**Name(s) and affiliation(s) of the instructor(s) who developed the assignment:** Alison Patterson, PhD and Dana Och, PhD, University of Pittsburgh

**Course title and level the assignment was used in:** Introduction to Film, general education requirement and low-level course in the major

**Description of the assignment in 1-2 sentences:** Students are asked to use the MHDL not to search but to scan and read articles and advertisements around the production and release of a target film (in this case, *Golddiggers of 1933*).

**Learning goal(s) of the assignment in 1-2 sentences:** Students will begin to perceive the industrial, technological, and social conditions that provide opportunities and constraints for production, distribution, exhibition and reception of a film.  The assignment is especially helpful for novice film students, encouraging them to see film in general and one film in particular as being historically contingent and ideological.

**Assignment Text:**

During the year of 1933, the Great Depression was happening and impacted the subject of films because a good number of films took on the role of promoting American values to the citizens of the country, who were all going through hard times.

Perform a media scan to begin to comprehend the industrial, technological and social conditions surrounding the production, distribution, exhibition and reception of *Gold Diggers of 1933*.

We’re not interested right now in searching, but in attempting to understand the world of those films for a moment via the [Media History Digital Library (Links to an external site.)](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flantern.mediahist.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7Calp30%40pitt.edu%7C0c8bb426bb724e1d90e108d8356d477e%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637318090747556507&sdata=fUGeP7LiqfMBryGHK2b9H7ccqAPvsL4CulL%2BUurgJ3Q%3D&reserved=0)

Prepare a brief text and image answer to one of the following questions regarding 1933.  Be sure to provide citations.

1. What are some of the opportunities, and some of the constraints, on the cinema?  (Within *this* question you may FOCUS on one of the following. You do NOT need to answer all bullets!)

* Social pressures on production - what do audiences seem to want?
* Industrial pressures/industrialization emerging in that period? Who seems to make movies, and how?
* Technological constraints or opportunities. What are some of the limits encountered?
* Distribution. How are movies circulated? Who profits from that circulation?
* Exhibition. Where are movies shown, to whom, and under what conditions? How can you tell?

2. How does the film indicate its relationship to its social context or mode of production, distribution, or exhibition?

3. How do people TALK about, WRITE about, THINK about going to the movies?