

Introduction to Primary Source Research Class Session
Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections
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Session Goal:

- Introduce students to resources from the Boston Globe Library Collection's print photographs series.
- Use archival photographs to understand the development and use of an area overtime.

Proposed Session Outcomes:

- Students will become familiar with the visual resources available in the Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections.
- Students will understand how to extract and analyze information from archival photographs.
- Students will critically reflect on how historic records inform a modern understanding of place.

Session Outline:

- I. Introduction to Archives and Special Collections
 - A. Reflective question: What do you think of when you think of Archives?
 1. Discuss what types of materials Archives have.
 - B. Reflective question: What do you think of when you think of Boston's history?
 1. Discuss the social justice organizing history the archives collects.
 - C. Reflective question: What sort of records do you keep and how do you keep them?
 1. Discuss archival organization.
 - D. Introduce students to the organization of the Boston Globe collection and archival handling.
- II. Explore material laid out on tables.
 - A. Give time for independent exploration in boxes and folders.
 - B. Ask students to talk with other group members at table about what they are finding
 - C. Ask students to note down dates, names, and events from the material as well as reflect on what document types give certain pieces of information.
 - D. Invite students to move around different tables to compare and contrast different photograph files.
- III. Share back: Go around the room and reflect on one or more of the following questions:
 - A. What was it like exploring the Globe photographs?
 - B. Were there specific folders or subjects that particularly interested you?
 - C. What information could you glean from the photographs?
 - D. What other types of archival records would you like to find to complete the story?

Material pulled:

- [Boston Globe Library Collection records - print photographs](#)