

Further Sources of Information about Our Topics in Documented History

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We have decided to take a “teacherly approach” to this issue’s topic, looking at how the Web can guide us beyond the typical information found in published books when we are pursuing the topics found in a book and pursuing one set of the books reviewed in this issue. Since we are discussing “documented history,” we have decided to demonstrate how one set of books can take you to several sites.

That First Giant Leap

The two books about the moon landing of Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong could easily be followed by a journey to several sites on the Web. Our explorations sent us to the George Palmer Putnam Collection of the Amelia Earhart Papers at the Purdue archives, <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/spcol/aeahart/>, because Amelia Earhart and her counterparts during this time were breaking ground in space travel. Earhart was a woman who was involved in America’s first flight breakthroughs. She also taught at Purdue when aviation was a new field. Her connections to flight history are documented at this site. Equally interesting are the interviews of Neil Armstrong with Ed Bradley in 2005 <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/11/03/60minutes/main1008288.shtml>. There are several interviews since then that are available if you type in “Neil Armstrong interviews.” Purdue University has had twenty-two astronauts chosen for space flight, and the school has a site that describes their contribution to space travel in its “documented history” of the past <http://www.purdue.edu/space/index.html>.

The illustrators of the two books reviewed have created different moods for their interpretations of the trip to space. To better understand individual perspective and artistic contribution to a book of “documented history,” a trip to their individual sites would be invaluable. Mike Wimmer’s site, <http://www.mikewimmer.com/>, allows you to see how he created the illustrations for this book and for *Flight*, another Robert Burleigh book in American flight history. Their earlier book, *Flight* (Philomel Books 1991), recounted Charles Lindbergh’s trip from New York to Paris, and Wimmer’s watercolor illustrations helped the book win acclamations, including an American Library Association’s Notable Book in the year of publication. The other book published during this year features the memories of Buzz Aldrin. If you visit the Web site of Wendell Minor, you can understand how his artwork might differ from Wimmer’s. Minor can be found at <http://www.minorart.com/child/childframeset.htm>.