Disability History Resources at LoC.Gov
Digital Collections
- Browse

Search
- Search whole Library
- Use filters for prints & photos, maps, etc., or for eras

Researchers
- Links to varied media.
- Topical source compilations

Teachers
- Primary source analysis tool
- Materials: primary source sets, lessons, & exhibits
- Multi-media intro modules
- Teacher blog

Trending
- Top Searches: Civil War / Declaration of Independence / Genealogy / Slavery / Great Depression / Immigration / Harriet Tubman / Dust Bowl
Special Format Collections
Digital Collections in varied media:

- Prints & Photos
- Geography & Map
- Oral Histories
- Recorded Sound
- Moving Images
- More...
Researchers Page

Historic Newspapers
Search Chronicling America for images of newspapers from many states - 1780s to 1922.
LoC.Gov/Teachers Page

Classroom Materials
...includes Lesson Plans, Primary Source Sets, Presentations and other classroom resources for teachers.

Search by Standards
by searching by Common Core State Standard, State Content Standard or Organization standards, teachers can find relevant Classroom Materials such as Lesson Plans and Primary Source Sets.

www.loc.gov
Classroom Materials

Primary Source Sets
...are organized on specific topics.

Lesson Plans
...are teacher-created and classroom-tested lessons using Library of Congress primary sources.

Presentations & Activities
...multimedia content provides both historical content and context.

Themed Resources
...includes Lessons, primary sources, and activities relating to special dates, events, holidays.

Collection Connections
...make connections between specific primary source collections at the Library and teaching specific content.
Civil War Soldiers’ Portraits: The Liljenquist Family Collection

Teacher’s Guide

Start here for historical context, teaching suggestions, links to online resources, and more:

Civil War Soldiers’ Portraits: The Liljenquist Family Collection Teacher’s Guide (PDF, 1 MB)

To help your students analyze these primary sources, get a graphic organizer and guides:

Analysis Tool and Guides

Find out which standards this resource meets

Primary Sources

Click the thumbnail for the original item, the caption for information on the item, or download a PDF or MP3.

- **Samuel W. Dobie of Company D, 12th Maine Infantry Regiment**
  - View PDF (250 KB)

- **Private David Lowry, of Company E, 25th Virginia Cavalry Regiment**
  - View PDF (218 KB)

- **Two unidentified soldiers in Union uniforms holding cigars in each others’ mouths**
  - View PDF (222 KB)

- **Private Henry Augustus Moore**
  - View PDF (268 KB)

- **Unidentified African American soldier**
  - View PDF (235 KB)
World War I: Injured Veterans and the Disability Rights Movement

December 21, 2017 by Wendi Maloney

This is a guest post by Ryan Reif, a historian in the Manuscript Division.

Fans of the HBO series “Boardwalk Empire” may remember that World War I veterans grappling with disability occupied a critical place in the show’s story. Fictional vet Jimmy Darmody (Michael Pitt) struggled as much with PTSD as he did with a limp derived from shrapnel embedded in his leg by a German grenade. Richard Harrow (Jack Huston), on the other hand, endured facial disfigurement so severe he wore a mask to conceal his injuries, though his wounds went far beyond the physical.

Artifacts on display in the Library of Congress exhibit Echoes of the Great War: American Experiences of World War I demonstrate the human cost of the war, the government’s response and the ways in which injured veterans helped push forward—even if in a somewhat limited fashion—the disability rights movement.

During the war, 224,000 soldiers suffered injuries that sidelined them from the front. Roughly 4,400 returned home missing part or all of a limb. Of course, disability was not limited to missing limbs; as the “Boardwalk Empire” characters demonstrate, a soldier could come home with all limbs and digits intact yet struggle with mental wounds. Nearly 100,000 soldiers were removed from fighting for psychological injuries; 40,000 of them were discharged. By 1921, approximately 9,000 veterans had undergone treatment for psychological disability in veterans’ hospitals. As the decade progressed, greater numbers of veterans received treatment for “war neurosis.” Ultimately, whether mental or physical, 200,000 veterans would return home with a permanent disability.
Disability Employment Awareness Month


National Disability Employment Awareness Month

In October, Americans observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month by paying tribute to the accomplishments of the men and women with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong and by reaffirming their commitment to ensure equal opportunity for all citizens.

This effort to educate the public about the issues related to disability and employment began in 1945, when Congress enacted Public Law 176, declaring the first week of October each year as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. Some 25 years later, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

https://www.loc.gov/disabilityawareness/
Disability History Resources at LoC.Gov

- Newspapers

Disability history resources can be found in the Chronicling America digital collection, which includes newspapers from the United States. The collection offers a unique perspective on the history of disability through primary source materials.

