

Challenges in Physical Education and Sports: What May Be Learned From The Past?

KIN 375 – Dr. D. Frankl

Presentation Objectives

- achieve an understanding of the content and scope of the historical and philosophical materials to be covered in KIN 375
- develop an understanding of how historical events in general, and the history of physical education and sport in particular, are studied
- examine the process of the evaluation of the credibility of historical data
- Demonstrate the practical contributions and applications of knowledge of history and philosophy to the practitioner

What is the Study of History?



- *"Although when we use the word history we instinctively think of the past, this is an error, for history is actually a bridge connecting the past with the present, and pointing the road to the future."*



Study of History Defined

- "History is the study of change over time, and [physical education and] sport history is the study of how [physical education and] sport has changed over time" (Mechikoff & Estes, 1993, p. 2).



Image source:
womenboxingrecords.com/

The Organization of Historical Information

- There are two main categories in organizing historical information: Primary and Secondary.
- **Primary sources**--Categories of primary sources are first hand accounts and may also be either a document or relic depending on its use.



"No limit may be set to art, neither is there any craftsman that is fully master of his craft"
The Instruction of Ptahhotep

Source: <http://www.eyelid.co.uk/hiromenu.htm>

The Organization of Historical Information

- **Secondary sources** are descriptions of primary sources, such as history books, newspaper articles, written by on-the-spot observers, and historical accounts



APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

- The most critical element of historical information is the historical data. The most crucial aspect of historical data is its credibility. The sources of historical data are divided into two main categories:
 - **Primary Source**
 - **Secondary Source**

Sources of Historical Data

- **Primary Source**--archeological sites, artifacts, tools, weapons etc. . . and the written records. While language coded historical documents provide much more information than broken pottery, for example, it s a much less objective source of information.
- **Secondary Source**--history books and articles, rebuilt archeological sites, architecture and art.

Examples of Historical Sources

- **Official Records-** Royal decrees, state dept's. etc.
- **Personal records.** Especially valuable for biographies are letters, diaries, autobiographies, contracts, lecture notes, honors, diplomas, honorary degrees, and original drafts of speeches, articles, and books.

Examples of Historical Sources

- **Oral statements.** Included here are oral traditions, such as myths, family stories, superstitions, ceremonies, and the like. (At times, these are secondary sources.) Eyewitness accounts of events as told by the beholder are also pertinent. Interviews may be recorded. Speeches may be made..

Examples of Historical Sources

- **Pictorial Records.** Obvious pictorial records are photographs, movies, drawings, paintings, sculptures, and recorded creative expressions.



Examples of Historical Sources

- **Published Materials.** Are syllabuses and courses of study. Other such sources are news paper accounts, pamphlets, yearbooks, magazine stories, and journal articles.
- **Physical Remains.** Such as buildings, facilities, apparatus, equipment, awards, costumes, and various implements..

Examples of Historical Sources

- **Printed Materials.** Printed materials- are textbooks, record blanks, certificates, report cards, newspaper advertisements, and contracts.
- **Mechanical Records.** Include tape or video recordings of interviews, meetings, and speeches.



<http://www.wmich.edu/politics/mlk/dream.html>

Linkage

- The credibility, the accurateness of historical data come first then comes the *linkage*. The linkage is the method by which historical data is assembled--the series of events leading up to subject of event. The linkage consists of the chronology of past events and how they are tied in with current conditions.



Rome, Georgia, 1943
Library of Congress



LA riots, 1990
civu.com/ktla/

The Descriptive Perspective

- A "play-by-play" or chronological (A to Z) account of past events. It fails to point out the association between past and current events (as if past events took place in a vacuum that is totally detached from today's realities). This characterization of history may be the main reason for the lack of interest of our society in the value of knowledge of history. The descriptive perspective caters to the interests and needs of sports and tabloid news trivia.

Geographical approach

- The study of history by specific geographic location (e.g., Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North America. . .etc.).



Map source: <http://library.thinkquest.org/>

Topical Approach

- By class of study, i.e., art, music, dance, architecture, physical education, play & sports, medicine. . . etc.



Test Your Comprehension

- What is the most crucial aspect of historical data?
- How does the “descriptive perspective” affect our interest in the value of historical knowledge?
- How may credibility of historical data be established?
- What other approaches better point out the association between past and current events?

CHANGES IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ACROSS THE USA

- In the beginning we were called “Department of Physical Education” or Dept. of PE Recreation & Dance” and in some cases physical education was subdivided by gender.
- The dance major was usually the first to migrate to the Departments of Fine Arts or Theater. Thus, the renaming to “Physical Education and Recreation.”

PHYSICAL EDUCATION: A different breed or the same lady in a new dress?

- Next, the "Recreation" major was dropped thus leading to the title "Department of Physical Education."
- Gradually, many large programs dropped the title “Physical Education” altogether and adopted new names such as: Biomechanics, Exercise & Sport Medicine, Exercise Science, Kinesiology, Human Movement, Human Performance...

Dept. of Kinesiology Join Forces With Other Departments

- The latest trend is the joining of departments such as Nutrition and Health with KIN.
- The current title of KIN at CSLA is “Department of Kinesiology and Nutritional Science” or “KNS”

Changes in Elementary and Secondary Education

- Did the Dept. of Phys. Ed. in your former high school ever change its name? Given all the changes and advances in our discipline, should there be a name change?
- What should be the title of a physical education teacher who graduated from a kinesiology program? Discuss.

Persistent Challenges to the Value of the Body

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