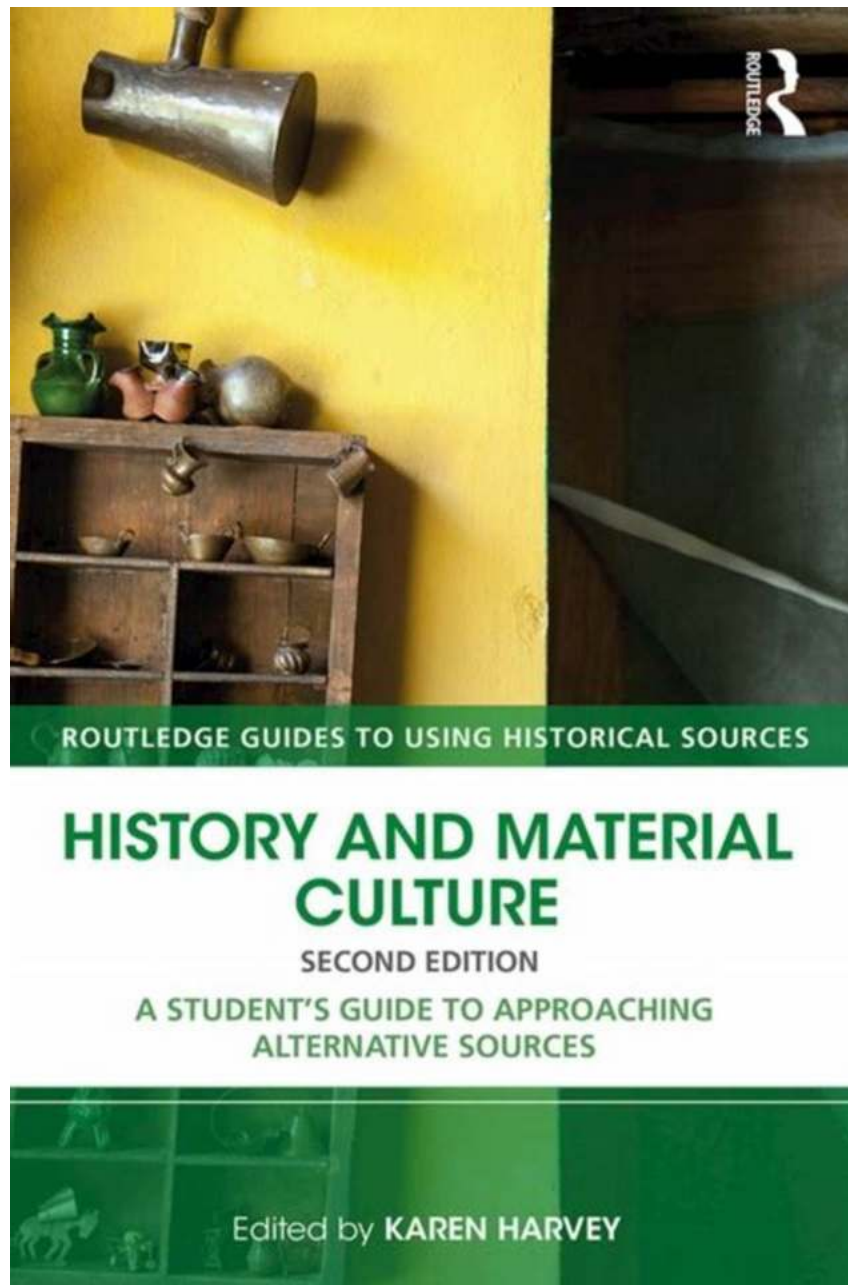


The Ultimate Student Guide to Approaching Alternative Sources - Routledge Guides To Using

The Importance of Alternative Sources



As a student, you must have encountered countless assignments and research

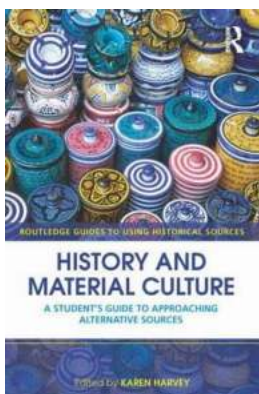
projects. Most often, you rely on traditional sources such as textbooks and scholarly journals to gather information. However, with the rise of the digital age, there has been an increasing acknowledgment of the value of alternative sources in academia. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore how you can effectively approach and utilize alternative sources to enhance your research.

