

## Primary and Secondary Source Blog Assignment, DH390-04

This assignment asks you to put to use the techniques you've learned about searching GMU's Library catalog and databases in order to start finding sources about a historical topic you are interested in (Note it should be a *historical* topic—study of a person, event, or subject from the past—not a contemporary topic).

For Thursday, February 22:

- Write a blog post that includes the information requested in the assignment details. See example below. Post it to your website as a blog post.
- Submit the URL of your post via Slack by midnight of Thursday February 22.

### Assignment details

1. Using GMU's [library catalog](#), [databases](#), JSTOR, and other online resources, find primary and secondary sources about a historical topic of interest. Remember that a historical topic means a specific event, person, or problem that occurred in the past. Some non-GMU databases you can use to find primary sources include: Library of Congress' [Chronicling America](#) (newspapers), Library of Congress' [Print and Photographs Catalog](#), and the [Digital Public Library of America](#). Overall, make sure to find:
  - Two secondary sources (one book, one journal article)
  - Three primary sources (from at least two different collections)
2. For each item include:
  - The correct citation information according to the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). See [here](#) how Zotero can help you with correct citations if you are interested.
  - 2-4 sentence summary of each source and its argument. (For secondary sources books and articles, you can find this out by reading the introduction, abstract, and/or conclusion. For primary sources, explain what the source is about and what one might learn from the source in relation to the historical topic under study.)
    - i. For primary sources only, use Tropy to track the sources' metadata, including the archive and database (collection) name. In the blog post, ensure there is some way I can read and see the source in your Tropy workspace either by exporting a PDF of your sources and attaching it at the end of your blog post with a caption or submit screenshots of each item in Tropy (with captions) throughout the blog post.
3. In a final reflection section, explain in 300 words or less: What did you learn from reading these sources? What did you learn about looking for sources and the reliability of sources found online?

4. Bonus points if you include secondary sources in your Zotero library. You can include a link in your blog post to your public Zotero library (follow directions for "[Making Your Library Public](#)"). Extra bonus points if use both Zotero and Tropy for all sources.

## Example Post

Topic: Women in America During the Revolution

### Source #1

Zagarri, Rosemarie. *Revolutionary Backlash: Women and Politics in the Early American Republic*. Early American Studies. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, Inc, 2011.

2-4 sentence summary of book and its argument.

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### Source #5 (from America's Historical Imprints)

Goldthwait, Martha, 1764-1839. "For Sale, at Miss Goldthwait's Shop, No. 18, Cornhill, a Beautiful Assortment of Brocades ...," *Early American Imprints*, Series 1, no. 45771 (1782).

[https://wrlc-gm.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01WRLC\\_GML/19u1omk/cdi\\_gale\\_digitalcollections\\_CB0127197194](https://wrlc-gm.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01WRLC_GML/19u1omk/cdi_gale_digitalcollections_CB0127197194).

Tropy PDF exported of sources or screenshot of primary source in Tropy (including caption)

Summary of primary source explaining what the source is about and what one might learn from the source in regard to women in early America.

Reflection:

Final paragraph of 300 words or less reflecting on what you learned from these sources and from searching for them online.

Bonus Section (If Applicable):

Zotero Library Link: <https://www.zotero.org/myname>