

CRL Primary Source Awards

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2015 CRL Primary Source Awards

In This Issue

This issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources* highlights the projects selected for recognition in this year's Center for Research Libraries Primary Source Awards program. CRL created the program in 2009 to promote awareness and use of primary historical evidence in research and teaching. Identifying and recognizing innovative uses of primary sources helps CRL better understand the practices and the needs of scholars today.

The projects featured here were selected from a competitive pool nominated by faculty and librarians at CRL institutions. CRL's Collections and Services Policy Committee reviewed all submissions and identified the top projects in three areas: teaching, research, and access. The projects recognized this year illustrate a variety of approaches to mining the primary evidence of history.

We hope that the projects described here better enable librarians to support the excellent research and teaching being done throughout the CRL community. Please consider nominating a deserving colleague (or yourself) for the 2016 awards. Submissions are accepted beginning in June; the [CRL website](#) has details.

—Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
President

Detail from the 2015 CRL Primary Source Awards flyer featuring an image from the *America in Class* website, recipient of the 2014 Award for Teaching.

CRL Primary Source Awards



Detail from website accompanying the exhibit *Confronting Guantánamo*, March 19–April 25, 2014, Northeastern University.

The Center for Research Libraries first created the CRL Primary Source Awards in 2009 to recognize innovative uses of primary source materials by faculty, librarians and library staff, students, and other researchers in the CRL community. Nominations are accepted in three areas: teaching, research, and access. This year the CRL Collections and Services Policy Committee selected the following for recognition.

2015 Primary Source Awards

2015 Award for Teaching

“Guantánamo Public Memory Project”

**Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project,
Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights**

*Nominated by: Holly Ackerman, Librarian for Latin American, Iberian and Latino Studies,
Duke University.*

2015 Award for Research

“The Way to Wealth Editions Project”

**Sophus A. Reinert, Assistant Professor of Business Administration,
Harvard Business School**

*Nominated by: Debra Wallace, Executive Director, Knowledge and Library Services,
Harvard Business School*

2015 Award for Access

“Pioneer Days in Florida”

**James Cusick, Curator, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History,
University of Florida**

*Nominated by: John Nemmers, Associate Chair, Special & Area Studies Collections,
University of Florida*

2016 CRL Primary Source Awards

Nominations for the 2016 awards will be accepted beginning June 1, 2015. Faculty and staff at CRL libraries are encouraged to consider other staff, faculty, or colleagues as candidates for these awards; self nominations are welcome. ❖

2015
Award for Teaching



THE GUANTÁNAMO PUBLIC MEMORY PROJECT

A traveling exhibit that examines the history of the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba from multiple perspectives and raises questions about U.S.-Cuban relations, civil liberties, national security, and public memory in the past, present, and future.

Detail from poster for GPMP events hosted at Tulane University and the Ashe Cultural Arts Center, September–November, 2014.

“Guantánamo Public Memory Project”

2015 Award for Teaching

Liz Ševčenko, Director, Guantánamo Public Memory Project, Columbia University Institute for the Study of Human Rights and co-Director, Humanities Action Lab, The New School

Nominated by: Holly Ackerman, Librarian for Latin American, Iberian and Latino Studies, Duke University.

The idea for a networked group of classes based on primary documents leading to a national dialogue and traveling exhibit, ultimately involving students from several dozen universities, was developed by Liz Ševčenko, founding director of the [Guantánamo Public Memory Project](#) at Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights. Recognizing her substantial effort in communicating to students the vital importance of primary source material for researching contemporary history, Ms. Ševčenko is the recipient of the 2015 CRL Primary Source Award for Teaching.

The U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, was originally established in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. During the Bush Administration’s War on Terror, the Guantánamo detention camp—known for housing high-profile terror suspects—became the focus of international attention due to allegations of torture and other forms of prisoner mistreatment. Under Ms. Ševčenko’s direction, in 2011–12 an initial group of more than 100 graduate and undergraduate students from 12 universities investigated this controversial base’s history, with the goal of understanding “what the long history of the Guantánamo base can tell us about what is happening today there, and here at home . . . exploring how GTMO relates to issues, people, and places in the students’ own geographically diverse communities.”

