



New On-Line Global Research Tactics for the Twenty-First Century

Monday 22 June, 12noon-14:00, Eastern Standard Time via Zoom

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Please join Dr. Victoria Phillips for a new ad-hoc seminar to explore freely-accessible on-line digital collections with archivists internationally. In the COVID and post-pandemic world, more primary-document research will be conducted via remote devices using new techniques. While upholding the rigors of responsible scholarship, what are the possibilities now available to scholars and students? How do archival practices and approaches change and stay the same? With massive numbers of free-access collections globally going digital, how do we remain disciplined and targeted when searching, yet also let the information lead us to new findings? As with old-fashioned approaches, the archivists can guide us to new understandings.

The first on-line session will “visit” the Blinken Open Society Archives in Budapest with numerous documents and cultural items available from across governments and private enterprises in Eastern Europe and the United States, and the Rockefeller Archive Center in New York, a foundation archive with records pertaining to the United States in Latin America, China, Japan, and Europe. Participants will also access a working list of hundreds of archives with digital resources. This first two-hour “around the world” experience with two collections will enable students to learn both specific and general techniques for identifying and responsibly working with digital sources.

As the first of a series of planned on-line seminars to explore freely-accessible archives, those joining are encouraged to participate with general questions before and during the first meeting about working with sources on line rather than on-site, specific questions for the archivists about their collections, and to offer dissertation/thesis/article/research topics for the archivists to address as examples of how to use their search engines. A post-seminar optional questionnaire will engage participants and seek ideas for other collections and improved teaching techniques. Planned future visits include state and institutional archives in the United Kingdom, United States, Russia, Europe and Eastern Europe, as well as other global sites. Archives will include document-based, cultural, and oral history holdings. While initial meetings will be conducted in English with English sources, future possibilities include foreign language “trips.”

If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute to future projects, please contact Victoria Phillips at VPhillipsHistory@gmail.com.