

CRL Primary Source Awards

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“Strikers March, Passaic Textile Strike, 1926.” Over 15,000 New Jersey mill workers in first Communist-led work stoppage in the U.S. American Labor Museum Collection. Courtesy of Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries. Social Welfare History Image Portal.

In This Issue

This issue of *FOCUS on Global Resources* highlights the projects selected for recognition in 2018 by the Center for Research Libraries Primary Source Awards program. CRL created the program to promote understanding of the role primary historical documentation and evidence play in research and teaching. Identifying and recognizing innovative uses of primary sources helps CRL better support 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 selected one project in each of three areas: access, research, and teaching. The projects cited illustrate a variety of approaches to mining the primary evidence of history. This year we also recognize three projects for honorable mention.

We hope that the projects described here better enable librarians to support in-depth research and inspired teaching in the CRL community. CRL welcomes nominations of deserving colleagues (and self-nominations) for the 2019 awards. [Nominations](#) are now open.

—Bernard F. Reilly
President

CRL Primary Source Awards



Slave Passbook of New Orleans Gas Works, c. 1860. African American Miscellaneous Collection. Courtesy of the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory 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: access, research, and teaching. This year the CRL Collections and Services Policy Committee selected the following for recognition.

2018 Award for Access

Social Welfare History Image Portal

Alice W. Campbell, Digital Outreach and Special Projects Librarian, Virginia Commonwealth University

Nominated by: John E. Ulmschneider, University Librarian, Virginia Commonwealth University

2018 Award for Research

Puerto Rico Citizenship Archives Project

Jennifer Snow, Digital Scholarship, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, University of Connecticut

2018 Award for Teaching

Unmediated Archives: Creating an Immersive Experience for Undergraduate Students Across the Disciplines

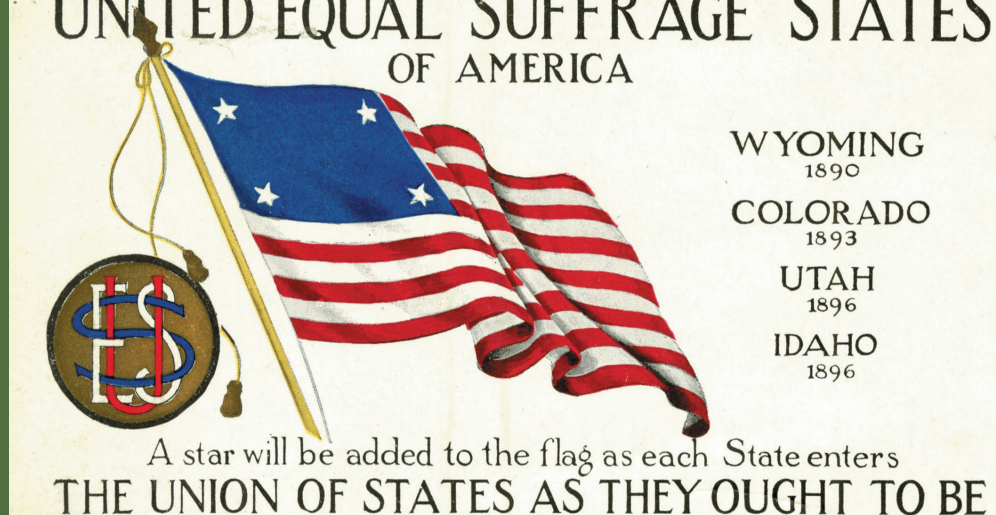
Peggy Keeran, Arts & Humanities Librarian, University of Denver

Nominated by: Jack Maness, Associate Dean for Scholarly Communication and Collections Services, University of Denver

2019 CRL Primary Source Awards

Nominations for the 2019 awards are now open; the CRL website has details. Faculty and staff at CRL libraries are encouraged to consider other staff, faculty, or colleagues as candidates for these awards; self-nominations are welcome. ❖

2018
Award for Access



“United Equal Suffrage States of America” postcard. Adèle Goodman Clark papers, 1849–1978, Special Collections and Archives. Courtesy of Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries. Social Welfare History Image Portal.