A PSA award reviewer noted that this project “employs preservation, access, and improved student experience with very specialized content.” Students explored both physical and digital archives including photographs, film, oral history, newspapers, transcripts and other primary sources, as well as direct personal interviews of former residents. “This is the first class I’ve ever taught where not one student asked about grading and all of them wanted to do more work,” reported one faculty member. Their work was consolidated into exhibit modules and conferences supported by the host universities. The first of these conferences, held in New York City, required an overflow room to accommodate a diverse audience

including former military personnel and their families as well as former detainees and their lawyers.

The traveling exhibit and related classes continue to be sponsored by institutions throughout the country, garnering enthusiastic responses from students and faculty alike. During 2014–15 the project was hosted at Brown University; the University of Miami; Tulane University (involving over 20 professors and several lectures each attended by more than 200 students); Northeastern University; and the University of South Carolina, where students in the archival studies program actually visited the Guantánamo base, gathering oral history and advising on preservation issues for a museum there. The project now has an ongoing legacy: through a new program called the Humanities Action Lab (HAL) at The New School under the coordination of Ms. Ševčenko, 19 universities have agreed to participate in investigating histories and current issues of incarceration during 2015–16.

Nominator Holly Ackerman has written that this Primary Source Award should recognize Liz Ševčenko “on behalf of the professors, students, librarians, archivists and participants in Guantánamo’s history who have realized and amplified her vision.” ❖

THE GUANTÁNAMO PUBLIC MEMORY PROJECT
A traveling exhibit that examines the history of the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba from multiple perspectives and raises questions about U.S.-Cuban relations, civil liberties, national security, and public memory in the past, present, and future.

MAIN EXHIBIT
September 2 – October 30, 2014
TULANE UNIVERSITY
JONES HALL, 2ND FLOOR
November 5 – November 26, 2014
ASHE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER
1712 ORETHA C. HALEY BLVD.

TULANE UNIVERSITY SERIES
Events at Jones Hall 204, Tulane University
Thursday, September 18th • 6pm
GUANTÁNAMO POST-9/11: HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL LAW IN MODERN AMERICA
Thursday, October 16th • 6pm
ANGOLA AND GUANTÁNAMO: ART AND INCARCERATION
Thursday, October 30th • 6pm
GUANTÁNAMO: CUBAN AND HAITIAN REFUGEE STORIES

ASHE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER SERIES
Events at 1712 Oretha C. Haley Boulevard
Friday, November 7th • Performance excerpts of TAKEN BY KESHA MCKEY
Saturday, November 8th • Evening Performance with ARTSPOT PRODUCTIONS & THE GRADUATES
Friday, November 14th • A screening of THE FARM: LIFE INSIDE ANGOLA
Saturday, November 15th
CENTRAL CITY FEST EXHIBIT

SEPTEMBER–NOVEMBER 2014
For more information about the Guantánamo Public Memory Project visit <http://gitmemory.org>

Logos and partners: CUBAN AND CARIBBEAN STUDIES INSTITUTE, Tulane University, ALTMAN PROGRAM, Tulane University, Center for Public Service, Tulane University, Department of History, JOAN MITCHELL CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS, Cuba NOLA, J.M.A.

2015 Award for Research



Detail from *Franklin in London, 1767*, by David Martin. From *The Way to Wealth Editions* website.

“The Way to Wealth Editions Project”

2015 Award for Research

**Sophus A. Reinert, Assistant Professor of Business Administration,
Harvard Business School**

*Nominated by: Debra Wallace, Executive Director, Knowledge and Library Services,
Harvard Business School*

Benjamin Franklin’s *Way to Wealth* is both a foundational document of American capitalism and a glimpse into the mind of arguably the most important founding father. Originally published in 1758, this essay collects aphorisms and adages appearing in his *Poor Richard’s Almanack*. Many of these phrases, such as “there are no gains without pains,” and “early to bed, and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise” have become staples of the American lexicon, and their influence on the national—and ultimately global—ethos of work and thrift is immense. Despite its importance, little scholarly work has been done on this essay and its extensive publication history. For his efforts in sponsoring *The Way to Wealth Editions project*, Dr. Sophus Reinert is the recipient of the 2015 CRL Primary Source Award for Research.