What are Alternative Sources?

Alternative sources are non-traditional materials that provide valuable insights and perspectives on a given topic. They can include blogs, podcasts, documentaries, online forums, social media conversations, and more. While traditional sources are still important, alternative sources offer unique viewpoints, real-life experiences, and up-to-date information that can enrich your research.

Benefits of Utilizing Alternative Sources

1. **Diverse Perspectives:** Alternative sources open up a world of diverse viewpoints and ideas that complement traditional sources. This enables you to develop a well-rounded understanding of your topic.



History and Material Culture: A Student's Guide to Approaching Alternative Sources (Routledge Guides to Using Historical Sources)

by Greg Strandberg (2nd Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 6691 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 278 pages
Paperback	: 400 pages
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2. **Timeliness:** News articles, blog posts, and social media discussions often provide the most up-to-date information, making them particularly useful for current affairs or rapidly developing subjects.

3. **Real-Life Insights:** Alternative sources, such as documentaries and interviews, usually feature personal experiences and stories that can provide a deeper understanding of the topic you are researching.

4. **Engaging Content:** Podcasts, videos, and interactive platforms offer engaging and immersive experiences, making your research journey more enjoyable and memorable.

Approaching Alternative Sources

1. **Evaluate Credibility:** Not all alternative sources are reliable, so it is crucial to evaluate their credibility. Consider the author's expertise, the publication platform, and any biases that may influence the information presented.

2. **Look for Multiple Perspectives:** Engage with alternative sources that offer different perspectives and challenge your own beliefs. This will enrich your research by presenting a more comprehensive view of the topic.

3. **Citations and Referencing:** Treat alternative sources with the same level of rigor as traditional sources. Properly cite and include them in your reference list to maintain academic integrity.

4. **Stay Organized:** As you explore alternative sources, keep notes and bookmark relevant pages or content for future reference. This will ensure you can easily

access and cite the information when needed.

Where to Find Alternative Sources?

1. **Online Blogs and Magazines:** Look for reputable blogs and online magazines that focus on your subject area. These platforms often feature experts and insightful opinions.

2. **Documentaries and Podcasts:** Streaming platforms like Netflix, YouTube, and Spotify offer a wide range of documentaries and podcasts that delve deep into various topics.

3. **Social Media:** Engage with industry-specific communities and follow experts on platforms such as Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook. They often share valuable content and discussions.

4. **Online Forums:** Join relevant online forums and communities where discussions on your topic are taking place. These can provide unique perspectives and personal experiences.

Incorporating Alternative Sources into Your Research

1. **Support Your Arguments:** Use alternative sources to back up your statements and arguments. Including diverse perspectives will strengthen the validity of your research.

2. **Enhance Anecdotal Evidence:** If your research relies on anecdotes or personal stories, alternative sources such as interviews or case studies can provide additional support and depth.

3. **Broaden Literature Review:** When conducting a literature review, incorporate alternative sources to avoid bias and to ensure your review reflects a wide range

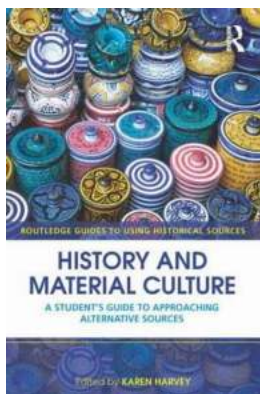
of perspectives.

4. Spark Creativity: Alternative sources often present unconventional ideas. Use them as a source of inspiration and innovation to bring a fresh perspective to your research.