[Image: Newspaper & Current Periodical Reading Room]

**Topics in Chronicling America - The Early American Eugenics Movement**

Engineering a new aristocracy of "human thoroughbreds" might sound like something from a science fiction novel, but at the beginning of the 20th century, many Americans sought to do just that through the new pseudoscience of Eugenics. Eugenics, a process that sought to "purify" the human race through scientifically calculated breeding, became immensely popular in the United States and resulted in a smattering of scientific societies and contests to determine the family with the purest genes. Read more about it!

The information and sample article links below provide access to a sampling of articles from historic newspapers that can be found in the Chronicling America: American Historic Newspapers digital collection. Use the Suggested Search Terms and Dates to explore this topic further in Chronicling America.

Jump to: Sample Articles

**Important Dates:**

- 1880s. Heredity is identified "scientifically" as a cause for many physical and mental problems.
- 1904. Galton lays out the process for integrating eugenics into the public mind.
- 1904-1950s. The formal Eugenics Movement begins. Eugenics societies, state fair competitions, match-making services, and eventual forced sterilizations develop out of the movement. The formal movement comes to an end after World War II. This database covers the eugenics movement until 1922.

**Suggested Search Strategies:**

- [Try the following terms in combination, proximity, or as phrases using Search Pages in Chronicling America.]
  - Eugenics, Feeble-minded, Francis Galton, Eugenics Record Office, Galton Society.
  - It is important to use a specific date range if looking for articles for a particular event in order to narrow your results.

**Sample Articles from Chronicling America:**

- "Your Temper," Abbeville Press and Banner (Abbeville, SC), 11/9/1887, page 1, image 1, column 5.
- "Improving the Race," Essex County Herald (Guilderland, VT), 8/6/1904, page 1, image 1, column 2.
Disability History Resources at LoC.Gov

- Oral Histories
Veterans History Project

http://loc.gov/vets/
Oral Histories & Digital Collections
Check “Digitized Collection.” Choose recordings with transcripts. Start broad and narrow as needed.
Disability History Resources at LoC.Gov

- Newspaper accounts from Chronicling America of damaging brain surgery on people with mental illness.

Using Historic Newspapers to Study Accounts of a Now-Abandoned Medical Procedure
December 18, 2018 by Danna Bell

This is a guest post by Ariela Gomez, an intern with the education team at the Library of Congress as part of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) internship program.

The brain is one of most complex organs of the human body. While the field of neuroscience has significantly grown, so have our questions concerning the central structure of the human nervous system. Attempts to treat mental illness in the past, however well-intentioned they might have been, can sometimes be shocking or upsetting today. Reading and analyzing primary sources can help students understand how people thought about the brain and treated mental illnesses in the early and mid-twentieth century.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, some doctors began using an experimental surgical procedure to treat patients experiencing mental illness or distress. In this procedure, called lobotomy, a surgeon would open the patient’s skull and sever connections within, or even completely remove, a portion of the brain. Without offering context, introduce students to a 1936 case history about a woman who is described as becoming happier after a lobotomy, excerpting the case history from the longer article. (Given the sensitive and possibly upsetting nature of the content, you may wish to consider provide your own synopsis of the article.)

- What surprises your students about the description of the patient’s changed behavior?
- What questions do they have?
- Encourage them to develop hypotheses about “the operation” – to elicit deeper thinking, ask them “what makes you say that?”

Give students the full article, focusing them on the description of the operation. Allow time for comparison between their hypotheses and the findings.
Disability History Resources at LoC.Gov

- History of the most widely used printed text for blind people.

http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/louis-braille/
Disability History Resources at LoC.Gov

- History of the National Library Service - at the Library of Congress

https://www.loc.gov/nls/about/organization/history/
Resources for Accessing Civic Engagement
Accessing Inquiry Clearinghouse

Free - no registration...

● Searchable Teaching Resources Library:
  ○ Accessible lessons
  ○ Primary source sets
  ○ Content:
    ■ Disability History
    ■ Immigration
  ○ Teaching Strategies
  ○ Assessments
  ○ Readings
  ○ Links to Resources

● Professional Development available for grad credit
  (including fully online)

Growing...

http://EmergingAmerica.org/TPS
REGISTER:

http://tpsteachersnetwork.org/register
Link to Newcomer tip sheet.
JOIN A GROUP: Disability History