

Technical Information

American Memory Technical Information

Have you always wanted to know how to print out web pages with dark backgrounds? Download sound files to play later? Wondered why your bookmark to an American Memory item does not work?

This guide contains answers to those questions and more—from common web issues to American Memory-specific technical questions.

◆Printing Web Pages & Images

Printing web pages and images is generally quite easy. Below are some tips to help you get started. Before downloading or printing materials from the Library of Congress web sites, see the Learning Page's guide, *Questions and Answers: Copyright and Fair Use*. The information in the guide also applies to materials from other web sites.

General Tips for printing web materials:

The easiest way to print web pages is to click on the print button on your web browser's toolbar. Alternatively, you can access print commands from the *file* menu.

Netscape Navigator and **Mozilla** web browsers allow you to print an image from the web without the rest of the information on the web page, although the process is a little more involved. Put your mouse over the image you would like to print. Click the right mouse button on your PC or hold down the single mouse button on your Macintosh. A menu will appear. Select the option to "view image." Your image will now appear alone on a new page.

Print this page as you would any other web page.

Web pages with white text on a dark background will not automatically print out as black text on a light background. To print pages with dark backgrounds and white text, you will need to change your preferences on your web browser.

For **Netscape Navigator** or **Mozilla**:

On the browser menu bar, select *Edit - Preferences - Appearance - Colors*. Select black as your font color and white as your background color. Then, check the box "always use my colors, overriding document colors." Then, print the page as you would any other web page. When you are finished printing, you may want to return to the colors menu and uncheck the box "always use my colors, overriding document colors."

For **Internet Explorer**:

On the browser tool bar, choose *Tools - Internet Options*. At the bottom of the *Internet Options - General* menu, choose *Colors*. On the *Colors* menu, change the background color to white and the text color to black. Then, print the page as you would any other web page.

If you are viewing a web site with frames, make sure you click your mouse on the frame you want to print before hitting the print button.

♦ Linking & Bookmarking in American Memory

When you search the American Memory collections, many of the web pages displayed are created 'on the fly'. That is, they are assembled by the computer in response to your particular request. 'On the fly' pages create problems for linking and bookmarking since the URL (Uniform Resource Locator or web address) is temporary. Thus, if you bookmark an 'on the fly' page, you will not be able to reach the address later. However, you can get a permanent URL using the process outlined below in most American Memory collections.

How will you know if the page you have reached has a permanent or a temporary URL? When you browse or search a collection, the items you discover will always have temporary URLs. Collection homepages, on the other hand, will have permanent URLs. Tip: Do not rely on any address with the word "temp" in it.

Find the URL:

1. Search for the item within the collection you wish to use. (Do not use a multi-collection search to find the item because your search will be much slower and the resultant URL will be unnecessarily long.)
2. At the item record screen, go to *Page Source* (or *Document Source* or *Source*-depending on your browser) under *View* on the web browser menu bar.
3. A new window will open with the web page's HTML formatting tags. Scroll to the bottom of the page.
4. You will see `<! - - The following URL will result in display of this document - ->` and on the next line a long URL enclosed in `<! - - and - ->`.

Example:

```
<!-- http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/vv:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3c16995)) -->
```

Copy the URL:

1. Highlight the complete URL, including final parentheses (but not `<! - - or - - >`).

Example:

```
http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/vv:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3c16995))
```

2. Copy the highlighted URL.

Windows: Press `<CTRL-C>` (i.e., hold down the Control key while pressing the letter C key).

MacIntosh users: Press `<COMMAND-C>` (i.e., hold down the Command key while pressing the letter C key).

3. Close the window displaying the HTML formatting tags by clicking the *CLOSE* box. (An X in the upper right-hand corner of the window.)

Check the URL:

1. Paste the URL in your browser's Location Box, as you would any other URL. Use the *EDIT* pull-down menu and choose *Paste*, or

Windows: Press `<CTRL-V>`

MacIntosh Users: Press `<COMMAND-V>`

2. To test the URL, press *Enter* or *Return*. If the browser brings up the correct item, everything has worked.

Bookmark the page:

1. With the tested URL in the Location Box of the browser, you can now bookmark the web page.
2. On the browser toolbar, select *Favorites* (for Internet Explorer) or *Bookmarks* (Netscape Navigator or Mozilla). In the pull-down menu, choose *Add to Favorites* or *Bookmark this Page*.

