



Early American Sources

Diane L. Richard examines a website encompassing archives and other sources for the Americas

In 2021, Joseph Thomas Ross created Early American Resources, www.earlyamericansources.org. The website encompasses archives, digital and published sources for the United States, Canada, and Mexico, with the Caribbean, Central America, and South America to follow. The object was to make it easier to connect researchers with “primary resources related to the Americas from roughly 1500 to 1900.” this website is a work-in-progress (all U.S. states are not yet done; about ½ as we go to press). The resources are typically listed alphabetically.

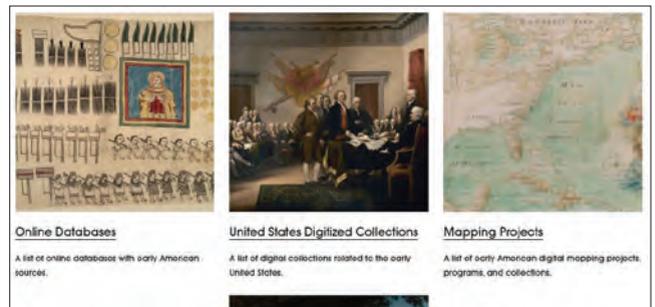
Let's explore some of what is included:

1 United States Archives, www.earlyamericansources.org/united-states-archives. On the right side of this page is a list of national and extensive archives. There is an overview of holdings and then numerous links to webpages of interest for each archive. And, if I'm honest, there are a few archives listed that are not ones I regularly frequent or will do so in the future. The left side has a list of select states. When you click on a state, you find a select list of archives for that state.

2 There are similar entries for Canadian Archives, www.earlyamericansources.org/canadian-archives, with select provinces included, and Mexican Archives, www.earlyamericansources.org/mexican-archives, with other geographic areas “Coming Soon!”

3 Digital Sources, www.earlyamericansources.org/digital-sources. There are four elements – Online Databases, United States Digitized Collection, Mapping Projects, and Early American Content Creators. Let's explore each of these sub-areas.

- (a) Online Databases, www.earlyamericansources.org/databases. These are segregated into Open Access Databases and Subscription Databases. These lists are extensive, with some new-to-me databases included.
- (b) United States Digitized Collection, www.earlyamericansources.org/united-states-digitized-collections lists many state-level Statewide Digitization Projects, some National Projects, and seems to dive deeper into some states – currently Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia – to compile resources beyond state-level archival digitization projects.



The Digital Sources page has four elements – Online Databases, United States Digitized Collection, Mapping Projects, and Early American Content Creators.



- (c) Mapping Projects, www.earlyamericansources.org/mapping-projects. Maps provide us with so much contextual information, which significantly benefits genealogists.