Searching the Library of Congress’ Digital Collection

This is quite an extensive overall collection. Images are merely part of it as it contains, among other things, a newspaper section, a Historic Sound Recordings collection, and an oral history section. It also contains a link to the American Memory collection which we’ve also included in this guide.

While you can search the entire collection (using the basic search bar in the top right-hand side of the screen), to look for images it’s best to start with the Prints and Photographs section:
On this screen you can do a number of different things. You can search the entire collection with a keyword search, you can view the various collections that the site has, and there are a list of Featured Collections which automatically scroll by in the collections window. There is also a completely separate Civil War collection. In this case we just want to do a keyword search for Ansel Adams:
When you click on the link you are taken to a records page for a collection of Adams’ photographs of a Japanese-American interment center:

To see all the images just click on the *Group of Images* link:

Each picture can be expanded and downloaded.

Browsing one of the featured collections is also fairly easy:
The home page gives some background information on the collection, and also includes a search bar that you can use to search the specific holding. If you don’t really know what you’re looking for you can browse the collection by creator, subject, or format.
Browsing by subject:

- Abandoned farms—Oklahoma (23)
- Abandoned lumber camps—Minnesota (14)
- Abandoned paper mills—Louisiana (7)
- Abandoned plantations—Texas (5)
- Abbeville—Louisiana (22)
- Abilene—Texas (17)
- Advertising—Lancaster County—1930–1940
- Africa—Algeria—Algeria (2)
- Africa—Algeria—Oren
- Africa—Algeria
- Africa—Amhara—Araga area
- Africa—Bangui
- Africa—Central Africa (4)
- Africa—Chad
- Africa—Ethiopia—Addis Ababa
- Africa—French-speaking Equatorial Africa—Middle Congo—Bruxelles, Brussels
- Africa—French-speaking Equatorial Africa—Middle Congo—Brazzaville, Brazzaville
- Africa—French-speaking Equatorial Africa—Middle Congo—Bumba, Bumba
- Africa—French-speaking Equatorial Africa—Middle Congo—Lubumbashi, Lubumbashi
- Africa—French-speaking Equatorial Africa—Middle Congo
- Africa—Ghana
- Africa—Ivory Coast
- Africa—Libya—Tripoli
- Africa—Morocco—Fez
- Africa—Morocco
- Africa—North Africa (43)
- Africa—Tunisia—Bejaia