

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

LATIN AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA



By

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Are you researching your Latin American ancestry? Are you curious about Cesar Chavez or the Delano Grape Strike? Maybe you're writing a paper on early California history and the role of the Californios. Regardless of your interests, you can explore the extensive history of Latin Americans in California via the [California History Section's](#) rich collections!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to California's Latin Americans!



[Digitized Images](#)

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to California's Latin Americans. You can see them on Calisphere!

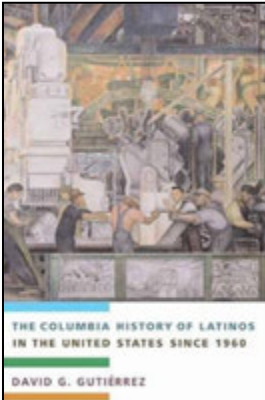


URL: <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/>

Type in Subject Box: Latin OR Mexican OR Hispanic

BOOKS

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! These works provide overviews of Latin American history in California as well as period-specific information.

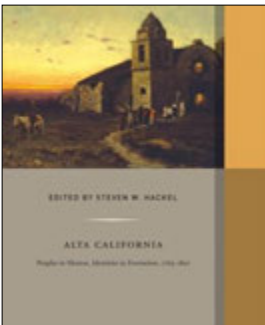


Gutiérrez, David. (2004). [The Columbia history of Latinos in the United States since 1960](#). New York: Columbia University Press.

A look at national Latin American culture, labor, voting and even immigration patterns, this anthology provides a good introduction to the diversity of Latin American culture both in California and in the wider United States.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001231143



Hackel, S. (2010). [Alta California](#). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Tracing the history of California from 1769-1850, this collection of essays looks at identity formation in colonial California.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001427010



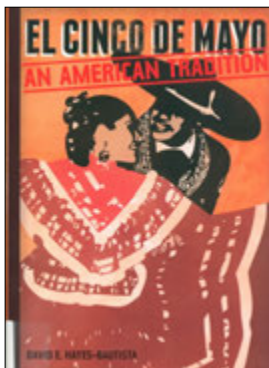
Chavez-Garcia, M. (2004). [Negotiating conquest](#). Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

A sensitive handling of issues of race, class and gender, this work discusses the role of Californio women from the 1770's through to the 1880's.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001236957

BOOKS

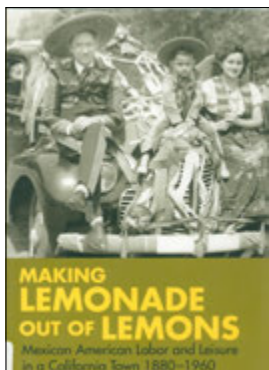


Hayes-Bautista, D. (2012). [El Cinco de Mayo](#). Berkeley: University of California Press.

Relying on a wide variety of demographic resources, this book tracks the development of Cinco de Mayo as a holiday unique to the United States from the 1860's to the present.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001625016

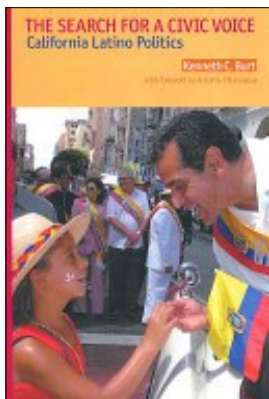


Alamillo, J. (2006). [Making lemonade out of lemons](#). Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Employing oral histories, newspapers and other primary sources, this book examines the link between leisure and unionization amongst Mexican American agricultural workers.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001306189



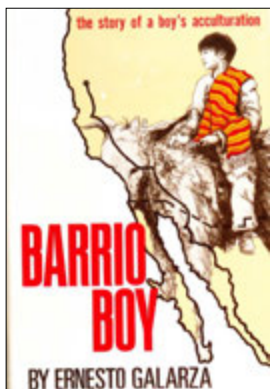
Burt, Villaraigosa, & Antonio Villaraigosa. (2007). [The search for a civic voice](#). Claremont: Regina Books.

Tracking the development of Latin American political activism and influence from the 1930's forward, this book touches on organizations of both political and social importance such as the UFW and CSO.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001295852

BOOKS

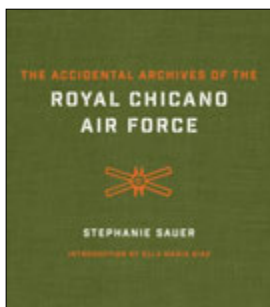


Galarza, E. (1971). [Barrio boy](#). Notre Dame [Ind.]: University of Notre Dame Press.

