

Navigating Ephemeral Cities Part Four: Alternate Routes for Finding Information

Background

This builds on the information in the first three segments for “Navigating Ephemeral Cities” by adding searching inside other collections.

Searching in Collections Related to Ephemeral Cities

In addition to searching in the Ephemeral Cities collection specifically, many other related collections can also yield useful information like the **Florida Ephemera** collection.

The **Florida Ephemera** collection includes material intended for one time use. If not collected, these resources would have been lost to history; instead, they are digitized and online to inform history and the Florida experience. The **Florida Ephemera** collection includes two and three dimensional artifacts, with post-cards and photographs; orange crate and cigar box labels; newspaper clippings; memorabilia marking life-events: weddings, the birth of a child, the death of a loved one, etc. There are cigar wrappers; cooking implements; tools used in farming; and the objects of every-day living and trade.

The **Florida Ephemera** collection houses material related to Ephemeral Cities and the history of Florida more generally. **Florida Ephemera** can be searched or browsed.

To search the **Florida Ephemera** collection, first go to the webpage for the collection:
<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/UFDC/?s=flep>.



Then, click on the “Browse: All Items” to browse or search the collection using the search box.

A screenshot of the Florida Ephemera website's search interface. It features a search box with the text "Search Collection:" and a "Go" button. Below the search box are links for "Home | Advanced Search | Help". At the bottom, there is a "Browse:" section with a link for "All Items".

Activity

Building from the last activity researching companies and industry in Florida, research one area within Florida Ephemera and then discuss the following questions in groups.

- What search terms to use? If you aren't sure, try browsing to see items that are of interest.
- Search for at least two common industry terms, like “orange”, “cigar”, and “ice”. What did you find?
- Try a few common words to see what information comes from the results. For instance, try “factory” and try “store.”
- Search for a particular area and discuss what you find in that area.
- What was the most common type of factory found? What was the most common type of store?
- In groups or individually, choose one item and create a historical fiction show-and-tell explaining that item with other items and real Florida history. Be sure to tell what the item is and to add historical information on why the item matters. What is it, who's was it, when did it exist, where, why does it matter? Each of the artifacts and the information they contain can communicate a story, but combined together they tell many stories of their own, of their place in history, and of the history of Florida. Be prepared to present this story to others.