

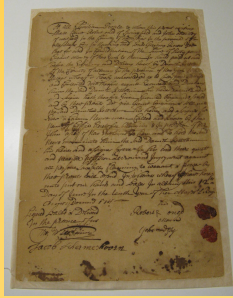
# EXPOSING THE HIDDEN: HOW NEW TOOLS ARE OPENING UP THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Presentations for the Interdisciplinary Library Research class (INT1) begin with an overview of the different materials that cover several subject areas or subjects specific to the class curriculum.

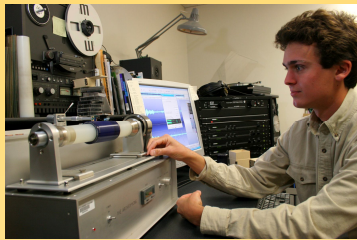
The subject areas range from Medieval, Gender and Consumer Culture, Environmental Studies, Latin American Studies, Civil War, World History, US History, English Literature, Dramatic Arts and Music. I provide a brief demonstration of how to initially locate resources on the Special Collections.

Students are given an opportunity to view a display of resources as I describe the historical significance of the items and how these items provide a hands on view of past events, a reflection of their comparative and historical research value, and how they impacted the lives of those who used these materials.

I was pleasantly surprised by the artifacts in the collections. I did not know our library had actual Civil War pieces or papers on slave sales. The printing on hides was so precise I was surprised by the orderly typed (printed press?) sentences. I guess I imagined printing presses to be a mess (more or less) back then.

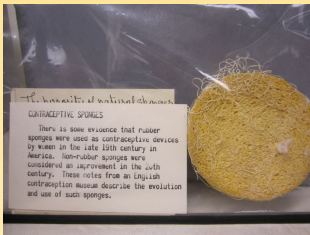


I know now that the creation of information and knowledge today is incredibly faster and easier than it used to be. For example, seeing the wax cylinder fascinated me at how much space it used to require just to hold a single song. Where as nowadays, we can have thousands of songs held in a handheld device.



....how your introduction to primary and archival sources changed your understanding of the flow of information....

".... I was truly surprised when I saw music cylinders presented to us. I honestly did not know that any form of recorded music existed in the late 1800s. When I held the cylinder in my hand I was immediately intrigued and was eager to find out more history on these music cylinders."

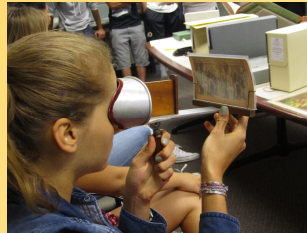


"The collections definitely made me feel more aware of the past and the technological advances that have been made since then, particularly the birth control collections. As a female, it brought to me the attention of past women issues and made me more appreciative of what we know. Looking at all the materials that I got to handle and getting a brief description of their history is really helpful in understanding that time period because I got to visually see and physically feel the items."



Did you have any epiphanies on the flow of information (think back to the first class,) or did it help with your information literacy skills?

I had an epiphany that information isn't only given in textual form. It is interesting to think about the information contained inside special collections items such as maps, posters, artifacts, journals, interviews (online)!

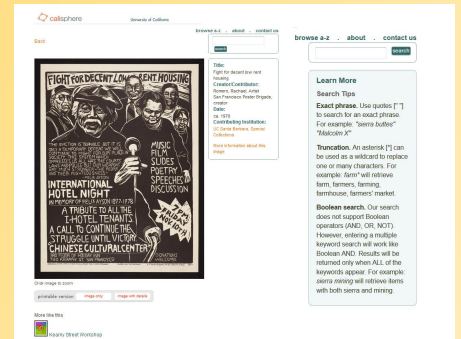


Please tell us how your introduction to primary and archival sources changed your understanding of the flow of information and creation of knowledge. Provide an example from the materials you handled and saw in Special Collections.

How does viewing the birth control collection make you become aware of women's issues and how they have evolved over time, i.e. modern day controversy regarding abortion, so-called "war on women", etc?

How does viewing the wax cylinder shape your understanding of the evolution of recorded music over time and the present way we get our entertainment via the internet and mobile devices?

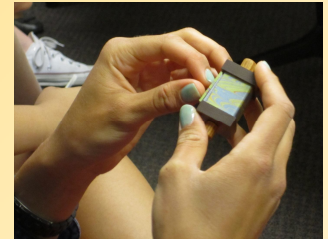
Having now been introduced to the Special Collections unit, are you more likely to consult with them about primary or archival sources for future research projects? Why?



I realized that the best sources to learn about historical events aren't necessarily scholarly books. The best sources are sometimes actual artifacts from these events. The newspapers, testimonies, journals, etc. of the time help in understanding the perspectives of the time ...



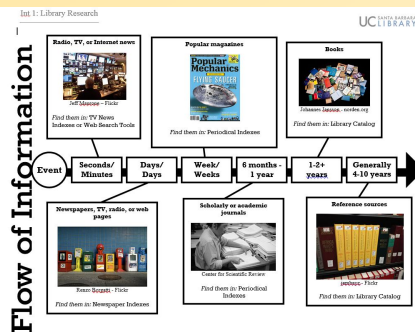
"This introduction to primary and archival sources really opened up my eyes to the vast cultural difference between modern America and its past. When people used to listen to music by using wax cylinders like the one I saw in class, they would have to be near a huge machine and have access to hundreds of cylinders. The present way we get our entertainment is more immediate and less cumbersome."



are you more likely to consult with them about primary or archival sources for future paper projects? Why?

"Yes I am; having access to these primary and archival sources can really help me get a better grasp of what life was actually like at the time they were made. Additionally, using these sources has the potential to strengthen future research papers and projects, as I will have access to details and nuances that can't be found anywhere else, or on any website."

## Incorporates All of Special Collections



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