RESEARCH GUIDES

IMPERIAL COUNTY HISTORY

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
California's newest county, Imperial County, was formed in 1907 and boasted a population of 189,468 people as of 2018. This county, which is located in the southeastern part of the state, lies along the U.S. border with Mexico. Imperial has a rich agricultural heritage, producing an abundance of winter vegetables, and offers outdoor recreational sites, including Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area and the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. For history seekers, the Imperial Valley Desert Museum houses Native American and historical artifacts found in the Imperial Valley. If you are looking for local history resources in the California History Section's rich collections, then check out what we have for this county.

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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 Imperial County.

**Digitized Publications**

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

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

**Type in Search Box**: (Imperial 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 Imperial County. You can see them on Calisphere.

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

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

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

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

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**County Website**

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

**URL:** https://imperialcounty.org/
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 Imperial 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_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank

**Type in Subject Box:** (Imperial 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 Imperial County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

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

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

**City Directories**

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

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

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.

**Telephone Books**

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

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Imperial
2. Name of a city in Imperial County
Specific Resources in Our Catalog

Imperial 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.
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:* Imperial County

**Map File**
Looking for a Imperial 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: Imperial

**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: Imperial
Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Imperial 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: Imperial

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**Postcard Files**

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

**Subject Headings:** Imperial 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/law/
http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/
https://www.library.ca.gov/services

Other Organizations

El Centro Public Library
Imperial County Free Library
Imperial Valley Desert Museum
Southern California Genealogical Society
County Clerk Recorder

http://www.cityofelcentro.org/library/
https://www.co.imperial.ca.us/Library/
http://www.ivdesertmuseum.org/
http://www.scgsgenealogy.com/
https://recorder.imperialcounty.org/