

HIST 204 United States since 1877 – Heisey

Library Research Project

Goal: To discover sources in the library and online about the North Country during the 1960s and 1970s.

Skills: To learn about and demonstrate information literacy skills in the process of pursuing information on the given topic

Method:

1) Your group will do its research between Wednesday, April 27, and Tuesday, May 2. We will discuss the project, the problems you encountered, and your findings on Wednesday, May 3. (We will not meet on Monday, May 1, to give you time to complete the research.)

2) If you have not completed the following information literacy tutorials, please do so: a) The Web vs. Library Databases; b) How to Choose an Appropriate Search Tool; c) Developing Search Vocabulary from a Research Question. All of you are enrolled in the Information Literacy Tutorials. Some of you will have additional tutorials that contribute to your particular assignment. Our discussion on May 3 will give a chance for you to convey your knowledge of the tool to others.

Evaluation:

Your participation grade for this week will measure not so much how much you find but how well you use library resources including librarians. Librarians at the reference desk have a copy of the assignment. If you talk with them about your part in the project, be certain to reference our class: HIST 204 United States since 1877 – Heisey.

Assignments:

My estimation is that you should take no longer than seventy-five minutes, excluding tutorials, to complete your assignment.

Group 1: _____

You will perform keyword and subject searches on BearCat and on WorldCat to discover books and other sources on the “North Country.” This is a term that we use often but will require definition and perhaps additional terms. Before attempting the assignment, complete Subject vs. Keyword tutorial, if you have not already. While the overall assignment focuses on the years between 1965 and 1975, you should bring lists of whatever you find across time. In class, you should be ready to discuss the search, to bring lists (or mount them on your BB group page), and two books you found in the library on the North Country.

Group 2: _____

You will look for periodicals produced at SUNY Potsdam in our circulation stacks. Spend some time looking at periodicals between 1965 and 1975. Before attempting the assignment, complete Finding Something on the Shelf: Library Classification and Call Number Systems tutorial.

Group 3: Becca Belton, Kayla DeHart, Sarah Skinner

You will arrive at the school's Archives and Special Collections at 1 p.m. on Monday, May 2, to look at archival primary sources. The archives are located on the second floor of the library. The archivist will provide an introduction. You will then look at the sources provided by her, following directions on what is permissible in the archives. You may not have any food or drink in the archives You may use only pencils in the archives, so make certain you have one with you. Make notes on the documents you study. Come prepared to discuss the contents of the documents as well as to analyze them using principles from *Going to the Source*.

Group 4: _____

You will search the web for sources on SUNY Potsdam and the North Country that consider the time between 1965 and 1975. Before attempting your search, complete Evaluating Results Lists of Free Web Searching and Evaluating a Single Web Page/Site. Come with lists of sites you found and your evaluation of them as websites and as historical sources. In addition to any material you find, spend at least a part of your time, examining the "Back to the Land Research Collection" in the SLU Digital Collections.

Group 5: _____

You will choose newspapers from two different towns digitized in the Northern New York Historical Newspapers collection. Using our Eric Foner, *Give Me Liberty!* textbook, identify two key national events in the 1965 to 1975 period. (You will probably have the best chance of finding commentary in the local press if you have a specific day and month.) Look at newspapers from the two different Northern New York towns during that time period. Did they address the event? If not, what subjects did the newspaper cover? Of course, bigger newspapers have multiple sections. Spend most time in the sections that seem most relevant.