Out of the Archives & Into the Classroom

Partnering with Local Archives for Primary Source Activities

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FLIPPING THE ARCHIVES
What to Expect

Everything depends on the size of the group!

The intent of the visit is another important consideration.

Is this the only time your group will visit?
What to Expect

• Orientation to Archives and Special Collections
  • To explain who and what we do
  • How to use the archives
What to Expect

• Highlights from the collection pulled for viewing
  • Papers
  • Photographs
  • Objects
  • Maps
  • Scrapbooks
  • Audio
  • Yearbooks
What to Expect

• Tour of the facility
  • Materials stations
  • Tour of the research room
    – Exhibits
    – Artifacts
    – How archives works for researchers
  • Tour of the archives storage space
    – How do archivists handle the materials
    – Environmental conditions
    – How do archivist make things useful
What Activities Might Your Group Do?

- Role playing as members of Senator Albert Gore’s staff looking at constituent mail
- Working on a research paper on World War II
- Created entries for the GRC’s Historypin page
- Reading through diaries or other small collections to learn about self-archiving
K- Post-secondary

• University students and potential transfer students
• High school students
• Occasionally we get elementary students
Coffee County High School

With this size group, we could do stations and tours with minimal difficulty. This group saw materials from University Archives, Regional collections, and of course, Political collections.

What you cannot see is the voting booth.

Every group has a different mood or level of engagement. I had an activity planned, but abandoned it after reading the group. We focused on discovery and talking about the material instead.
Club MARVEL

- The second time I’ve attempted this
- Unusual in that we met on a Saturday
- Mr. Greg Lyles kindly broke them into groups for my benefit
- I learned the hard way not to do an archival storage area tour!
Flipped Archives—What would the AGRC like to do?

- Assist teachers pre- and post-visit
  - Assessment, assessment, assessment
- Connecting our documents to actual assignments whenever possible
- Take discovery and inquiry further than one visit
- If there is no assignment, then to conduct more information literacy exercises in the time allotted
ARCHIVES WITHOUT WALLS
5th Graders at Cason Lane Academy analyzed and handled primary sources about women in World War II

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There are a variety of primary source activities we can conduct with your classes, ranging from simple to more hands-on and analytical lessons. We try to stress *information and primary source literacy* whenever possible.
1. Show and Tell

This option works best for teachers who want to simply expose their students to original documents, objects, and photographs. Can be content specific. Less preparation needed by both the archive and your classes.

Career Day at Bellshire Design Center, May 2018
2. Crafty Content

This option provides historical content combined with a craft! Of course, we also bring original documents and objects along for the ride.

May be suited for younger grade levels.
3. Primary Source Analysis

We develop an activity using our own collections, and walk your students through a lesson that teaches historical content and primary source analysis. This requires more upfront work from us.

These activities are geared toward information literacy—analyzing the who, what, when, where, and whys of the source, including any biases.
4. Build Your Own!

We can do a combination of activities, or you can, truly, build your own activity! We would be more than happy to provide primary sources to teachers who may want to build their own lesson plan or activity.

MTSU’s Digital Collections also might be of interest for this option.
Let’s Do An Activity!