Welcome to the latest project by Teaching with Primary Sources at EIU, The Source 2.0. The Library of Congress and TPSEIU have added many resources over the years. Our goal is that The Source 2.0 will supplement some earlier newsletters with new and updated information in an easy to find format. The original newsletter is still available, but The Source 2.0 will provide a brief introduction to the topic and links to resources at both www.loc.gov and www.eiu.edu/eiutps. We hope that each issue of The Source 2.0 will help readers quickly locate primary sources, lesson plans, and other information relating for a designated topic. The first issue of The Source 2.0, will revisit the January 2007 issue about Inventors & Inventions. Without early inventions and the creativity of the inventors, many products we use today would not be available.

In 1876, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone, a year later he formed the Bell Telephone Company. The success of the telephone gave Bell the financial ability to keep creating other inventions. After the telephone, Bell invented the photophone. This device enabled sound to be transmitted on a beam of light. In 1881, Bell and his associate Charles Sumner Tainter, successfully sent a photophone message over 200 yards from one building to another. Bell’s invention of the photophone revealed the principals upon which today’s laser and fiber optic communication systems are founded.

Samuel F. B. Morse was returning from Europe in 1832, when he had the idea of using electricity to communicate over distances. In December 1837, Morse applied for appropriations from the federal government and conducted telegraph demonstrations in both New York and Washington. The financial panic of 1837 would delay Morse’s telegraph. When financial recovery came in 1843, Morse asked Congress for $30,000 to build a telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore. Overhead wires connected cities up and down the Atlantic, headed westward and even connected the continents of Europe and America.

Inventions go through trial and error, inventors can struggle for years before seeing their creations finally succeed. When creating the gramophone, Emile Berliner saw many setbacks. Even after inventing the gramophone, Berliner continued to patent improvements into the early twentieth century. Berliner’s invention brought him financial success but it also brought illegal competitors. One illegal competitor simply copied a Berliner record but placed a numeral 1 to the disc number.

These are just a few examples of the incredible stories and primary sources available about inventors and inventions in the Library of Congress. Search American Memory and Collection Connections to find more information on inventors and their inventions.
Teacher’s Page

Themed Resources
Science and Invention http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/science

Primary Source Sets
Wright Brothers http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/flight/

Lesson Plans
Thomas Edison, Electricity, and America http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/edison/

Presentations and Activities

American Memory

African American Experience in Ohio, 1850-1920 http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ohshtml/aaeohome.html
Nineteenth Century in Print http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/mcchtml/snchome.html
Words and Deeds http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mcchtml/corhome.html
Emile Berliner and the Birth of the Recording Industry http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/berhtml/berlhome.html
Inventing Entertainment the Motion Pictures and Sound Recordings of the Edison Companies http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/edhtml/edhome/edhome.html
The Wilbur and Orville Wright Papers at the Library of Congress http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wrighthtmo/wrighthome.html

Exhibitions

Benjamin Franklin in his own Words http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/franklin-home.html
Hog Heaven: Celebrating 100 Years of the Harley-Davidson http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/harley100/
John Bull and Uncle Sam: Inventions and Discoveries http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/british/brit-5.html

Prints and Photographs

Groups of Images http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/coll/
Miscellaneous Items in High Demand http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/cph/
Wright Brothers http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/wri/
Experiments and Inventions http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/picamer/paExperiments.html

Webcasts

America's Story

Meet Amazing People

Edison http://americaslibrary.gov/aa_edison_subj.html

Franklin http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/franklinb/aa_franklinb_electric_1.html

Jump Back in Time

Inventor Elias Howe was Born: July 9, 1819 http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/nation/jb_nation

The Artificial Leg is Invented: November 4, 1846 http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/reform/jb_reform_artificial_1.html


Alexander Graham Bell Invented the Photophone: June 3, 1880 http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/gilded/jb_gilded_bell_1.html

Ice Cream Cone makes Appearance at World's Fair http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/progress/jb_progress_icecream_1.html

The First Telephone Call: March 10, 1876 http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/recon/jb_recon_telephone_1.html

The First Coca-Cola Served: May 8, 1886 http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/gilded/jb_gilded_cocacola_1.html

Today in History

November 18, 1789: The Daguerrotype Photography http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/nov18.html

August 26, 1791: Steaming Along http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/aug26.html


October 24, 1861: The Transcontinental Telegraph and the End of the Pony Express http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/oct24.html

March 10, 1876: Alexander Graham Bell http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/mar10.html

August 12, 1877: Mr. Edison’s Phonograph http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/aug12.html

June 3, 1880: Bell’s Photophone http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jun03.html


July 23, 1904: The Ice Cream Cone http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jul23.html

Images

Nasmyth’s patent steam hammer, copied by permission by the inventor from the machine in the great exhibition.

Prints and Photographs
Library of Congress

Citations


If you or your school is interested in learning more about the Library of Congress resources, please contact us. Our program offers individualized professional development using the rich resources offered by the Library of Congress.

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