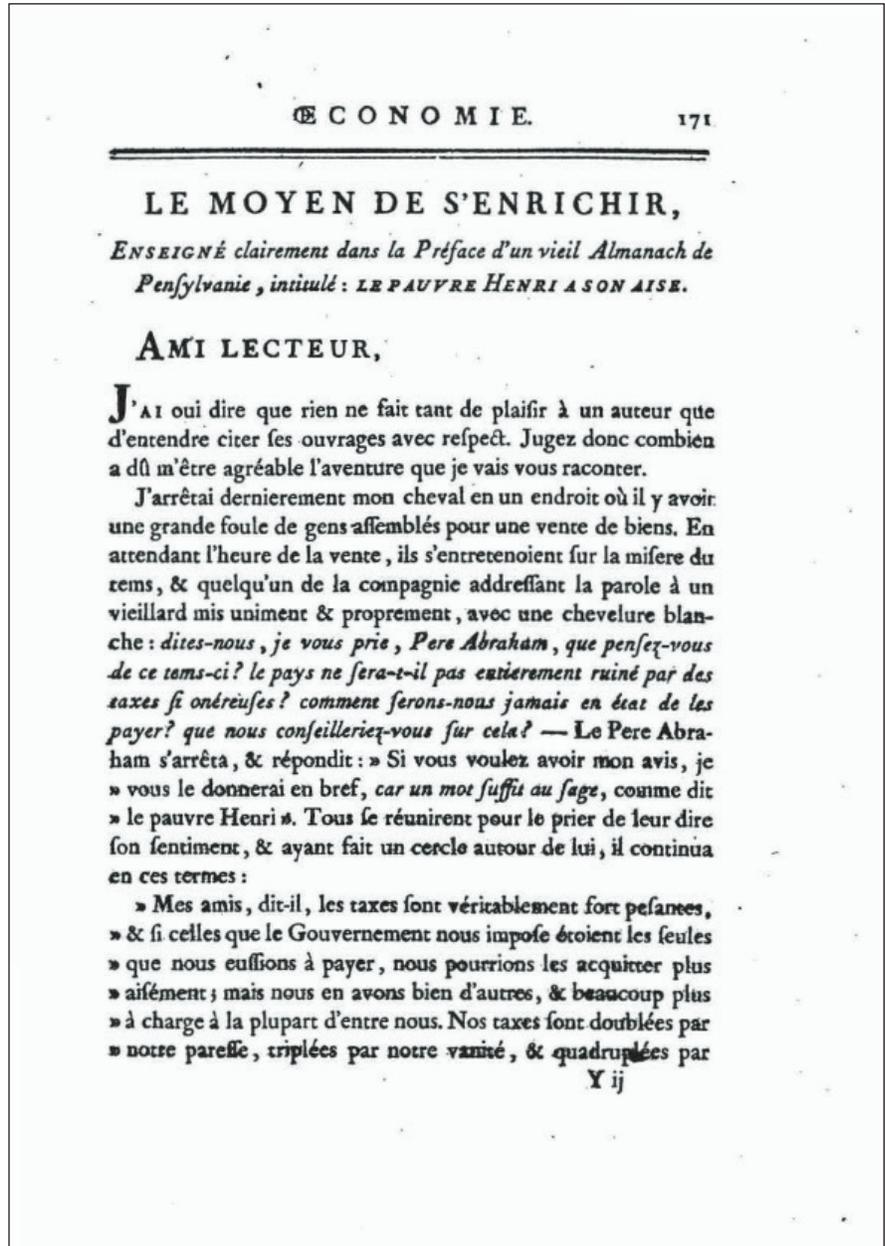
Based on a bibliography compiled by Kenneth E. Carpenter (former curator of the Baker Library Kress Collection), Dr. Reinert, an economic historian and Assistant Professor in the Business, Government, and International Economy Unit at Harvard Business School, began *The Way to Wealth Editions* with the goal of developing a “a new approach for disseminating research findings that would broaden the user audience and engage them in a dynamic way.” Along with Mr. Carpenter, he partnered with Dr. Michael Hemment, Baker Library’s director for Faculty Research Innovation Initiatives. The collaboration resulted in a project that digitizes and makes available online detailed records of over one thousand editions of the essay, special full-text editions for individual and comparative analysis, time-line maps of its dissemination and interactive commentaries designed to illuminate the text and its history for researchers. This platform circumvents the traditional research publication process with a more dynamic, interactive presentation. Among other features is a crowdsourcing tool that invites other libraries, archives, and researchers to contribute additional editions.

