

# Approaching Historical Research

Charlotte Hull



Investigating Wampum  
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# Wampum, Wampum as Currency...

Initially I wanted to focus on wampum as a currency. As I read through and became more familiar with my sources wampum became a symbol for economic change and the appropriation of Native American resources and culture by European Colonists for economic gain.

**Final Topic:** Wampum and the Economic Transformation of Southern New England from Local Binary Trade to Capitalism

How is wampum different than other trade items like corn, kettles, and beaver pelts, and what were the implications of wampum (trade item/currency) being a locally-sourced, man-made item with no utilitarian value?

# Getting Acquainted with Resources

The following online tools were integral in narrowing my focus and determining key words

- [lib.berkeley.edu](http://lib.berkeley.edu)
- OskiCat
- Melvyl
- OAC

# Getting Started

Narrowing down my topic:

creating key words & focusing in

- specific dates: 17th c
- geographic area: New England; MA, CT, RI
- key groups: Dutch, English, Pequots, Narragansetts

# Resources to Skip

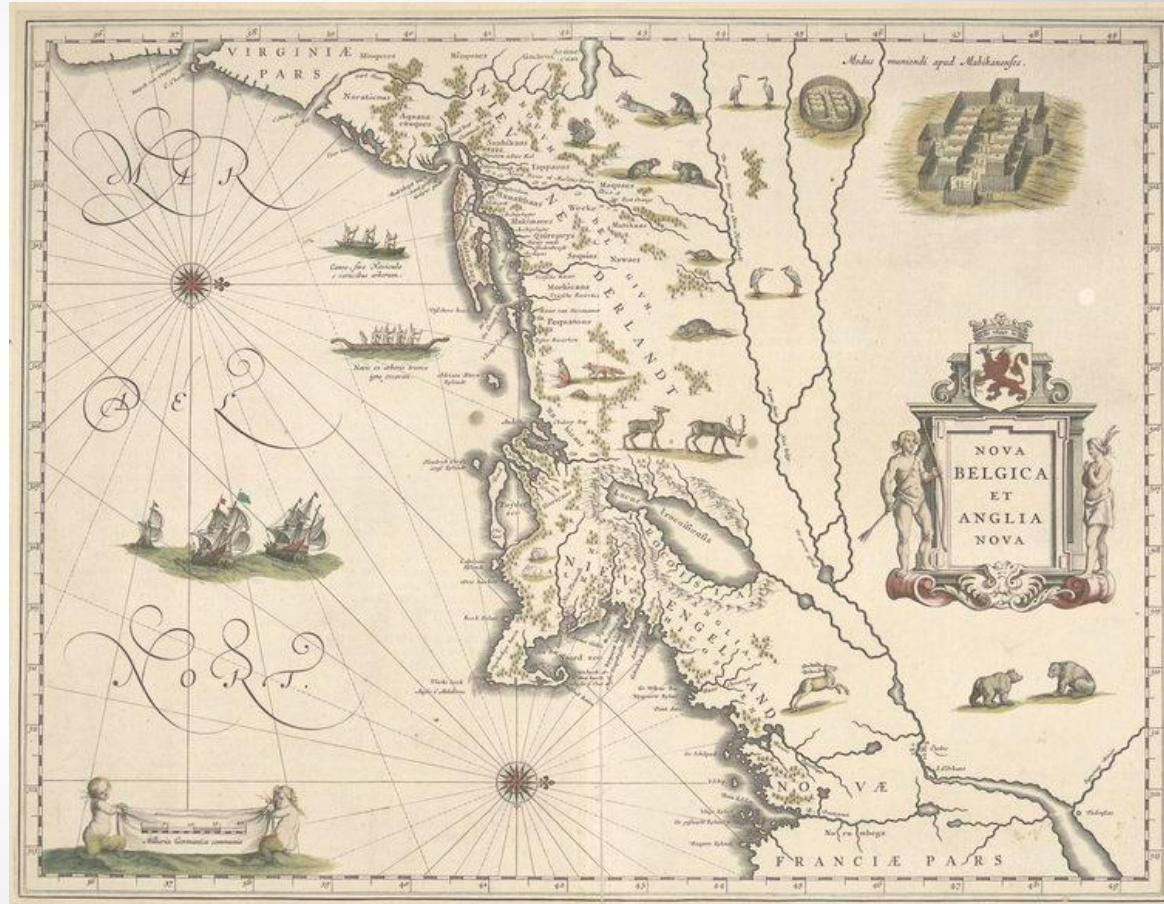
- Oral history
- Newspapers/microfilm

# Key Resources

- Main stacks and Moffitt stacks: books
- Online databases: JSTOR, ProQuest Historical Newspapers
- Bancroft Archives: C. Hart Merriam Papers
- Visual Resources/Material Artifacts: ARTstor

# Next Steps

- Specialized Libraries:
  - Map Library
- Film/Documentaries



# People

- Librarians
- Professors: Dr. Keyes
- Scholars in the field: Dr. Otto
- Graduate Students & Dissertations



# Additional Resources

Massachusetts Historical Society

[www.masshist.org](http://www.masshist.org)

Old Maps Online

[www.oldmapsonline.org](http://www.oldmapsonline.org)

Early English Books Online

[eebo.chadwyck.com/home](http://eebo.chadwyck.com/home)

Local Historical Museums & Historical Societies

# Going Forward

Working with primary sources

- Maps
- Letters
- Public Records
- Journals