“Social Welfare History Image Portal”

Alice W. Campbell, Digital Outreach and Special Projects Librarian, Virginia Commonwealth University

Nominated by: University Librarian John E. Ulmschneider, University Librarian, Virginia Commonwealth University

The *Social Welfare History Image Portal* is a collaborative, freely available online discovery tool that increases awareness of ephemera and other archival materials related to the history of social reform and social welfare. Hosted by Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Libraries and drawing from nine partner institutions, the Image Portal provides access to a rich assortment of items related to suffrage, civil rights, labor, public health, immigration, and public education.

The 2018 Primary Source Award for access goes to Alice W. Campbell, Digital Outreach and Special Projects librarian at VCU Libraries. Campbell serves as project manager for The Social Welfare History Project as well as numerous online exhibits for VCU Libraries. She works closely with VCU Libraries’ Digital Engagement team to create these resources.

The Social Welfare History Project website, launched in 2010, was the vision of innovative social worker John E. (Jack) Hansan, who created the site to help the public appreciate the history of social reform and social welfare services in the U.S. Research materials related to this history include the papers, records and publications of individuals, local volunteer groups, national private organizations, and the state and federal government agencies that have provided and regulated social services. The site includes links and references to key archives, libraries, scholarly websites and other sources of reliable information intended for students, scholars, and the general public.

The Image Portal, created as a companion to the website, is a networked version of a “vertical file.” It is neither a repository nor an online exhibit with an interpretive layer. It presents an array of ephemeral publications, excerpts of larger works, and interesting and provocative images from pamphlets, placards, handbills, comics and photographs sourced from the collections of VCU Libraries and participating institutions. Like a vertical file, these materials are suggestive of further avenues of inquiry and can be used to instruct students in the use of primary sources. In addition to single items, the Image Portal presents a variety of Discovery Sets—curated

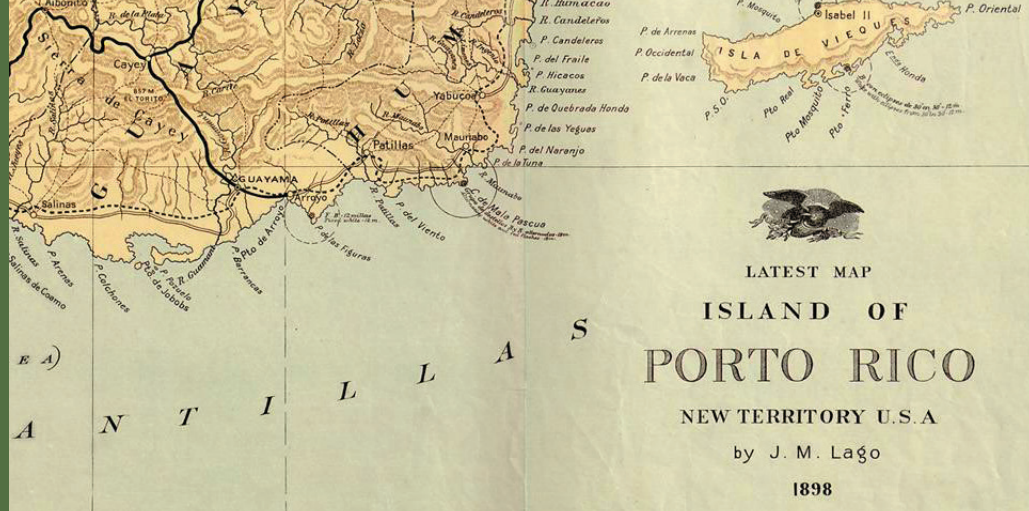
“Don’t Buy Segregation.” Irene Williams and other students protest in Farmville, Va., July 1963. Farmville 1963 Civil Rights Protests. Courtesy of Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries. Social Welfare History Image Portal.



groups related to particular topics. Hyperlinks in the extensive item-level metadata direct users to the greater riches in partners’ collections.

