

Three Generations of Archives, Tools, and Assignments in American Studies

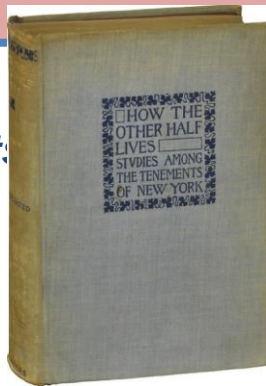
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In interdisciplinary humanities courses like “Introduction to American Studies,” digital archives have transformed the classroom, with resources from earlier generations persisting alongside—and in some cases within—newer tools like blogs and wikis. Below are three writing assignments on Jacob Riis’s *How the Other Half Lives* (1890), designed with today’s affordances in mind.

- Analyze Riis’s descriptions of various ethnic groups (Bohemian, Chinese, Italian, Jewish) in *How The Other Half Lives* (1890).
- Compare Riis’s original article with Riis’s book, OR compare Riis’s article to related articles in *Scribner's Magazine* from 1889-90.
- Discuss Riis’s photographs vis-à-vis his prose, OR analyze both in the context of other scholarship regarding his life and works.

1940-1974

Source Text
via First Editions

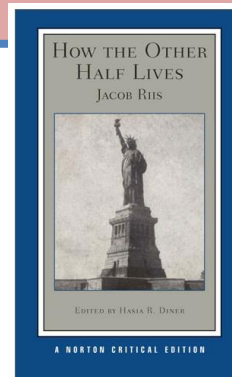


Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives: Stories Among the Tenements of New York* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1890)

- Books as Physical Objects
- Library Holdings and Special Collections
- Marginalia and Textual Criticism
- Paperback Reprints
- Author -> Publisher -> Instructor -> Student

1975-2009

Contexts
via Edited Collections



Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*, ed. Hasia R. Diner (New York: Norton, 2009)

- Editorial Introductions
- Historical Contexts
- Relevant Illustrations
- Scholarly Articles
- Editor -> Publisher -> Instructor -> Student

2010-

Intertexts
via Curated Resources



Jacob Riis, "How The Other Half Lives--Studies Among The Tenements," *Scribner's Magazine* 6.6 (December 1889): 643-663

- Primary Documents
- Reference Materials
- Museum Repositories
- Scholarly Databases
- Instructor <-> Student

