

In the First Person

A **free index** to letters, diaries, oral histories, and other personal narratives

Imagine seeing into the minds of 15,000 individuals and knowing the details of their lives within seconds. That's the experience of using *In the First Person*—a free library index with citations linking to full-text, audio, and video whenever available. Since its first release in 2005, *In the First Person* has won praise from librarians and individuals everywhere as well as awards (*Library Journal* listed it as one of the “Best Reference Resources” of the year, and it won the “Best Content” reader's choice award from *The Charleston Advisor*). It continues to grow quarterly—and it will remain free to all.

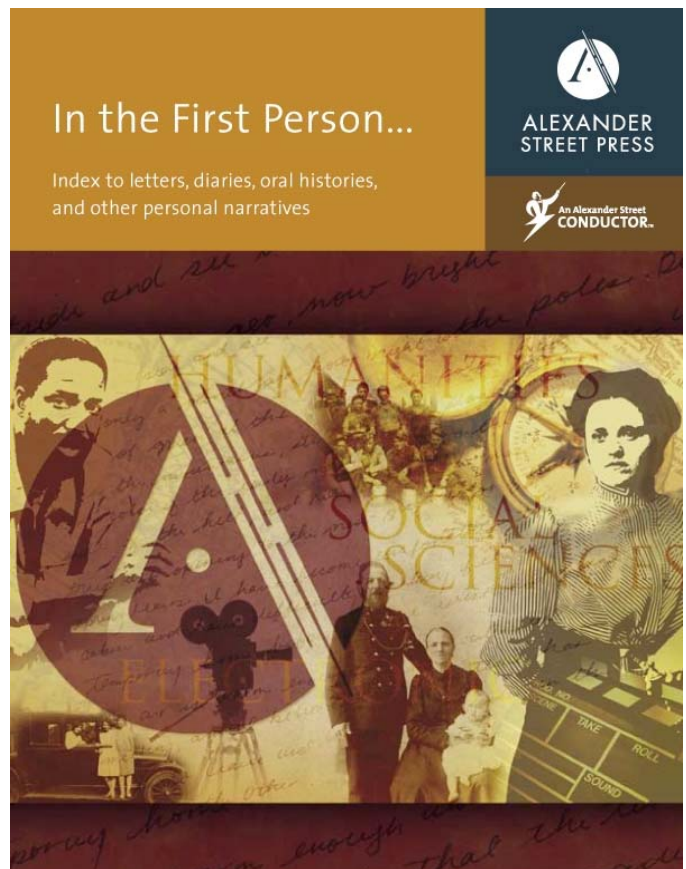
HOW IT WORKS

In the First Person searches archives and repositories all over the world and leads users to hundreds of thousands of pages of content. Search by narrator, subject, geographical location, format (full-text, video, audio), date, and dozens of other elements. A unified, organized search result is returned, with richly detailed records for every collection and repository, and with all available links to the narratives themselves.

Indexed are quality oral histories and narratives in English on the free Web at thousands of repositories and archives—hundreds of thousands of pages of editorially vetted content. The citations link directly to the full-text, audio, and video files whenever available. You'll find narratives on every subject imaginable, including well known collections—such as the Veterans History Project, the Japanese American Relocation Digital Archive, and slave narratives from the Federal Writers' Project—along with thousands of other collections that have remained hidden, undiscovered, or hard to locate until now.

In the First Person also indexes hundreds of thousands of pages of interviews, letters, diaries, and oral histories from Alexander Street Press companion collections. Our semantically indexed citation records are made freely available through *In the First Person*, offering rich bibliographic details to all users. If your library has authorized access to any of these companion collections, we also link you from the citations directly to our full-text, audio, or video content. The Alexander Street companion collections include:

- *North American Women's Letters and Diaries*
- *British and Irish Women's Letters and Diaries*
- *The American Civil War: Letters and Diaries*
- *Black Thought and Culture*
- *North American Immigrant Letters, Diaries, and Oral Histories*
- *North American Indian Biographical Database*



HOW WILL YOU USE IT?

The most comprehensive archive of social memory yet created, *In the First Person* is a starting point for historians, sociologists, genealogists, linguists, and psychologists who want to explore and analyze human experiences. The narratives – of people from diverse groups, famous and ordinary, from all walks of life – can at last be heard together, in words that are more frank, detailed, and personal than what is available in published texts or articles.

There are people in 1930 recalling their conversations with Crazy Horse; immigrants describing what it was like to come through Ellis Island; a British nurse reacting to the news of Hitler's suicide; a witness observing a smallpox outbreak in 1792; a black woman remembering her first encounter with a white person in the 1960s; politicians revealing secrets from the past. In their own words, tens of thousands of people tell us about their lives, loves, careers, challenges, accomplishments, spiritual paths, identity struggles, and countless other memories.

For the study of genealogy, history, sociology, labor history, psychology, political studies, diversity studies, and other subject areas, *In the First Person* has become a core research tool. We invite libraries everywhere to list it on their Web sites as an available electronic database.

PARTICIPATE

Libraries, museums, and archives—please ask us to index your materials, or suggest links. Later, we'll be adding an online scholarly community, hosted by historians, where registered participants can upload their personal items and post comments, faculty can exchange ideas and share curricula, and users can participate in the building of the database.

PUBLICATION DETAILS

You can begin using *In the First Person* today, at no charge, at www.inthefirstperson.com. The resource is updated quarterly. The citations will link you to all freely available full-text, audio, and video files.

In the First Person PLUS takes you a step further, with additional links to all the corresponding Alexander Street content—with one click, users link from the citations to the full-text and audio narratives within the Alexander Street companion collections. The companion collections are available either by annual subscription or through a one-time purchase of perpetual rights. Subscribing to or purchasing all of *In the First Person PLUS* gives you your best prices. Please contact us for details.

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