The Image Portal has received over 4,000 visits since its July 2017 launch. Together the Social Welfare History Project and Image Portal receive over 1 million visitors during the academic year. Current partners include the American Labor Museum, Baylor University Libraries, Beth Ahabah Museum and Archives, Simmons College Library, Union Presbyterian Seminary Library, University of Mary Washington Libraries, University of Minnesota Libraries, and The Valentine (museum in Richmond). ❖

2018 Award for Research



Latest map of island of Porto[sic] Rico, new territory U.S.A. New York: Colton, Ohman & Co, 1898. Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress. (Accessed April 16, 2018.) Courtesy of University of Connecticut Libraries

“Puerto Rico Citizenship Archives Project”

Jennifer Snow, Digital Scholarship, Humanities and Social Sciences Librarian, University of Connecticut

The 1898 Spanish-American War resulted in Spain ceding its ownership of Puerto Rico to the United States. 2017 marked the centennial of the Jones Act, assigning collective naturalization for Puerto Ricans. As noted in the website for the [Puerto Rican Citizen Archives Project](#) (PRCAP), “This was the first act providing for the collective extension of citizenship to a United States territory that was not meant to become a state of the Union. Yet, the Jones Act was neither the first or last law extending U.S. citizenship to Puerto Rico.” The PRCAP project shines a light on the convoluted history of Puerto Rico’s status, as part of a larger project by University of Connecticut Political Sciences Professor Charles R. Venator-Santiago, exploring the nature of U.S. territorial law and policy. The 2018 CRL Primary Source Award for research goes to Jennifer Snow for her contribution to this project.

Professor Venator-Santiago approached the University of Connecticut library in 2016 with an ambitious goal: to centralize copies of all legislative documentation generated in the 119-year history of debates over Puerto Rican citizenship. Beyond simply creating a website aggregating these materials, he wanted to create a resource that would foster new research projects on Puerto Rico and its relationship to the United States.

Working within the library’s Scholars’ Collaborative, an initiative helping researchers develop innovative digital projects, Jennifer Snow and Marisol Ramos set up a working group including library programmers Doug Neary and Rick Sarvas. Snow and Ramos cleaned up metadata and designed the website’s information architecture, while the programmers implemented the back-end. Professor Venator-Santiago contributed contextual essays and bibliographies on different types of citizenship.

The core legislation contained in the PRCAP archive was initially identified through a reading of the Congressional Research Index (56th Congress to the present) and relevant legislative histories. The primary sources collected for in this project include bills, hearings, amendments, treaties, and laws housed at the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

The resulting website features a searchable repository of federal legislation and related texts, as well as contextual essays and resource lists. Additional pedagogi-

cal tools are anticipated. The response to the project has been very positive, both within the University of Connecticut community and among scholars of Puerto Rican studies.

The PRCAP is part of a collaboration between the University of Connecticut's Libraries and El Instituto: Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean and Latin American Studies; CENTRO: Center for Puerto Rican Studies, Hunter College, City University of New York; the Biblioteca y Centro de Investigación Social Jesús T. Piñero, Universidad del Este; Departamento de Ciencias Políticas, Universidad de Puerto Rico; and the Hartford Public Library's Park Branch. ♦

"Where Old Glory floats, 1899."

Map. Retrieved from the Library of Congress. (Accessed April 16, 2018.)
Courtesy of University of Connecticut Libraries.



2018 Award for Teaching



“Students’ Army Training Corps WWI Practices on University of Denver Campus,” n.d.
Courtesy of University of Denver Special Collections and Archives.

“Unmediated Archives: Creating an Immersive Experience for Undergraduate Students Across the Disciplines”

