
Creating and Remixing Cultural Heritage OERs: A DPLA Primary Source Set Expansion

— Project Overview —

Introductions

Our group members are:

David Kreiss-Tomkins,
(he/him/his) MLIS Student



Andrew Charlton Jones,
(he/him/his) MLIS Student



Our Capstone sponsor is
Evan Robb, Digital Repository Librarian Washington
State Library

DPLA Primary Source Sets

The Digital Public Library of America has a collection of useful educational resources where they provide a series of primary sources related to a topic along with questions and other resources.

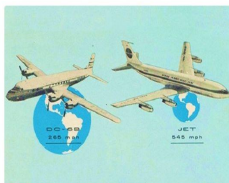
DPLA DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Search the collection

Primary Source Sets

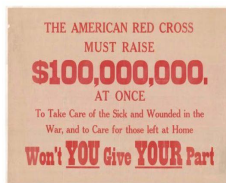
Primary source collections exploring topics in history, literature, and culture developed by educators — complete with teaching guides for class use.

Subject: Time Period:



Shrinking the World: Pan American Airways in the Postwar Era

<https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/beginnings-of-the-american-red-cross>



Beginnings of the American Red Cross: The Development of the Industrial United States



World War II's Eastern Front: Operation Barbarossa

California Gold Rush

Subjects: US History, Migration

[SOURCE SET](#) [ADDITIONAL RESOURCES](#) [TEACHING GUIDE](#)



A map showing the gold mining region of California and routes for traveling there, 1849.



A print depicting a long line of men, women, and families waiting to depart for the gold regions of California, 1848.



An excerpt from *A trip across the plains, and life in California* by George Keller, 1851.



A letter from gold prospector Newton Chandler to his wife Jane after arriving in San Francisco, January 15, 1855.

Primary Source Set Problems

- The DPLA has a lot of these primary source sets which are useful resources for educators. However, currently these primary source sets have issues:
 - Lack of new primary source sets
 - Primary source sets are older and are not updated
 - Lack of way for DPLA Hubs and partners to update or create new primary source sets
 - High presence of Link rot and other preservation issues
 - DPLA's Uncertain Future

Primary Objective

- Our primary goal was to investigate if the open source platform OER Commons was a viable way for us to address these problems by importing and modifying these primary source sets from DPLA



Additional Objectives

- We wanted to explore OER common's remix option to see if it is a viable way for users to add their own material to DPLA primary source sets.
- See if we could improve the primary source sets for educators and other stakeholders
- Create documentation to ensure could follow our methods

Our Approach

- We wanted to make our imported primary source sets as useful as possible
- Therefore David, Andrew, and Evan each imported a DPLA primary source set to OER Commons
- This resulted in three separate Primary Source format Formats:
 - Linked Resources
 - Overview
 - Embedded Resources

Linked Resources

- This approach provided external links to the primary sources either on their original depositories or DPLA whenever the sources were mentioned in the primary source set discussion questions
- Links to the primary sources were also provided after each question

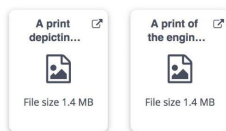


Previous 4 of 12 Next

John Brown and the Engine House

Examine the print of the engine house occupied by John Brown and his raiders. What kind of activity is taking place outside of the engine house? Examine the print depicting Brown's raiders and hostages in the interior of the engine house. Which men are the hostages and which men are the raiders? What ideas were the artists of each image trying to convey to the audience? Based on these images, did the artist of each sketch approve or disapprove of Brown's raid

Attached Resources

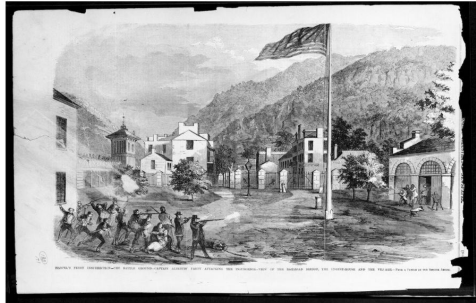


Previous 4 of 12 Next

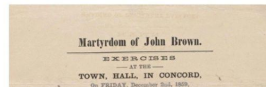
Overview

- Each primary Source and its description was presented in an overview slide provided at the beginning of the primary source set

delivered a statement to the court, including this excerpt. This account comes from "The Raid of John Brown at Harper's Ferry As I Saw It," by Rev. Samuel Leech. Twenty-one year old Leech was one of several eyewitnesses to John Brown's raid who subsequently wrote about what they saw.



This print depicting John Brown's raid appeared in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, which was published weekly beginning in 1855. The newspaper gained popularity as a result of its coverage of John Brown's raid and other events leading to the Civil War.



Embedded Resources

- The primary source was embedded into the text whenever it was mentioned in the questions

Previous

4 of 13 ▾

Next

John Brown and the Engine House

Examine the print of the engine house occupied by John Brown and his raiders.



What kind of activity is taking place outside of the engine house? Examine the print depicting Brown's raiders and hostages in the interior of the engine house.



Which men are the hostages and which men are the raiders? What ideas were the artists of each image trying to convey to the audience? Based on these images, did the artist of each sketch approve or disapprove of Brown's raid



Save



Download



Share



Google
Classroom



Print

Feedback

- After creating these different formats we sought out feedback from various users:
 - Barbara Soots- who coordinates the Washington State OER Hub
 - Kristina Morales- a long tenured grade school history teacher with experience in both public and private school
 - Joanna Schimizzi- an employee of ISKME/OER commons

Putting It All Together

- Utilizing all the feedback we received we developed a synthesis of these three formats creating a format for users to follow when importing creating or remixing primary source sets
- Everyone completely imported a DPLA primary source set from DPLA using this format
- Everyone remixed an existing DPLA primary source set by adding new material to an existing topic
- We developed instructions for users in to import, create, or remix primary source sets in this format

Insights

- OER commons is a viable option for importing and creating new primary source sets
- The DPLA primary source sets have more preservation issues (such as link rot, low image quality, and playback issues) than we expected
- Ensuring the primary source sets are up to date and preserved quickly became very important especially given the DPLA's potential funding issues
- Education Standards were not as important as previously thought

Project Evaluation

We feel we accomplished our primary goals

- We proved this is a viable option
- We imported and remixed primary source sets
- We were able to provide instructions for others to create primary source sets of their own
- We were able to verify the usefulness of this project and identify ways we could make the primary source sets better serve educators

Next Steps

- Have others try our method and see if they are able to import primary source sets
- Get more feedback from educators
- Have educators test using the resource and see what we can do to improve
- Keep importing primary source sets and see what other issues arise