RESEARCH GUIDES

IMAGES OF CALIFORNIA

VISIT US
California History Room
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
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Are you looking for images of California? How about the works of a famous California painter or photographer? Explore the history of this State via art and images California History Section's rich collections of photographs, prints, letter sheets and more!

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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 dedicated to California imagery!

Digitized Images

We have scanned and digitized a portion of the images in our collection and placed them on Calisphere! Check them out and remember that we have a lot more in the catalog and in the library.

URL: https://calisphere.org/institution/51/collections/

Online Exhibits

The exhibits at the State Library often use a large number of photos from the collection. You can see a portion of these by checking out our online exhibits!

URL: http://www.library.ca.gov/collections/online-exhibits/
Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! If you are interested in California imagery, either via photography or other mediums these items will help.


Interested in learning more about the person who created that daguerreotype or stereograph. This book provides biographical information about 19th century photographers.

URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank
Search by: Title and/or author


Did one of our paintings catch your eye? Curious about the life of a local artist? This book provides biographies of artists other than photographers.

URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank
Search by: Title and/or author
CATALOG GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

Not only are our materials on special image-focused websites, they are also available in our catalogs! You can use the following resources to learn about what types of images we have.

**Catalog**

If you’re looking for images kept at the California State Library, your best source is our catalog.

**URL:** https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?
vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank

**Type in Search Box:** Desired keyword

**California Information File II**

Sometimes there are also images listed in the California Information File II a continuation of the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find postcards, prints and more!

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

**Type in Search Box:** Desired keyword
Curious about images of a specific county? While these links don’t list all of what the California History Section has, they are a good starting point for photos and photo albums.
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.

Picture File
Not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our analog picture file.

Subject Headings:
1. Organized by name, location and subject
2. Check with librarians

Art & Reproduction File
Curious about the artwork kept at the State Library? Check our analog Art & Reproduction file! It contains references to many images not listed in our online catalog.

Subject Headings:
1. Check with librarians

Prints File
Some of our finer images, especially of early California are prints. Check for items not online using our in-house file!

Subject Headings:
1. Check with librarians
Letter Sheet File

Our collections include a number of letters on highly illustrated stationary depicting scenes of early California. We keep track of what we have in our letter sheet file.

Subject Headings:
1. Check with librarians

Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of real photo and photomechanical images from the late 19th century onward. Most are not online.

Subject Headings: Check with librarians
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

**Bancroft Library**  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720

(510) 642-3781  
bancref@library.berkeley.edu  
http://bancroft.berkeley.edu

**California Historical Society**  
678 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 357-1848, ext. 220  
reference@calhist.org  
http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org

**California State Railroad Museum Library**  
113 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 323-8073  
rrmuseumlibrary@parks.ca.gov  
http://www.csrmf.org
OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Photo Archives
The Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108

(626) 405-2191
libraryinfo@huntington.org
http://www.huntington.org

Los Angeles Public Library
Historic Photograph Collection
630 W. Fifth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071-2097

(213) 228-7274
http://photos.lapl.org

National Maritime Museum Library
Fort Mason Center, Bldg. E
San Francisco, CA 94123

(415) 561-7030
https://www.nps.gov/safr/learn/historyculture/research-center.htm
OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Oakland Museum History Department
1000 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 238-3842
http://collections.museumca.org

Center for Sacramento History
551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95811-0229
(916) 264-7072, by appt. only
csh@cityofsacramento.org
http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org

San Diego Historical Society
Photograph Collection
1649 El Prado, Suite 3
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 232-6203, ext. 164
https://www.sandiegohistory.org
OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

San Francisco Room and Archives, 6th Fl.
San Francisco Main Library, Civic Center
100 Larkin Street,
San Francisco, CA 94102

(415) 557-4567
https://sfpl.org/?pg=0200002501

Seaver Center for Western History Research
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90007-4057

(213) 763-3359
http://www.nhm.org/site/research-collections/seaver-center

UC Davis Shields Library Special Collections
100 N.W. Quad
Davis, CA 95616-5292

(530) 752-1621
speccoll@ucdavis.edu
http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/specol
OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

UC Riverside / Calif. Museum of Photography
3824 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501
(909) 787-3686
https://artsblock.ucr.edu/Page/research

Map & Imagery Laboratory
Davidson Library
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010
(805) 893-2779
milrefdesk@library.ucsb.edu
https://www.library.ucsb.edu/mil

Regional History Center
Doheny Memorial Library, Room 206
USC Libraries
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0189
(213) 821-2366
specol@usc.edu
https://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
OTHER PLACES TO LOOK

Wells Fargo History Services
420 Montgomery Street (A0101-026)
San Francisco, CA 94163

(415) 396-4157, by appt. only
historicalservices@wellsfargo.com
http://www.wellsfargohistory.com/