Genealogy at the California State Library

California History Section

California State Library
California History Section
916-654-0176
cslcal@library.ca.gov
California State Library

• In operation since 1850
• One of the premiere collections of Far West material
• Mandate to collect anything to do with California
• Serves everyone
2 cities, 4 buildings, 6 sections

- 6 sections
  - Witkin Law Library
  - Government Publications
  - Information Services
  - Braille and Talking Book Library
  - California History Section
  - Sutro Library
Sections for Genealogy Work

- Sutro Library
  - General Genealogy
- California History Section
  - California Genealogy
- Other sections also have scattered information
Research on California Genealogy: How we can help

General References (across California)
Specialized Groups
Varied Coverage
Other Resources
Visiting
General References

Unique Indexes
Newspapers
Directories
Local Histories
Maps
Specialized collections
Unique Indexes


- California Information File {see reference desk for subject headings}
- San Francisco Newspaper index
- Photo card file {lots of portraits}
- Historical and genealogical society indexes {see reference desk}
Vital Records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm
Short cut: http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/genealogy/county-indexes/

- Birth, Death, Marriage and Divorce Indexes
- Church registers {Subject Search}
  - Catholic Church records, Sacramento (1850-1998)
  - Episcopal Church. Northern California Diocese (1849-1957)
- Inquests {Subject Search=Coroners Sources}
  - Marin (1857-1910)
  - Sacramento (1855-1861)
- Other Records {Subject search=Births etc indexes}
  - An Index of births, marriages and deaths appearing in the Sacramento Bee (1857-1905).
Newspapers

Main Catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=file&amp=&file_name=calif-newspapers
Databases: http://www.library.ca.gov/services/online-resources.html

- Premiere collection of California newspapers
- At least one paper for each county
- Some indexed
  - Sacramento Bee
  - San Francisco Newspapers
  - Fresno Bee
Directories

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/
City: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm
Telephone: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm

• Extensive collection of city directories {mostly Polk}
  • Earliest 1850
• An equally extensive collection of phone books
  • Earliest 1878
• Some business directories
  • Business California Directories {Subject Search}
Local histories

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/

- Location County History {Subject Search}
- County histories for every county
  - ie: History of Sacramento County, California: with biographical sketches...
    By William Willis.
- Publications by numerous local historical societies
Maps

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Location Maps {Subject Search}
- Sanborn Maps
  - Insurance maps Sacramento, California., (1915-1952)
- Other map types
  - Thomas Bros. block book of Sacramento (1938 and 1940)
- Other map types
  - Plats, Tablings etc
Specialized collections

NDGW Index: http://www.cagenweb.com/cpl/mainindex.html
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

• Custodial collections
  • NDGW Pioneer Index
    • Searchable by name
  • DAR Pioneer and chapter records

• State Library Collections
  • Biography and pioneer cards
  • Bio info files
    • Partially searchable by name
Specific groups

Soldiers
Immigration
Minority groups
Soldier resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- War Registers {Subject Search}
  - World War I soldier’s collection
  - Contact (1942)—Hemet Air Force Base Directory
  - Official, a list and description of deserters from the United States Army (1846)
  - Records of California men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1867 (Orton).
Immigration resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Aliens {Subject Search}
  - Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service--Mexican immigration (1906-1930)
- Immigration OR Naturalization {Subject Search}
  - Ship passenger lists [1893-1957]
  - Court naturalization indexes [1852-1928]
- Pioneers California {Subject Search}
  - Index to the Argonauts of California (Spinazze)
  - California wagon train lists (Rasmussen)
  - Zamorano index to History of California (Zamorano)
Native American resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Indians California Sources (Subject Search)
  - Register of students (Sherman Institute)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (Author Search)
  - Census of California Indians (1928)
  - United States, Bureau of Indian Affairs records
- California Indian Library Collections Project (Publisher Search)
- References in the CIF (original card file)
Chinese American resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

• Chinese immigration (Subject search)
  • Lists of Chinese passengers arriving at San Francisco, (1882-1914)
  • Katharine R. Maurer Collection
• References in the CIF (original card file)
• Individual collections
Japanese Americans

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (Keyword Search)
  - Oral Histories

- Japanese Americans California History (Subject Search)
  - Catholic church Sacramento, Japanese Records (1932-1945)

