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The natural beauty of Humboldt County's stunning coastline and lush redwoods does more than just garner fame (and visitors); Mother Nature is also a major source of commerce for the area. The county, which currently has a population of over 135,000, is a top producer of timber in California, and the fishing industry is a major part of its economy. It is also home to Humboldt State University in Arcata, which brings students from around the world to this mostly rural part of Northern California. Learn all about Humboldt County, past and present, in this California History Section research guide.

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Enjoy your Research.
Can’t come to the library just yet? No worries. There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Humboldt County.

**Digitized Publications**

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile publications. You can now see documents related to Humboldt County on Internet Archive.

**URL:** https://archive.org/

**Type in Search Box:** (Humboldt County) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

**Select Option:** “Search Full Text of Books”

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**Digitized Images**

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to Humboldt County. You can see them on Calisphere.

**URL:** https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/

**Type in Search Box:** (“Humboldt County”)
California State Association of Counties

Like Wikipedia but locally grown, this government website will provide basic information about Humboldt County.

**URL:** http://www.counties.org/county-websites-profile-information

County Website

Want to learn about what Humboldt County residents have to say for themselves? Check out the county government’s website.

**URL:** https://humboldtgov.org/
GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

Not finding what you need online? We have additional materials available that cannot be accessed digitally. You can use the following resources to learn about our resources.

Catalog

If you are looking for Humboldt County materials, your best source is our catalog. You can do a general search on the catalog but also be sure to check out our specialized resources on page 8 of this research guide.

URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?
vid=01CSL_INV:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank
Type in Subject Box: (Humboldt County)

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, successor to the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find indexing to individual articles, as well as Humboldt County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

URL: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/cainfoii
Type in Search Box:
1. Humboldt
2. Name of a city in Humboldt County
City Directories

Looking for a person? How about the history of a location? You can trace this information and more via our city directories. See what we have by checking our specialized database.

URL: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/citycounty

Type in Search Box:
1. Humboldt
2. Name of a city in Humboldt County

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: https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/phone

Type in Search Box:
1. Humboldt
2. Name of a city in Humboldt County
Humboldt County has a long and distinguished history. Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this county’s complex past.

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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 from all 58 counties.

Subject Headings: Humboldt County

**Map File**

Looking for a Humboldt County map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborn fire insurance maps. Some of our maps cover settlement patterns and even natural history.

Subject Headings: Counties: Humboldt

**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 card catalog.

Subject Headings: Counties: Humboldt
Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Humboldt County information contained in the following resources.

**Vertical Files**

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including individual counties. You can check them for pamphlets, certificates and even posters related to organizations, individuals, and area histories.

Subject Headings: Counties: Humboldt

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**Postcard Files**

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Humboldt County. Most are not online.

Subject Headings: Humboldt County
Can’t find what you need in our collection? You may want to contact the following organizations.

Other California State Library Sections

**Government Publications Section**
**Witkin Law Library**
**Sutro Library**
**General Information**

- [http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/](http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/)
- [http://www.library.ca.gov/law/](http://www.library.ca.gov/law/)
- [http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/](http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/)
- [https://www.library.ca.gov/services](https://www.library.ca.gov/services/

Other Organizations

**Humboldt County Public Library**
**Humboldt County Historical Society**
**Redwood Genealogy Society**
**Eureka Heritage Society**
**County Clerk-Recorder**

- [https://humboldtgov.org/1346/Public-Library](https://humboldtgov.org/1346/Public-Library)
- [https://www.humboldthistory.org/](https://www.humboldthistory.org/)
- [http://redwoodresearcher.com/](http://redwoodresearcher.com/)
- [http://eurekaheritage.com/](http://eurekaheritage.com/)
- [https://humboldtgov.org/244/Clerk-Recorder](https://humboldtgov.org/244/Clerk-Recorder)
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
Sacramento CA 95814

Phone: (916) 654-0176
E-mail: cslcal@library.ca.gov
Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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