This is a vivid autobiography that takes the reader on a journey from the humble setting of a small Mexican village to California's capital, Sacramento. Here, Ernesto Galarza would discover his passions through perseverance.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000530173

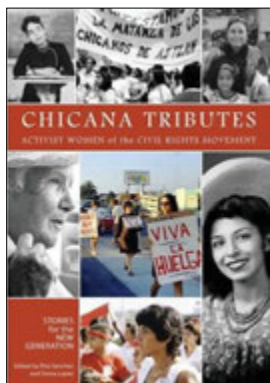


Sauer, S., & Diaz, E. (2016). [The accidental archives of the Royal Chicano Air Force](#) Austin : University of Texas Press

The most complete collection of Royal Chicano Air Force materials in print, this book chronicles how a little-recognized group of Sacramento Chicanos turned art into a protest against racial and ethnic injustice. In keeping with the RCAF's self-perception, the book has a mythical, almost spiritual, take on what it means to be a Chicana@.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001567913



Sanchez, R., & Lopez, S. (2017). [Chicana tributes](#). San Diego: Montezuma Pub.

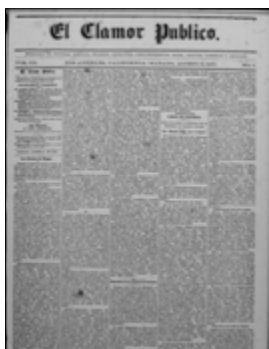
A collection of stories from inspiring Chicana women who found prominent roles in their communities after being denied a platform from their male counterparts. Individually or collectively, these women slowly began to blaze their own path towards empowering Chicanas.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001627002

PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS

Want real-time accounts of Latin-Californian history? At our library, you can read newspapers and periodicals documenting California history from a Latin American point of view!



[El Clamor público.](#)

A Spanish language newspaper from 1850's Los Angeles, this paper covers events of interest to the 19th century Californio community in Southern California.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001000492

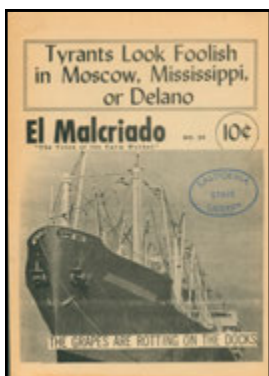


[Cronica](#)

A Spanish language newspaper covering the late 1920's and early 1930's, this resource has information of interest to those researching Latin-American life in the Imperial valley during the pre-war era.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001306772



[El Malcriado](#)

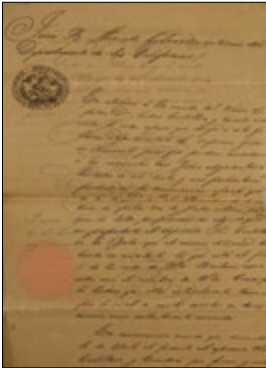
A bilingual periodical aimed at the farmworker community, this magazine from the 1960's and 1970's focuses on workers' rights and strikes, including the Delano grape strike and general other issues.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001247422 OR [SYS%3D000142111](http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000142111)

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

In addition to periodicals, we have manuscript collections that focus specifically on Latin American history. Here are some selected collections at the State Library.

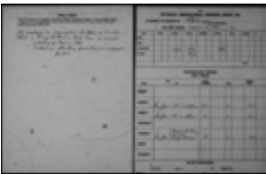


[Spanish and Mexican Materials](#)

While only a small sample of our collections from 1780-1850, this assortment of letters and papers highlights many early Californios including Mariano Vallejo, Andres Pico and others.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D001399160



[Ernesto Galarza Papers](#)

A microfilm copy of a large labor collection at Stanford, this manuscript collection documents Galarza's work in the National Agricultural Workers Union, both in California and the rest of the U.S. from the 1920's through the 1970's.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000963087



[Centro de Acción Social Autónomo Records](#)

A microfilmed copy of a collection from Stanford, these records document CASA's work on immigration reform and Latino political organization during the 1960's.



