

A Democratic Way of Understanding the Great War

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My presentation will speak to the idea of crossing borders and connecting people by sharing information and knowledge within the National World War I Museum and Memorial's archival and library collections. This supports the Museum's mission to inform and educate people about a hugely influential historical event and explain why this event is relevant to the present.

As the director of the Museum's archives and its research center I see every day how World War I, a global event involving millions of people from 100 years ago, stimulates and influences someone's interest and understanding of history. People are discovering their connection to this event—a relative who served in the war in some capacity—through historical, primary source material that has been preserved in their families and exploring this material to make sense of their place in history. The centennial of the war has been an impetus for this, but the Museum, as well as other World War I repositories across the United States are committed to keeping the momentum for research, exploration and understanding going well into the future.