Reviewers for this year’s award were struck by the possibilities this new format allows, commenting that, “All too often, innovative digital scholarship seems to

remain on the fringe of publishing . . . the methods and tools employed for representing editions of *The Way to Wealth* could easily be employed with other primary source materials.”

Using the website as a “lens of cultural history,” Dr. Reinert has most recently written on Franklin’s influence in the February 2015 issue of the *American Historical Review*: “*The Way to Wealth* Around the World: Benjamin Franklin and the Globalization of American Capitalism.” ❖

From a French edition, *Le moyen de s’enrichir*, 1773, where Franklin is identified as the author for the first time. Featured in *The Way to Wealth Editions* website.



2015 Award for Access



“Delivering the Vanilla Crop,” from the Abraham Paul Leech Letters and Sketches (1873–1874), in *Pioneer Days in Florida*.

“Pioneer Days in Florida”

2015 Award for Access

**James Cusick, Curator, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History,
University of Florida**

*Nominated by: John Nemmers, Associate Chair, Special & Area Studies Collections,
University of Florida*

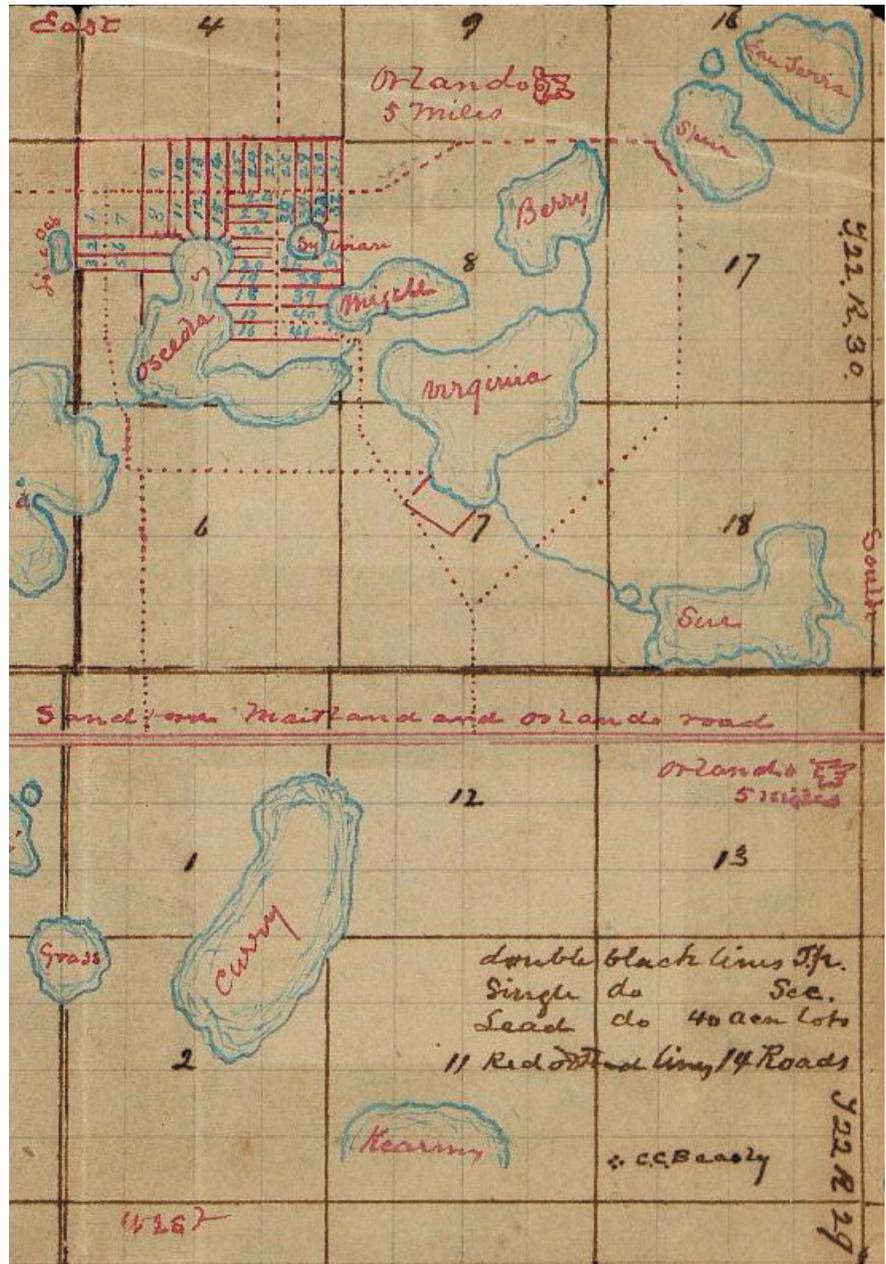
In its earliest years, the swamps and wetlands of Florida were as much a frontier as the Western mountains, deserts, and plains; travelers and frontiersmen often faced extremely harsh conditions in their search for prosperity in a new land. A wide range of first-hand accounts of these experiences is now openly accessible online in the University of Florida Digital Collections due to the efforts of Dr. James Cusick, who is the recipient of the 2015 CRL Primary Source Award for Access.