URL: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=SYS%3D000968344

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our books, articles, and manuscripts on Latin Americans



[Catalog](#)

If you are looking for [images](#), [books](#) and [articles](#) on Latin Americans, your best source is our [catalog](#).



URL: <http://catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=find-b-0>

Type in Subject Box: ((Hispanic* OR Chicano* OR (Spanish AND Cali*)) OR ((Latin* OR Mexican*) AND American*)

Limit: By place



[California Information File II](#)

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II. In this resource, you can find catalog records on individual articles, pamphlets and more.

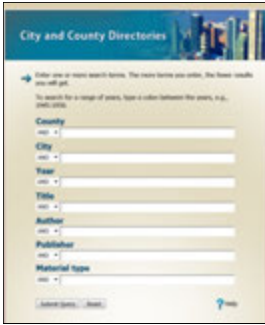


URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Subject Box: ((Hispanic OR Chicano OR Latino OR (Spanish AND California)) OR ((Latin OR Mexican) AND Americans)

For a narrower search: Add a place to your keyword search

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "City and County Directories". It includes a search box and several dropdown menus for "County", "City", "Year", "Title", "Author", and "Publisher". There is also a "Material type" dropdown. A "Search" button is at the bottom right.

City Directories

Looking for a person? You can trace this information via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Location



The screenshot shows a search interface titled "Telephone Directories". It includes a search box and dropdown menus for "Location-White Pages", "Location-Yellow Pages", "Year", and "Material type". There is also a "Request items at the Information Desk" button. A "Search" button is at the bottom right.

Telephone Books

Are you not finding what you need in our city directory collection? No worries, you might find it in our telephone book collection. See what we have by checking our phone book database.



URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Location

SUBJECT-SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

California's Latin Americans contribute in a myriad of ways to this state. While these catalog links barely scrape the surface of this history, they provide a good overview.



By Type:

- [Books](#)
- [Images](#)
- [Manuscripts](#)
- [Maps](#)
- [Microfilms](#)
- [Newspaper Indexes](#)
- [Newspapers](#)
- [Periodicals](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Vital Records](#)

By Subject:

- [Agriculture](#)
- [Art and Music](#)
- [Baseball](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Fiction](#)
- [Folklore](#)
- [General Government](#)
- [Immigration](#)
- [Land and Legal](#)
- [Legislature](#)
- [Mexican War](#)
- [Mining](#)
- [Poetry](#)

- [Pre-Statehood](#)
- [Railroads](#)
- [Religion](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Wine](#)
- [Women](#)

COUNTY-SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Researching Latin American history in a specific region? While these catalog links don't list all that the California History Section has, they are a good starting point.



ON-SITE RESEARCH RESOURCES

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.



California Information File

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California articles, books, and manuscript collections related to individuals active in California.



Subject Headings:

- Individuals by name
- Mexicans in California
- Chileans in California
- Latin Americans in California
- Spanish California



Photographic File

Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection, search our picture file.



Subject Headings:

- Portraits: Individuals by Name
- Mexicans in California
- Chileans in California
- Latin Americans in California

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about any information related to Latin Americans in the following files:



Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including Latin Americans. You can check them for information on organizations, event pamphlets and more.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians.



Postcard Files

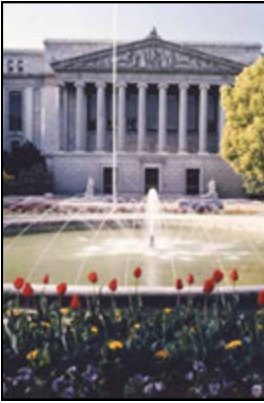
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images of Latin Americans. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Check with librarians

OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Of course the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations



Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)
[Witkin Law Library](#)
[Sutro Library](#)
[General Information](#)



URLs:

- <http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/law/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/services>



Other Government Agencies

[California State Archives](#)
[California Museum](#)
[California State Parks](#)

Local California libraries or archives



URLs:

- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>
- <http://www.californiamuseum.org/>
- <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>



Other Organizations

[Museum of Latin American Art](#)
[The Mexican Museum](#)
[Hispanic Society of America](#)



URLs:

- <https://molaa.org/>
- <https://www.mexicanmuseum.org/>
- <http://hispanicsociety.org/>



CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

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This guide is also available online at:
<http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/>