

Civil Rights Digital Library. Access: <https://crdl.usg.edu/>.

The Civil Rights Digital Library (CRDL) is a treasure trove of primary sources and educational content about the Civil Rights Movement created by a nationwide network of partnerships. Spearheaded by the University of Georgia Libraries with support from a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the CRDL partners with institutions across the country to gather digitized historical artifacts in one place. First launched in 2008, CRDL was newly expanded in 2022 and now consists of more than 350 collections containing 60,000 items related to the Civil Rights Movement.

The CRDL is made up of three core components. The centerpiece of the website is an extensive collection of unedited footage from Georgia news stations WSB (Atlanta) and WALB (Albany) provided by the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection at the University of Georgia Libraries. More than 1,500 video clips span events from 1956 to 1980, bringing key moments of the Civil Rights Movement to life. The website also provides a portal to a wide variety of digital collections from institutions across the country, including public and academic libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies. Materials include photographs, oral histories, letters and other archival documents, and newspapers, to name a few. Educator resources such as teaching guides and lesson plans provide curricular support while web-based secondary resources such as online encyclopedia articles deliver contextual information to complement the digitized collections. The New Georgia Encyclopedia is particularly noteworthy not only for its articles, but also for related media content and virtual exhibitions.

Visitors to the CRDL have multiple options for searching and browsing items and collections. An advanced search page and faceted navigation permit users to fine-tune their search by attributes such as type (moving image, still image, text, etc.), creator, subject, people, event, location, year, medium, copyright status, and contributing institution. Users can also browse by “Collections,” “Events” (displayed in timeline format with short summaries of each key event), “People” (with brief biographical information provided for each one), “Places” (shown as an interactive map), “Educator Resources,” and “Contributing Institutions.”

As an easy-to-use website providing access to countless historical artifacts, the CRDL is an invaluable resource for anyone teaching or researching the Civil Rights Movement, as well as anyone interested in learning more about this important topic in American history.—*Katie Maxfield, Wittenberg University, maxfieldk@wittenberg.edu*

OpenCorporates. Access: <https://opencorporates.com/>.

OpenCorporates, “The Open Database of The Corporate World,” provides company information that is publicly searchable on their website. The information for the more than 200 million companies included in this resource all comes from public and official government sources. OpenCorporates is a good starting point for company information searches because of the inclusion of so many jurisdictions worldwide and the emphasis on the provenance of

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the information. A user does not need to know in which country or US state the company is registered to find information. Typing only the company name into the simple search box returns results. All company records identify the original data source and provide a link to it.

From the homepage, a user can also select “browse all jurisdictions” to find a list of all 144 included jurisdictions and links to the associated registers. Data quality alert icons link to notes about the limitations of some of the company registers. This page also provides an openness score for each jurisdiction from the Open Company Data Index, a project of the Open Government Partnership meeting in Brasilia, Brazil, in 2012 that is now maintained by OpenCorporates and the World Bank Institute. This provides valuable context that is often lacking when searching for datasets online.

In addition to the free web search interface, there are paid plans that grant access to their API (for JSON or XML format) or bulk quantities of data. Prices for these plans are determined by the number of API calls in a day or month. A designation for “Public Benefit Projects” exists and implies these listed prices may not apply to journalists, academics, or NGOs.

While business students may be the most obvious audience for this resource, it can also benefit journalism students. For example, a case study on the OpenCorporates blog highlights a recent data journalism project: an investigation published in the *Miami Herald* used OpenCorporates’ API to identify 75 companies that claimed loans from the Paycheck Protection Program despite not meeting the eligibility criteria. Beyond coursework, as college students prepare for life after they graduate this resource can help them learn about their potential employers.—*Lucy Rosenbloom, Xavier University of Louisiana, lrosenbl@xula.edu*

The Art Story. Access: <https://www.theartstory.org>.

The Art Story is an introductory resource for students seeking a basic overview of artists and art movements. The site’s stated audience is the “general public,” and it cautions that those coming to the site with “advanced understanding of Modern Art may find the breakdowns too general.” The “Useful Resources” section at the bottom of content pages includes suggested further reading, additional articles, websites, and video clips to explore. The sources for the articles are listed in the “Useful Resources” section, but users should note the lack of citations throughout. The Site Notes page states, “citations take away from the reader’s experience” as a reason for the lack of scholarly citations. Though the site does claim to cover “every style of art,” heaviest attention is paid to modern art.

Information is organized via four main sections, “Movements” (e.g., Surrealism), “Artists” (e.g., Jean-Michel Basquiat), “Timelines” by theme (e.g., Jewish Achievements), and “Ideas” (e.g., Gesamtkunstwerk). After choosing one of these headings, relevant facets appear for further refinement, like artist nationality or LGBTQ art. Facet choices are limited and functionality for searching by medium is weak. Some mediums are noticeably underdeveloped with few profiles for artists working with glass, ceramics, or video. The interactive timelines are strong and allow user to overlay artistic achievements with timelines of major historic political, cultural, and technological milestones.

Launched in 2009, The Art Story is regularly expanded with more than 19,000 pages of content written by art historians and experts in the field. The latest page additions are linked on the homepage. It is more difficult to determine how often particular entries are updated. The original publication date of a particular page is only visible by selecting the (not so

prominent) “Cite Article” link at the bottom of the page. The link provides the necessary information to create a citation, but it does not provide a formatted citation. This is the only place a user can see the name of a page’s author(s) and the publication date. After the original publication date is the vague note “updated and modified regularly.”

This site is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) ad-supported tool; an ad-free subscription is available for educators. Users might want to disable their ad-blocker to avoid being inundated with pop-up requests to do so. The Art Story would be useful for high school and undergraduate art and art history courses as a starting point for further exploration.—*Mechele Romanchock, Alfred University, romanchockm@alfred.edu*