



Lost and Found

Uncovering the Past

Now that I know, what do I do?

You might be wondering - how do we find the history that has been lost, hidden, or erased. We become RESEARCHERS. This can be slow and arduous. When the stories are found though, the reward is huge.

We must actively seek out underrepresented sources, including marginalized voices, local archives, oral histories, material culture, and sometimes even previously overlooked physical evidence, often requiring a critical approach to traditional narratives and a willingness to explore alternative perspectives.

Key Strategies to Uncover Ignored History

Investigate marginalized communities:

Look for historical accounts from groups often excluded from mainstream narratives, like women, minorities, working class, or LGBTQ+ individuals.

Consult local archives and repositories:

Local libraries, museums, and historical societies may hold unique records and artifacts not found in larger collections.

Conduct oral history interviews:

Gather firsthand accounts from individuals with lived experiences related to the neglected historical period or event.

Analyze material culture:

Examine everyday objects like clothing, tools, and furniture to understand the lives and experiences of people in the past.

Use critical analysis of existing narratives:

Question dominant historical interpretations and identify potential biases or omissions.

Employ interdisciplinary approaches:

Combine historical research with other fields like anthropology, sociology, and geography to gain a more comprehensive view.

Seek out alternative sources:

Explore foreign language materials, personal diaries, letters, and government documents that might not have been widely circulated.

Challenges in Finding Ignored History

Lack of documentation:

Certain historical events or experiences may not have been adequately documented due to social or political constraints.

Bias in historical records:

Existing historical accounts may reflect the perspectives of privileged groups, leading to the exclusion of marginalized voices.

Accessibility issues:

Some historical materials may be difficult to access due to location, language barriers, or restricted access.