With the changing landscape of information availability, approaching alternative sources is vital for comprehensive and meaningful research. By incorporating diverse perspectives, timely information, and engaging content, you can elevate the quality of your academic work. Embrace the wealth of alternative sources available and unlock a new dimension in your learning journey.

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2. Lastname, Firstname. (Year). "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, Volume(Issue), Page numbers.



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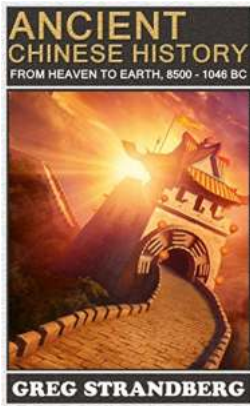
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Sources are the raw material of History, but whereas the written word has traditionally been seen as the principal source, historians now recognize the value of sources beyond text. In this new edition of *History and Material Culture*, contributors consider a range of objects – from an eighteenth-century bed curtain to a twenty-first-century shopping trolley – which can help historians develop new interpretations and new knowledge about the past.

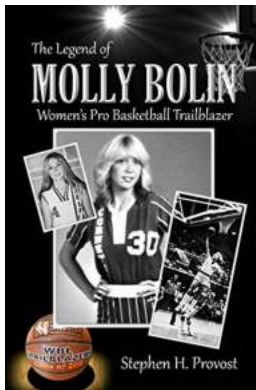
Containing two new chapters on healing objects in East Africa and the shopping trolley in the social world, this book examines a variety of material sources from around the globe and across centuries to assess how such sources can be used to study the distant and the recent past. In a revised edition, Karen Harvey discusses some of the principal issues raised when historians use material culture, particularly in the context of 'the material turn', and suggests some initial steps for those unfamiliar with these kinds of sources. While the sources are discussed from interdisciplinary perspectives, the emphasis of the book is on what historians stand to gain from using material culture, as well as what historians have to offer the broader study of material culture.

Clearly written and accessible, this book is the ideal to the opportunities and challenges of researching material culture, and is essential reading for all students of historical theory and method.



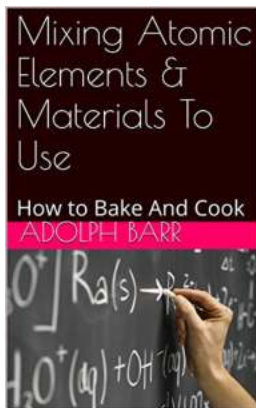
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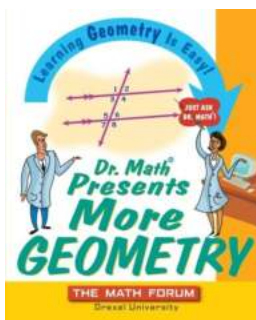
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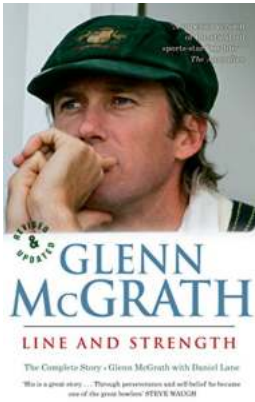
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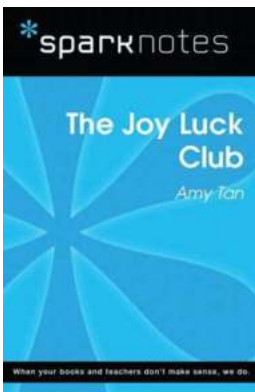
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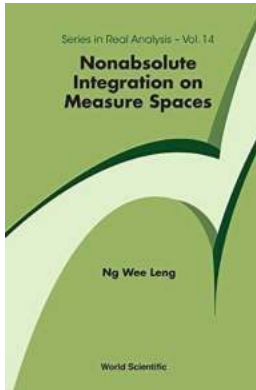
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