- References in the CIF (original card file)
African Americans

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext.html/QueryCalinfo.htm

• African Americans (Subject search)
  • Periodicals
    • Pacific Appeal [1862-1873]
    • Black Panther [1968-1980]
  • Biographical histories and directories
    • Who’s Who directories (1948)
• References in the CIF (original card file)
Latin Americans

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Hispanic* OR Chicano* OR Latino OR Mexican American (Subject search)
  - Periodicals
    - El Clamor público [1855-1859]
    - Voz fronteriza.[1977-1985]
    - El Malcriado [1965-1974]
  - Biographical histories and directories
    - Undaunted courage : Mexican American patriots of World War II --Latino Advocates for Education, Inc.
  - References in the CIF (Original card file)
Varied Coverage

Land and legal records
Criminals and Indigents
School Records
Hospital
Misc. Vital Records
Misc. Manuscript Collections
Specialized Periodicals
Land and Legal records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm
Also: http://www.library.ca.gov/Content/StateTemplate/pdf/californiaHistory/California_land_grants_research_guide.pdf

• US Land office records, Sacramento 1858-1908
• (Court records) OR (Legal Documents) {Subject Search}
  • San Francisco Superior Court Cases, 1905-1922
  • Tuolumne County 1865-1879
• (Deeds) OR (Land Titles) OR (Land Grants) {Subject Search}
  • El Dorado County 1873-1930
  • Partial Sacramento (focus on Sutter) 1849-1886
Criminals and Indigents

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- San Francisco Mug Books (1895-1914 and 1922-1928)
- Record book of convicts sent to Folsom and San Quentin prisons, (1899-1905)
- Indigent records in Sonoma County California (1878-1926)
- Sacramento County burial grounds (1927-1957)
School Records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- College Periodicals
  {Subject Search}
  - Junior college magazines
    (Modesto junior college)
  - Private college magazines
    (St. Mary’s etc.)
  - Subject specific magazines
    (UC Berkeley football)

- School Yearbooks
  {Subject Search}
  - Junior High yearbooks
  - High school yearbooks
  - College yearbooks
Hospital records
Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

• Asylums/Sanatoriums/Hospitals (Subject Searches)
  • Agnews Asylum (1859-1978)
  • Arequipa Sanatorium scrapbook (1910-1986)
  • Deaths and burials at Weimar Sanatorium
Other Resources

Specialized Periodicals
Misc. Manuscript Collections
Online Resources
Specialized periodicals
CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Have over 3500 periodicals
  - California Highway Patrol magazine
  - Company magazines
  - Trade publications
  - Genealogy and Historical Society Publications
- Largely un-indexed, search by date and CIF
- Ask at desk if there is a paper index
Misc. Manuscript Collections
Online Archive of California: www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/California+State+Library

• Family Records
  • Online Archive of California {Search by family name}
  • George R. Dorman Collection

• Company Records
  • Online Archive of California {Search Employee}
Check Our Online References

• Our Databases:
  • Catalog: http://catalog.library.ca.gov/
  • California Information File II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCal info.htm
  • City Directories: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm
  • Phone Books: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm
• Research Guides:
  • See all: http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/
• Not ours but still useful
  • Land Records: https://www.glorecords.blm.gov/search/
  • Digitized Newspapers: https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc
  • Online Archive of California: http://oac.cdlib.org/
  • WorldCat: http://www.worldcat.org/
Visiting

Preparation
Contact Information
Transit Information
Before you come in

- Consult our online resources
  - CIF II
  - OAC
  - Library catalog
- Pack some research tools
  - ID
  - Flash Drive
  - Camera
  - Quarters for parking etc.
  - Your notes/notebook
  - Preliminary list of what you want to see
Contact Us

- 9:30-4 Monday-Friday--Excluding state holidays
- 900 N Street Sacramento (2nd floor)
- (916) 654-0176 to reach California History
- cslcal@library.ca.gov
Getting to the Library

- The Capitol Corridor train will drop you off about a mile from the library
- Light Rail stop: “8th and O” or “Archives Plaza” (Blue and Gold lines)
- Parking: Street parking or area garages (arrive before 9 for early-bird deals)
Review

General References
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Visiting