Exploring Minnesota Reflections as a Tool for History Day

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Minnesota Reflections
http://reflections.mndigital.org/

- A growing database of more than 38,000 titles (173,000 digital objects)
- From more than 150 organizations
- Now in Phase 10
- Digitizing photographs, maps, posters, artwork, letters, journals, documents, some newspapers, oral histories and now also film
- All available to students for educational uses without seeking permission from the contributors.
History Day

- An annual, focused theme
- Rights and Responsibilities (2014)
- Some topics have seemed to work better with Minnesota Reflections than others
- Minnesota Reflections has been growing
- Keep an open mind
Challenges to using Minnesota Reflections

- Minnesota NOT national
- Collection does not cover entire state
- Primary resources (mostly)
- Very few, if any, contain context or interpretation
Opportunities with using Minnesota Reflections

- Amazing resources from across the state
- Opportunities for students to provide interpretation
- Great resource for visual aids,
- Great resource for seeing what life was like
- Oral histories and film can provide a view of life
When to use Minnesota Reflections in the research process

- **Early**
  - Exploring
  - Brainstorming

- **Middle**
  - Gathering resources
  - Effective once topic is narrowed, thesis developed

- **Late**
  - Illustrations, details
Brainstorming in Minnesota Reflections

- Just a test! A simple search using the words ...
  - “Rights” – 2272 results (10/25/13)
  - “Responsibility” – 2164 (10/25/13)
- Some topics to test
  - WW I – Alien Registration Act
  - Bikeway maps
  - Civilian Conservation corps
  - Reading, the responsibility to read uplifting books
  - Workers’ rights
  - State’s responsibilities

(go into collection)
Searching in Minnesota Reflections

- Simple vs Advanced
  - Each has merits
  - Each has challenges
- Narrowing by tools on left of screen
  - Choosing may be based on needs
- Narrowing by removing collections

(Show searching collections)
Narrowing by collection before searching

- Choose only one to drill down
- Choose many to create a regional collection or organization type collection

(Show choosing collections)
Viewing objects

- Photographs
- Maps
- Documents
  - Typeset and Handwritten
- Audio/Film

(Show objects)
Features important to researchers

- Reference URL
- Title
- Description
- Contributing organization
  - To cite
  - To contact for more information
Metadata
(Information created for or assigned to an item or object)

- Located below the viewing main window
- Absolutely necessary to find
  - Photos
  - Maps, drawings, film, audio
  - Important for finding text
- Caution students that quality varies
- Caution students that metadata doesn’t contain context, usually

(Show objects)
Show search results for Rengel

Have participants suggest topics
Show alternate views
Adjusting windows
Working with red highlighting
Any other
Tools in Minnesota Reflections

- Favorites
- Tutorials
- URL for citations (repeat)

(Show examples)
Permissions

Students may use objects in Minnesota Reflections for educational purposes without asking the contributing organization for permission.
Resources for teachers

- **Teacher Guides** to Minnesota Reflections
  - Based on current K-12 standards
  - Two locations
    - In Minnesota Reflections
    - [http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16022coll17](http://reflections.mndigital.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16022coll17)
    - At Minnesota Digital Library website

- **Digital Delights**
Another resource to consider

- Digital Delights
  - [http://www.mndigital.org/educators/digitalDelights](http://www.mndigital.org/educators/digitalDelights)
Digital Public Library of America

The Minnesota Digital Library is a regional service hub for the new Digital Public Library of America
dp.la

(show dp.la)
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Credits

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