Link the URL:

Paste the tested URL into your web page/HTML as the link URL.

◆ Saving Media in American Memory

Images used on the World Wide Web are usually in .gif or .jpg format. American Memory also contains images in .pcx and .tif format. A complete description of these formats can be found in the Web page, *Viewing and Listening to American Memory Collections*.

To save images:

1. Place the computer's mouse over the image. The arrow will change to a hand.
2. Click the right mouse button (PC) or depress and hold the single button of the mouse (Macintosh).
3. A menu will appear. Select *Save image as* or *Save Picture as*.
4. A box will appear in which you indicate your desired name of the image file and where you wish it to be saved. Note: Web images often have non-intuitive file names (ex. 8406.jpg)-you may want to rename the image to something you will understand later (ex. goldrush.jpg).

Tip: For a shortcut, save files in .tif or .pcx formats from their links.
Use the directions for audio or video files on the next page.

NOTE: Saving an image (other than the thumbnail on the item record page) in the Map Collections, and the others that use the MrSID format, is a slightly different process.

1. In the collection's item record for the image, click on the thumbnail image to view the large version of the image.
2. Place the cursor over the image and depress the right mouse button (PC) or single mouse button (Macintosh). Choose *Save image as*.
3. The pop-up box that appears will list the file name as "map_image" or "dyn_image" with "Save as type" as all files *.*. Name the image, add .gif to the file name, and save the file.

To retrieve images:

1. To view images, use graphics software recommended for your computer. Common software titles are Photoshop, Photo Editor, PhotoDeluxe, and PaintShop. *Viewing and Listening to American Memory Collections* has additional information about basic graphics software.
2. Open your graphics software. Select *File - Open* and select your image location (usually c: for your computer's hard drive or a: for a diskette) and the image name.

Saving Web Pages:

If you have a presentation or classroom activity in a facility without Internet access, you can save web pages to your computer's hard drive or a diskette in advance so that the web information will be available to you when you need it.

To save pages to diskette:

1. While you are on the page you want to save, select *File* on the menu bar of your web browser.
2. From the list that appears, select *Save As*.
3. A box will appear in which you indicate where to save the page, and what to call it.
4. Save the page with a file name plus .htm or .html following the name. If you are saving a number of pages from a web site and want the internal site links to work, be sure to maintain the file name that appears in the save as window (ex. index.html). Otherwise, use the file name of your choice.
5. Save the page to a diskette in your disk drive (usually indicated as the a: drive or as an icon of a diskette).

To retrieve pages saved to diskette:

1. The next time you connect to the World Wide Web, put your diskette into the disk drive of your computer.
2. Select File from the menu bar of your browser.
3. From the list that appears, select *Open File*.
4. A box will appear in which you indicate the name and source of the page to open.
5. Select the file name of the page you saved, and select your disk drive (usually a:) as the source.
6. The web browser will open your saved page for viewing. Depending on how the page was coded, links on your web page may be active and connect you with the linked page on the Internet.

Note: If you are saving the files on the hard drive of your desktop or laptop computer, you may want to first create a new folder on your hard drive for the files you will be saving. Then, follow the process outlined above, substituting the correct letter of your hard drive (usually c:) for the disk drive.

◆ Audio & Video

Some American Memory collections contain audio and video selections. All of these may be downloaded except the RealAudio and RealMedia files. Complete descriptions of the file formats for these media are in the web page, *Viewing and Listening to American Memory Collections*.

To save audio and video files:

1. Place the computer's mouse over the link to the sound or video file. The arrow will change to a hand.
2. Click the right mouse button (PC) or depress and hold the single mouse button (Macintosh).
3. A menu will appear. Select Save link as.
4. A box will appear in which you indicate the name of the sound or video file and where you wish it to be saved.

Note: Saving from the link is also a goof technique for downloading TIFF and PCX image files from American Memory.

To play audio and video files:

Listening to audio or playing of video requires free, downloadable player software recommended for your type of computer. Windows users will find that the Windows Media Player, which comes pre-installed, can play many formats. Macintosh users will find the same holds true for the QuickTime Player. Common audio and video software downloads are RealOne and QuickTime. *Viewing and Listening to American Memory Collections* has additional information about basic audio and video software.