LEARNING MODULE: IDENTIFYING BIAS

INTRODUCTION

The College Archives & Special Collections (CASPC) staff has designed this learning module for Columbia College Chicago undergraduate students. Faculty who wish to add this module to their classes should contact CASPC staff as soon as possible to schedule class visits to the College Archives to view material and/or prepare customized activities and assignments.

Primary materials and original artifacts reflect the values, biases, and assumptions of their creators which may interact with the believability of the document. Using this module, students will learn how to recognize such biases and contextualize them into the time in which they were created. Such work allows for students to identify and comment upon the primary documents to inform their own work.

UNIVERSAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

This module will assist students in their pursuit of the following college mandated Universal Learning Outcomes:

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Community Engagement
- Critical and Analytical Thinking
- Diversity and Global Fluency
- Ethics

SUGGESTED COLLECTIONS

The following CASPC collections are particularly well suited to illustrating the lessons of this learning module. This is not meant to be an exclusive list and if faculty prefer to work with an alternative collection, CASPC staff are willing to make such

arrangements.

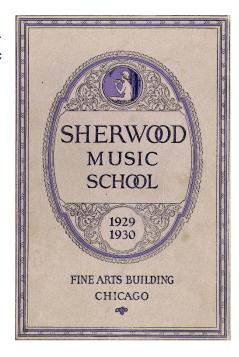
The Sherwood Community Music School at Columbia College Chicago Collection:

Began as the Sherwood Music School in 1895 and was a degree-granting institution for musicians, a hub for the students of music distance education, and a community music school offering lessons and programs for musicians of all ages. The collection strength lies in its institutional records of the Sherwood Music School from 1906 to 2011 and also contains institutional records, books, programs, and ephemera. Sherwood merged with Columbia College Chicago in 2007. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/sherwood/



Left: Wood block printing sample from the Sherwood Community Music School Collection

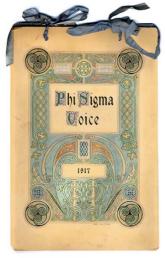
Right: Catalog from the Sherwood Community Music School Collection



Youth Communication Chicago Collection: Youth Communication Chicago is a non-profit organization established in 1976 to foster the art of journalism among urban minority high school students. This collection contains the organization's records, photographs, negatives, and a run of the YCC publication, New Expression, from 1977 to 2010. The organization was, for many years, a tenant on the Columbia College Chicago campus and it worked with the faculty from the Journalism Department.

http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/ycc/

Phi Sigma Collection: Phi Sigma is a social organization founded in 1878 in Chicago, Illinois. This group is dedicated to public speaking and is the second oldest, continuously running organization of its kind in Illinois. The collection honors Columbia College Chicago's early curricula in oratory arts and it speaks to Columbia's mission and curricula today. The collection strength of the Phi Sigma Manuscript Collection consists of writings created by members, including its annual unique publication The Voice and the collection holds writings, publications, meeting notes and minutes, and publicity material. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/phisigma/



Cover of the 1917 issue of "The Voice" From the Phi Sigma Collection

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS

The following are suggested class activities/assignments that may be compatible with your class.

- WIND and WBBM Radio Scripts: View critically the written scripts and reflect on how they relate to the time in which they were written.
 Analyze the material and consult secondary resources to draw further conclusions.
- Phi Sigma & Youth Communication Chicago: Bias is not necessarily a
 bad thing and in fact it can be very useful as it helps illustrate what
 people believed or thought about a particular subject. Evaluate three
 issues of either Phi Sigma's *The Voice* or Youth Communication
 Chicago's *New Expression* to determine if the authors express any
 bias in the articles, then articulate your findings.



OTHER RESOURCES

Other Available Resources: articles, handouts, pamphlets, and websites

• Pair this module with the Research Skills, Document Analysis, and/or Visual Literacy Modules to provide students with comprehensive information literacy skills.

HOW TO PLAN A CLASS VISIT TO THE ARCHIVES

- 1. Fill out our brief form online at http://bit.ly/2gC2QNe
- 2. Once submitted, Archives staff will contact you to work out the details of your visit. Please keep in mind that we recommend two to four weeks' notice.

CONTACT US

Website: www.colum.edu/archives

E-mail: <u>archives@colum.edu</u>

Phone: (312) 369-7120

We may be able to make accommodations for faculty who teach classes outside our regular office hours. Contact us for more information.