

Introduction to Primary Source Research Class Session
Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections
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Session Goal:

- Introduce students to Archives and Special Collections and how to research the variety of materials within them.
- Prepare students for primary source research to incorporate in term papers and dissertations.

Proposed Session Outcomes:

- Students leave with an understanding of how to locate Archives and Special Collections with records relevant to their research.
- Students will learn archival policies and archival research habits to benefit primary source research.
- Students will understand how to analyze and extract information from a variety of types of archival records.

Session Outline:

- I. Introduction to Archives and Special Collections
 - A. Reflective question: What do you think of when you think of Archives?
 - B. Reflective question: What do you think of when you think of Boston's history?
 - C. Reflective question: What sort of records do you keep and how do you keep them?
- II. Explore material laid out on tables. Students will be divided into groups
 - A. Give time (10-15 minutes) for independent exploration in boxes and folders.
 - B. Ask students to talk with other group members at table about what they are finding
 - C. Ask students to note down thoughts about discoveries in handout.
- III. Share back: each group reports their reflections answering one or all of the following questions:
 - A. What records did you look at that you really connected with? What was interesting about them?
 - B. What sort of information did these records provide, whose stories were they telling?
 - C. What other types of records would you like to research in to complete the story or answer any questions you have?

Material pulled:

The materials pulled for this class focused on providing a different type of record to explore for each group. Difference was determined both by material type (photograph, news clipping, report) as well as collection type. The groups below will be grouped by those types.

Group 1- Newspaper Records: [Boston Globe Library Collection](#)

- Series 1: Newspaper Clippings

- John F. Kennedy news clippings
- Boston Mayoral news clippings
- Series 3: Print Photographs
 - Boston “National” photographs for countries:
 - Ireland
 - Israel
 - Russia

Group 2- Organizational Records: [Travelers Aid Family Services Records](#)

- Series: 1. Administrative Materials
 - Subseries: [Vietnamese Resettlement Program](#)
 - File: [Newsletters \(4 folders\), 1927-1934, 1977-2001](#)
- Series: 3. Memorabilia, Photographs, and Scrapbooks 1920-2004
 - Subseries: [Photographs](#)

Group 3- Personal papers: [Michael S. Dukakis Presidential Campaign records](#)

- Series: 3. Issue Files, 1970-1988
 - Subseries: [Position papers](#)
 - Files: Defense, 1988; Middle East, 1988; World Hunger, 1988; Energy, 1988; Economy, 1988; Immigrants, 1988
- Series: 5. Media Coverage, 1987-1988
 - Files: [Foreign \(54 folders\), 1988](#)

Group 4- University records: [Northeastern Archives International Affairs Records](#)

- [International Student Office records: Series 1: Administration](#)
 - Files: Council on International Educational Exchange 1979-1986
- [Center for International Higher Education records: Series 2: Projects](#)
 - Files: International Survey of Work Experience Education Programs