Pioneer Days in Florida, funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), digitized over 45,000 pages of the rarest and most fragile materials in the University of Florida’s George A. Smathers Libraries, including all 19th-century materials from the Florida Manuscripts Collection. The content ranges from late colonial days (1784) through the Wars of Indian Removal, Civil War, Reconstruction, and into the 20th Century (1912). Items include 14 collections of family papers, 134 volumes of diaries and memoirs representing 40 different writers, and 240 folders of additional letters, reports, and sketches. Selections highlight some underrepresented topics, such as women pioneers, slavery and race relations, and the Second Seminole War. The digitized materials document “the experiences and conflicts of native peoples, settlers, soldiers, and travelers during [Florida’s] turbulent 1800s,” beginning when “settlers in Florida faced a harsh and alien environment, a patchwork of forts, ranches, and wilderness.” They also paint a picture of Florida’s first land boom in the 1880s, and the development of the tourist industry.

Dr. Cusick and his team worked to make the primary source database as user-friendly as possible. He engaged undergraduate history majors and graduate students on student projects to supplement existing transcriptions of handwritten items, increasing text-searching capability. He also worked closely with IT and digital experts to implement “page turner” functionality for the diaries in the project. Since its launch, usage statistics and feedback from scholars and students have exceeded expectations. In its first two years the collection had just over 83,000 views.

One award reviewer noted: “The content, volume, and accessibility of the project are the clear strengths. The content intersects with multiple important historical periods and events that have broad application in university and high school settings.” Dr. Cusick is creating lesson plans to demonstrate the relevance of the digitized materials to topics including environmental history and the history of development and transportation in the region. ❖

Hand-drawn map of area surrounding Lake Maitland, Orange County (near Orlando), 1879, in *Pioneer Days in Florida*.



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