Faculty from Governors State University were chosen to receive technology training to develop web-based education projects incorporating digitalized primary sources from the Library of Congress’s American Memory Collection. Using a constructivist framework, three web-enhanced projects, which are works in progress, were developed to illumine and enliven nursing’s history for today’s learner.

The three nursing projects are ‘Nursing licensure, legislation, and nurse practice acts’ by Shirley Comer; ‘Advocacy and health policy – Nursing’s legacy and future’, by Catherine Tymkow; and ‘Mary Ann “Mother” Bickerdyke, an Illinois Civil War nurse’ by Paul Blobaum.
Adventure of the American Mind Projects

- The three nursing projects are:
  - Nursing Licensure, Legislation, and Nurse Practice Acts - Shirley Comer
    - http://aam.govst.edu/projects/scomer
  - Advocacy and Health Policy-Nursing’s Legacy and Future - Catherine Tymkow
    - http://aam.govst.edu/projects/ctymkow
  - Mary Ann “Mother” Bickerdyke, An Illinois Civil War Nurse - Paul Blobaum
    - http://aam.govst.edu/projects/pblobaum

CLICK TO CONTINUE!

The authors would like to thank: Dick Durbin, Sandi Estep and Lucianne Sweder for making our participation possible
Governors State University, founded in 1969, is an upper division university located thirty miles south of Chicago’s Loop in University Park, Illinois. The average student is a 34 year old working mother.
Governors State joined the original Adventure of the American Mind project in 1999 using cohort groups of kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers who received technology training, computers, and software.

The nursing and library faculty were invited to join the project in the spring of 2006.
An Adventure of the American Mind is a project now called Teaching with Primary Resources, which was funded through the Library of Congress, awarded in Illinois through the efforts and support of Senator Richard Durbin.
"The Library of Congress has a vast wealth of resources - resources just waiting to be tapped by students not just in Washington, DC, but all across the country."

Richard J. “Dick” Durbin
US Senator (D-IL)

As Durbin said, “The Library of Congress has a vast wealth of resources – resources just waiting to be tapped by students not just in Washington, D.C., but all across the country.”
What are primary sources? Primary sources are actual records that have survived from the past, like letters, photographs, articles of clothing, and music. They are different from secondary sources, which are accounts of events written sometime after they have happened.

Books, Correspondence, maps, laws, narratives, music are all considered primary sources and are housed in the Library of Congress.
Why use primary sources? Primary sources guide students toward higher-order thinking and better critical thinking and analysis skills. Studying primary sources helps students form reasoned conclusions, base their conclusions on evidence, and connect documents to their larger context of meaning. Analyzing primary sources move students from concrete observations and facts to making inferences about the materials. "Point of view", for example, is one of the most important inferences that a learner can draw. Students consider questions such as: What is the intent of the speaker, of the writer, of the photographer or of the musician? How does that influence one's interpretation or understanding of the evidence?

