

## DIGITAL IMAGE RESEARCH GUIDE

New-York Historical Society  
Department of Rights and Reproductions

### Introduction

The New-York Historical Society's vast holdings bridge two divisions – the Museum and Library – and within each are further arranged into several collections. As such, beginning image research can be daunting, and determining which images may already exist in digital form is its own unique challenge. The New-York Historical Society [website](#) details many of these resources in separate pages. What follows here is a clarification of the arrangement of collections, and a centralized guide to searching for existing images within these collections.

Breakdown of collections and catalogues:

### MUSEUM

These collections include: historical artifacts; decorative arts; drawings; paintings; sculpture. Internally, TMS is used for item-level inventory and cataloging. An [online catalogue](#) is available (also as [eMuseum](#)). An effort has been made to photograph as many items as possible for reference purposes; not all entries with images will also have hi-res images. Always consult the Department of Rights and Reproductions to confirm availability of images.

### LIBRARY

The **Main Collection** includes broadsides; hotel files; maps; dining menus; newspapers; books and pamphlets. An [online catalogue](#) exists for main collection materials; collections specific databases exist for menus, maps, and hotel files. Resources for image searches will be most complete on-site, as there are additional databases and catalogues with on-site only access.

**Manuscripts** department collections include: personal and family papers; business and industry collections; religious and charitable organization collections; military collections; N-YHS Institutional Archive. Finding aids exist [online](#) for many collections. Additional finding aids and card catalogues are available on-site.

Department of **Prints, Photographs and Architectural Collections**: over 300 separate collections and files of photographs, prints, architecture, and ephemera. Arrangement may be by collector, creator, subject, or medium. Finding Aids exist [online](#) for most collections; additional finding aids and research guides are available on-site.

Breakdown of digital image resources:

### Library Digital Projects

Digitization of library collections has been ongoing since 1998, and currently includes the following (links to online collections; hi-res images available from Rights & Reproductions):

[Witness to the Early American Experience](#)

[Manuscript Collections Relating to Slavery](#)

[Children's Aid Society images](#)

[New York Foundling Hospital Images](#)

[Brooklyn Revealed](#)

[Marion Mahony Griffin's The Magic of America](#)

[Examination Days: The New York African Free School Collection](#)

[Alexander Hamilton Digital Project](#)

[American Manuscripts](#)

[New-York Historical Society Quarterly](#)

[Photographs of New York City and Beyond](#) includes the following collections (finding aids linked where available):

[PR005 Billboard](#) Photograph Collection

[PR008 Robert L. Bracklow Photographs](#)

[PR 024 George P. Hall & Son Photographs](#)  
[PR 028 Frank Ingalls Photographs](#)  
PR 034 Edwin Levick Studio Collection  
PR 069 Subway Construction Photograph Collection (not complete, ongoing)  
[PR 081 Eugene Armbruster Photograph Collection](#)  
PR 083 William Hassler Photograph Collection  
PR 119 Herman Blumenthal Collection  
[PR 129 H.N. Tiemann Collection](#)  
[PR 181 W.J. Roege Photograph Collection](#)  
PR 219 J.S. Johnston Photograph Collection  
[PR 237 Elizabeth Ransom Photograph Collection](#)

[Civil War Treasures from the New-York Historical Society](#) –these assets include over 2,000 images from the following Library and Museum collections (links to online collections; hi-res images available from Rights & Reproductions):

Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901. [William Oland Bourne Papers, 1855-1866](#). Mss Collection – William Oland Bourne papers

[Prison Times, 1865](#). Mss Collection – Misc. Mss. – Fort Delaware

Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892. [Walt Whitman Letters, 1863 July 27-1863 Sept. 9](#). Mss Collection – Misc. Mss. – Whitman, Walt

Blunt, Sarah R. [Sarah R. Blunt Correspondence](#), 1862 Mar. 4-1865 July 24  
Mss Collection – Misc. Mss. – Blunt, Sarah R.

[Draft Riot Sketches from Sketchbook of 19 Folios](#), 5 blank, and 12 loose sheets, with Draft Riot Scenes, ca. 1860-1880: Museum Collection, Object Number 1943.496

[Civil War Drawings Collection](#), 1861-1865: Museum Collection, Object Number 1945.580

[Point Lookout Sketches](#), 1864: Mss Collection – NHSC – Point Lookout

[Civil War Stereographs](#), 1861-1865 and later: Print Room – PR-065 – Stereograph File, 771-815

[Photographs of the War of the Rebellion](#): U.S. Navy, Edisto Island, Morris and Folly Islands, Fort Warren, Mass., Andersonville Prison, Miscellaneous, 1861-1865, printed later: Print Room – PR-088-20

Patriotic Envelope Collection. [Civil War Envelopes](#), 1861-1865: Print Room – PR-117

Volck, Adalbert John, 1828-1912. [Confederate War Etchings, 1863](#).  
Print Room – PR-010-01

Poster File. [Civil War Posters](#), 1861-1865: Print Room – PR-055-03

Services from EBSCO, Readex, and Gale Cengage Learning are available to browse on-site, but otherwise require subscriptions:

[Gateway to North America: the People, Places, & Organizations of 19th Century New York](#) 1,511 New York City directories, year books, registers, member lists, organization reports, guidebooks, primary source documents and publications, and name-rich sources.

[\*\*American Pamphlets, Series 1, 1820-1922: From the New-York Historical Society\*\*](#): More than 25,000 American pamphlets, 1820-1922, from the New-York Historical Society's printed collections.

[\*\*American Art-Union, 1839-1851: The Rise of American Art Literacy\*\*](#) Nearly 50,000 pages from the American Art-Union records, 1839-1851, one of the library's most important manuscript collections.

[\*\*Civil War Primary Source Documents from the New-York Historical Society\*\*](#): Over 110,000 pages from more than 400 individual manuscript collections focusing on the Civil War as it was fought from 1861 to 1865 and presenting both Northern and Southern perspectives.

[\*\*Revolutionary War Era Orderly Books from the New-York Historical Society\*\*](#): Over 30,000 pages from 96 orderly books written from 1748 to 1817.

### **Other online image resources**

The Rights and Reproductions Department has an inventory of photos related to [current and past exhibitions](#) at the New-York Historical Society.

New-York Historical Society uses collections images on [social media](#) and [blogs](#). Most notably, our [Pinterest](#) page is curated by the Rights and Reproductions staff to highlight hidden gems from the collection.

### **Rights and Reproductions Digital Assets**

Separate from the library digital projects, the [Rights and Reproductions Department](#) alone has over 25,000 digital images on its servers, along with departmental databases containing the related metadata. Consulting the department is always the best way to determine exactly what is available as an existing digital image.