

Information Literacy Report for Fall 2018
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Hist 190: Digital History

Digital History is a developing field that challenges students to do two things. First, students engage in “traditional” methods of primary source research. Second, it demands collaboration in order for people with different skills and knowledge to make meaningful contributions. The course I have designed has students doing a long-term research project on the history of the 1902 Anthracite Coal Mine Strike, which was centered here in Scranton. Working in small teams, the students performed historical research, collectively wrote a script for a podcast, and recorded a podcast.

In an information literacy session with faculty librarian George Aulisio, the students were introduced to various library resources and search methods. In addition, they were shown how to use the microfilm readers in order to conduct research with contemporary newspapers, in particular the *Scranton Times*. Last, as a class, we went to the Lackawanna County Historical Society where they conducted research under the guidance of the archivists there. The final project, a podcast, had the students combine their varieties of new knowledge that they had acquired through the research process into a product that recognizes them as authorities of 3t-(1 dne)-3(s)0(ore 0(oc)2(nduc)-3(c)-3(og)-E3(oug)I1Z Society (Use various research methods, based on need, circumstance, and type of inquiry). Coordinating the research that had been compiled proved the most burdensome task, but students used technology to manage their findings. They turned to Google Docs and entered information into a shared file that was editable and searchable by each student. Doing this allowed students to delegate research responsibility for certain dates and sources and allowed them to organize the information in ways that they found useful (Monitor gathered information and assess for gaps or weaknesses).

Scholarship as Conversation

There is nothing more important for historians than sourcing our material. We understand that our readers place a huge amount of trust into us to accurately report what past actors did and said, but also to interpret their actions fairly. The students took this responsibility very seriously. I have one anecdote that I want to share in order to highlight how seriously the students took research. There’s a famous quote from a man named George Baer, who was a railroad tycoon and anti-union operator. He’s attributed in the historical literature with