Peggy Keeran, Arts and Humanities Librarian, University of Denver

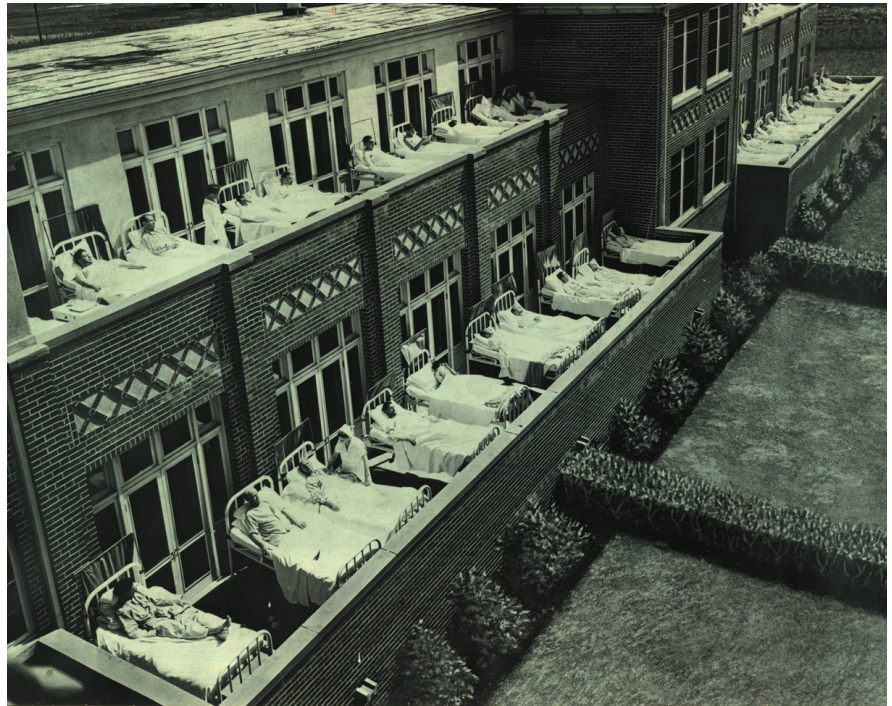
Nominated by: Jack Maness, Associate Dean for Scholarly Communication & Collections Services, University of Denver

A team of librarians and archivists at the University of Denver used vision and creativity to develop a new teaching model stressing the value of primary sources in research for first-year seminars and upper division courses. *Unmediated Archives: Creating an Immersive Experience for Undergraduate Students across the Disciplines* combines digital and physical primary resources to engage and inspire students. This project is the recipient of the 2018 Primary Source Award for teaching.

A cross-discipline approach to courses in history, sociology, writing, and literature incorporated unique primary source materials such as jazz age clothing, immigrant diaries, and photographs, in addition to digital texts. Students in a “History of World War I” course were able to view an original photograph of soldiers training on the university’s campus. Two other history courses, “Immigrant Voices in America” and “Europe during WWII,” met together to explore local, regional, ethnic, and national US newspaper articles published during the German invasion of Poland in 1939, allowing students to assess Americans’ widely varied responses to the events leading to war. A class in sociology research methods consulted details of tuberculosis patient records from Denver’s unique Jewish Consumptives Relief Society sanatorium, modeling research questions about individuals’ lives as well as broader social conditions at the beginning of the twentieth century.

In addition to Arts & Humanities Librarian Peggy Keeran, the project team included Jeanne Abrams, Curator of Beck Archives; Jennifer Bowers, Social Sciences Librarian; and Katherine Crowe, Curator of Archives & Special Collections. They report that the project changed faculty perceptions of library instruction, enhancing the quality of student research. Some students chose to work with library staff curating exhibits using the archived materials. The most significant outcome was the students’ realization of the need to be more critical of secondary sources. A history professor reported, “Once students found primary sources of their own, they began to question some of the assumptions and arguments found in secondary sources.” A freshman seminar student described the experience as “eye-opening.”

"Jewish Consumptives Relief Society patients undergoing heliotherapy for tuberculosis, Denver," c. 1930s. Courtesy of University of Denver Beck Archives.



The project developed a systemic approach to cross-disciplinary library instruction. The effort was collaborative and intensive: in some cases an instruction librarian would teach with two curators and the faculty member of record, combining visits to the special collections and archives collections with classroom instruction.

This endeavor has not gone unnoticed by donors: five courses received funding from a program supporting information on literacy efforts. Additionally, a donor is interested in funding an award for projects in areas not typically conducting primary source research, particularly in business and engineering. ♦

2018 Honorable Mention

Three additional nominated projects are recognized for their outstanding qualities:

2018 Honorable Mention for Access

The Cold War at UT Austin

Ian Goodale, Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and Digital Scholarship Librarian, University of Texas at Austin

2018 Honorable Mention for Research

The Age of the Kampuchea Picture: A Video Installation

Adrian Alarilla, Graduate Student, University of Washington

Nominated by: Judith Henchy, Head, Southeast Asia Section, University of Washington

2018 Honorable Mention in Teaching

Covering Emmett Till: Regional Newspaper Coverage of the Death and Aftermath of a Mississippi Lynching

Davis W. Houck, Fannie Lou Hamer Professor of Rhetorical Studies, Florida State University

Nominated by: Velma Smith, University Librarian, Florida State University

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