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Archival Literacy Project E-Archives

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Archival Literacy Project

About the Project:

You will learn how to search, access, and analyze materials in the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections' [e-Archives](#) for this assignment. You will use these skills to locate 2 digitized documents and then conduct a document analysis of each. There are also exploratory questions that I want to consider and answer. The documents can be photographs, letters, reports, telegrams, bulletins, medieval manuscripts, newspapers, newsletters, newsreels. After you conduct your document analysis and answer your exploratory questions, I want you to compile your research into a coherent paper. I encourage you to include images of your two documents in your paper. Remember to cite your sources!

Please carefully read through the [Primary Sources in Archives & Special Collections LibGuide](#), as this will orient you to the Purdue Archives and Special Collections. There is also a very helpful section on citing archival sources.

Below are your document analysis activity and list of exploratory questions. This will help you generate content for your paper.

Document Analysis Activity:

OBSERVE

- What kind of document are you viewing?
- Who created it?
- Who is it intended for?
- When was it created?

REFLECT

- Why was it created?
- What is surprising about it?
- If applicable, what does it reflect about Purdue at the time? About culture at that time?

QUESTION

- What further questions do you have after seeing this document?

- Do you want to learn more about the time period, the creator, a topic addressed in the document, etc.?
- Where and how might you look for answers to your questions?

Exploratory Questions:

- How did you find your documents?
- Why did you choose those specific documents?
- Did you already know something about your topic/documents? If yes, what did you know?
- Did you do any background/additional research on your topic after seeing your archival materials?
- What were some of your first thoughts/impressions when you looked through e-Archives? Is it what you expected? Were you surprised by anything? Be specific.
- What are some of the most interesting digital archival materials you looked at? Why did you find them so interesting? Remember you can share images in your paper!
- Did you look at documents from one collection, or did you look at documents from more than one collection?
- Were any of the documents confusing or difficult to read? If yes, why? How did you overcome those challenges? Did you overcome those challenges?

- Do you think it's important for archival materials to be digitized? Why?
- What did you learn from working with these digital archival materials?

Once you have gathered all the information on your 2 documents, I want you to compile your findings into a coherent paper; you should not simply list your findings.

Checklist for your archival literacy project final draft:

- 1,000-1,500 words, 12-point font, double spaced, 1" margins
- Analysis of findings
- Discussion of your experiences during the archival research process
- Cite sources in MLA style
- All images are cited
- Include a formal introduction and conclusion
- Include a works cited page

Point Breakdown:

Rubric:

Due Date: