looking for resources on female pilots, you might try "girl pilots" or "aviatrix" as these were popular ways to refer to women in aviation at the time.

What are some of the topics you want to search about your pilot's life?

You might want to find one source from the pilot's early life, one from her time in the WASPs, and one from later life. Look back at your notes to help find interesting topics to research.

Now, take those concepts, and make SEARCH TERMS

Think about what words might have been used at the time, what formats you might want to look for, and how you can *modify* your search terms if they don't work the first time.

Think of 5 Search Terms you want to use:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

If you get stuck while researching, some ideas of what to search might be:

- The pilot's hometown
- The pilot's name or maiden name
- "Women Airforce Service Pilots", "Women Pilots", "Girl Pilots", or "Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron"
- The pilot's job or elements of her life after the war ended

Where to Look

Here are some suggestions of places to start looking for different primary source formats

For photographs, maps, digitized books, and other similar sources:

- Go to [loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov) and search.
- You can use the drop-down menu next to the search bar to limit your results to a certain format

For newspaper articles:

- Use Chronicling America, the Library's database of newspapers going back to 1777!
- chroniclingamerica.loc.gov

For other sources from Veterans History Project:

- The quickest way to get there is to search "Veterans History Project" from [loc.gov](https://www.loc.gov)
- [loc.gov/collections/veterans-history-project-collection/](https://www.loc.gov/collections/veterans-history-project-collection/)

Be sure to record the primary sources you found in a notebook or Word document so that you can come back to them and easily put them in your presentation.

Present!

After learning about your WASP and finding primary sources about her life, it's time to introduce her to the rest of the class! Make a presentation with your primary sources to highlight important elements of your WASP's life.

Your presentation should have *at least 5 slides*:

SLIDE 1: Introduction

- Include a picture of your WASP (Take a screenshot of her interview if there is no photograph in her collection)
- Include important dates: Birth date, dates she served in the WASP, death date (if noted)
- Include where she served
- You should be able to find all of this information on her VHP collection page

SLIDE 2: First Primary Source

- Include an image of your primary source or a link
- Tell your classmates why you chose this primary source: How does it connect to your WASP's life? Why does it interest you?
- Talk about your research strategy: What search terms did you use? What collections did you search? Did you find this on the first try or did you have to try different strategies?

SLIDE 3: Second Primary Source

- Include an image of your primary source or a link
- Tell your classmates why you chose this primary source: How does it connect to your WASP's life? Why does it interest you?
- Talk about your research strategy: What search terms did you use? What collections did you search? Did you find this on the first try or did you have to try different strategies?

SLIDE 4: Third Primary Source

- Include an image of your primary source or a link
- Tell your classmates why you chose this primary source: How does it connect to your WASP's life? Why does it interest you?
- Talk about your research strategy: What search terms did you use? What collections did you search? Did you find this on the first try or did you have to try different strategies?

SLIDE 5: Conclusion

- What was something new that you learned while researching this WASP? Did anything surprise you?
- What was it like searching for primary sources from the Library of Congress? How can you use these resources for other history projects or for other classes?
- Was there a source that you found while researching that you liked but didn't end up including in your project? Include a picture or a link and tell your classmates why you like it!

Review and Reflection

After listening to an oral history, searching for primary sources, and presenting to your classmates, let's review what you learned about primary sources and the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

Let's review again: What is a *primary source*?

Why are primary sources helpful to people learning about the past?

Did doing this project change how you think about primary sources? Why or why not?

What is something new you learned about the Women Airforce Service Pilots?

What is one problem you faced while researching, and how did you solve it?