



# Tip of the Week:

Serendip  
-o-  
matic



Tip #37

November, 2015



[Check out the many exhibitions available at DPLA](#)



**Patriotic Labor: America during World War I**

[Primary source sets](#) help students develop their critical thinking skills.

## Brought to you by Librarians @ McCarthy Library

[Serendip-o-matic](#) is a specialized search engine which takes text submitted by a user and then extracts key terms that it then uses to search millions of records from libraries, museums and archives around the world. It searches the Digital Public Library of America as well as Flickr Commons. The goal of the service is not to provide a deeper level of research on a topic, but to encounter random resources that can spur creative, inspirational thinking. The Serendip-o-matic is the product of OnWeek | One Tool, an open-source software development institute sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and hosted by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University. Try it out at:

<http://serendip-o-matic.com>

Simply grab some text you'd like to search, paste the text into the large white space and click the "Make some magic!" button.

**Make some magic!**

### [Digital Public Library of America](#)

In the works since the 1990's, a national digital public library became a reality in 2010-11 when 40 leaders from libraries, foundations, academic and technology projects agreed to work together to create "an open network of comprehensive online resources that would draw on the nation's living heritage from libraries, universities, archives and museums in order to educate, inform and empower everyone in current and future generations." A search of "Napa" brings up 634 results, including this 1909 stereoscopic view of prune orchards!



The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. "The vineyards and prune orchards of the Napa Valley, Cal." *The New York Public Library Digital Collections*. 1909 . <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-3137-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99e00a18064a99>

• **McCarthy Library Reference Desk 707.256.7430**

**We hope you found this tip helpful!**

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