This online resource offers a unique insight into the phenomenon of international expositions. Over 200 world’s fairs and exhibitions, spanning 1829-2015, are represented through a range of primary sources. From planning committees to public reception and the legacy that remains, the impact of these global events can be examined in a comprehensive context.

**Overview**

**Key Features**

- Documents from more than 200 fairs including the Crystal Palace exhibition of 1851 and the Milan Expo 2015
- Case studies of nine of the most significant fairs offer in-depth analysis of their impact and legacy
- Interactive site plans offer users an immersive experience of five key world’s fairs
- Essays from consultant academics provide pathways into the collections
- Visual highlights include souvenir objects, photographs, posters and plans

**Case-Study Fairs**

- 1851 Great Exhibition, London
- 1876 Philadelphia Centennial International Exhibition
- 1889 Paris Exposition Universelle
- 1893 Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition
- 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis
- 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco
- 1933/34 Chicago Century of Progress International Exposition
- 1939/40 New York World’s Fair
- 1967 Expo ’67 Montreal

These ‘case studies’ are made up of dedicated archival collections for each fair, including official planning and organisational records, unique personal accounts and a wealth of publicity ephemera and imagery – ideal for comparative research into fairs across the centuries.

**Material Types**

- Fully searchable documents, digitised in colour, include:
  - Fair Committee records, minutes and correspondence
  - Official catalogues and guide books
  - Exhibit pamphlets
  - Photographs and slides
  - Maps and plans
  - Souvenir artefacts
  - Audio interviews with attendees

**Consultant Editors**

- Tracey Jean Boisseau, Purdue University
- Cristina Carbone, University of Louisville
- Sarah Coletta, Montana State University
- Peter Hoffenberg, University of Hawaii
- Donald G. Larson, Founder of the Donald G. Larson Collection on International Expositions and Fairs
- Robert W. Rydell, Montana State University
- Michelle Warren, Dartmouth College

“World’s fairs are invaluable for thinking about the past, present, and future. They are mirrors of society as well as blueprints for the future.”

Professor Robert W. Rydell, Director, Montana State University Humanities Institute
This online resource hosts primary source material from over 200 fairs, including London’s Great Exhibition of 1851, American fairs of the 19th and 20th centuries and 21st-century expos. World’s Fairs is a vital resource for students, teachers and researchers of a huge range of subjects including imperialism, race relations, gender studies, science and technology, consumer culture, architecture, design and more.

Source Archives
- Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley
- Bibliothèque nationale de France
- Hagley Museum and Library
- Historical Society of Pennsylvania
- Library and Archives Canada
- Missouri Historical Society
- New York Public Library, Manuscripts and Archives Division
- Special Collections Research Center, Henry Madden Library, California State University, Fresno
- St. Louis Mercantile Library at the University of Missouri-St. Louis
- The National Archives, UK
- The Newberry Library, Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago Library, Special Collections
- Victoria and Albert Museum

Subject Areas
- Anthropology and ethnology
- Design and architecture
- Mass communication
- Imperial history
- Globalisation and transnationalism
- Entertainment
- Travel and tourism
- Innovation and design
- Science and technology
- Urbanisation

Interactive fair site plans highlight key buildings and exhibits in context

WORLD’S FAIRS
A Global History of Expositions

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