Why use primary sources? Primary sources guide students toward higher-order thinking. Primary sources help students form reasoned conclusions, and analyzing primary sources moves students from concrete observations and facts to making inferences about materials.
An example: Incorporating primary resources in nursing education is Shirley Comer’s Nursing licensure, legislation, and nurse practice acts. This project used primary resources to describe the history of nursing licensure from the advent of permissive licensure to present day.
The Library of Congress is the United State’s oldest federal cultural institution, and the world’s largest library. It houses over 130 million volumes on 530 miles of bookshelves. Included in the collection is over 29 million books, almost 3 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4.8 million maps, and 58 million manuscripts. The Library of Congress began digitizing some of its most important materials in 1990, and in 1994 the National Digital Library Program was established with over $13 Million in private donations to continue to digitize significant cultural collections in the Library of Congress and in research libraries across the nation. The American Memory Collection is the gateway to these collections, and contains over 7 million digitized primary source materials. You can think of the American Memory Collection as the nation’s attic… it is a treasure trove of items from personal letters, scrapbooks, pictures, sound recordings, motion pictures, and books which provide a glimpse into the past. The digitized materials are valuable resources for scholarly research at all academic levels. You will notice the link to Teachers resources at the bottom of the page, this is where Adventure of the American Mind comes in.
The Learning Page provides links to resources developed for teachers. Lesson plans can be found for k-12, and an online community is available for professional networking and support. The Library of Congress publishes information about professional development opportunities for teachers to learn how to use primary source materials in their classrooms. Using images, recordings, and texts of primary sources of significance to the curriculum gives teachers unprecedented access to the world's cultural heritage. The world can be brought into the classroom to expand the possibilities of both the teacher and student.
The Library of Congress supports teacher development through a variety of opportunities in-house, online, and through video conferencing. Teaching with Primary Sources, the former Adventure of the American Mind program, is a partnership with a consortium of institutions of higher education such as Governors State University which provides additional opportunities for training and development in using digitized primary resource materials. Participants create online learning modules such as the three examples we are presenting here, which are added to the resources available for free and open access through the Library of Congress for teachers and classrooms everywhere.
The American Memory web site does not provide definitive legal advice on particular questions of copyright, so you must make your own, independent assessment of the legal rights that may exist in the materials. Generally speaking, most of the primary source materials which are digitized are in the public domain. Where there is a question regarding copyright, the Library of Congress might not publish an archival copy of the material. We have found that in this case, sometimes a copy of the material can be obtained by request through email. In some instances, materials which are in the American Memory Collection which originate in other research libraries, there may be a small reproduction fee for obtaining a file of the material.
In addition to browsing by topic areas, the collections can be searched by keyword. You will notice that 2,094 items were retrieved by searching on the word “Nurses”.
Governors State designed templates which participants populated with information about their own projects. The teacher and faculty participants also learn about publishing web pages, and making their resources compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Each of our project pages has an index of the primary sources which are used, including a thumbnail image, a description of the item including the original library source, and information about rights and permissions. It is always good to give a credit line for materials which are used, much like you would see at the end of a film, or in a newspaper or book caption.
This is Shirley Comer. My project used primary resources from the Library of Congress to illustrate the history of nursing licensure and nurse practice acts. This photo shows a nurse from 1912 holding a young infant. Notice the tag on his chest. This illustrates an early procedure used to ensure that babies did not become separated from their mothers during hospitalizations. I located this photo in the American memory collection. It originated from the Chicago Daily News and was not copyright restricted.
This photograph shows a nurse from WWI in her Red Cross Uniform. These photos helped illustrate the connection between the rise in nursing's profile during war time and advances in nursing licensure. This photo was found among the red cross collection.
These nurses from 1907 were graduating from the German Hospital in Chicago. This photo was found among the Chicago Daily News Collection.
The nurse in this photo is a volunteer from WWII. This photo was found in the “Women at War”, a pre-prepared collection of the Library of Congress’ American Memory collection.
This photograph is actually one half of a stereographic card and found a collection of these cards. It depicts American WWI hospital nurses in France enjoying a parade with wounded soldiers and is titled the Lollipop party.
This a unique photo. It was found in a collection of Ansel Adams photographs from WWII depicting the American west. This photo was taken at a Japanese internment camp and is copyright protected. American memory indicated that the photo may be used as long as the above title accompanies the photo.
Here is the index page from my project entitled Nursing Licensure, legislation and Nurse Practice Acts. You can access the web-based lesson from aam.govst.edu. I used primary resources such as photographs, posters, drawings and other documents to illustrate the history of nursing licensure. The project is designed so that any educator may incorporate the lesson into an existing course.
The story of Mary Ann Bickerdyke, who was an infamous Illinois civilian nurse serving the Union army during the Civil War, has been lost to a generation of nurses. Called “Mother” by soldiers and Generals alike, Mary Ann Bickerdyke led the Union troops in a victory parade in Washington, DC at the end of the war. The goal of my project is to renew the history of Illinois nursing by highlighting one of the most respected women of the Civil War era, who is credited with saving countless lives through her nutrition and sanitation methods, and success in getting what she needed for the sick and wounded. Following the civil war, Mother Bickerdyke became a social activist, lawyer, and advocate for the needs of war veterans.
One of the more unique objects I found in searching the American Memory collection for materials related to civil war nursing and hospitals was this pattern for hospital slippers, printed and distributed by a druggist in Philadelphia in partnership with the Philadelphia Ladies Aid, who collected them and distributed them to war hospitals. If I were a teacher, I might have the kids make a paper copy of this pattern and fashion it into slippers to illustrate how citizens helped care for the sick and wounded of the war.
This is a map of the townships of Illinois at the beginning of the Civil War, showing all of the railroads and towns in Illinois. Mother Bickerdyke began serving in Union Army hospitals when she volunteered to accompany a load of medical supplies and food sent by the citizens of Galesburg down to the Union encampments at Cairo, Illinois in the bottom of the state, where men were dying from poor nutrition and sanitation even before they were mobilized for battle. Mother Bickerdyke cleaned up the hospitals, bathed the men, cooked and fed them, and stayed on for the duration of the war, as there were no military medical personnel besides male army surgeons who did nothing to improve conditions of the soldiers.
This picture from Catherine Tymkow’s project ‘Advocacy and Health Policy – Nursing’s Legacy and Future’ shows noted women’s health advocate and champion for reproductive rights, Margaret Sanger outside a train station in her early years as an activist. Her legacy of championing reproductive rights continues today.
Another from Catherine’s project is this picture of a public health nurse shown riding horseback. Today transportation has improved, but the role of the public health nurse is as important today as it was one hundred years ago.
Thank you for visiting our Web Poster!

The End