RESEARCH GUIDES

MODOC COUNTY HISTORY

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
Modoc is one of the least occupied counties in California, with a population of less than 10,000 and only one incorporated city, the county seat of Alturas. What it is lacking in citizens it makes up for in nature, with a host of wildlife refuges, fishing spots and birdwatching areas among its numerous lake and mountain regions. Modoc’s past is worth looking into, as well. It takes its name from the Modoc Tribe and has a deep and extensive Native American history. It is also home to significant monuments and ghost towns dating back to its gold rush days. If you were unaware of what Modoc County has to offer, or are considering a trip to check it out, take a look at this research guide to learn more!

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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 Modoc County.

**Digitized Publications**

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

**URL**: [https://archive.org/](https://archive.org/)

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

**URL**: [https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/](https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/)

**Type in Search Box**: (“Modoc County”)
California State Association of Counties  
Like Wikipedia but locally grown, this government website will provide basic information about Modoc County.  

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

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

**URL:** www.co.modoc.ca.us/
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 Modoc 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:** (Modoc County)

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**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 Modoc County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more.

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

**Type in Search Box:**

1. Modoc
2. Name of a city in Modoc County
General Research Tips

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. Modoc
2. Name of a city in Modoc 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. Modoc
2. Name of a city in Modoc County
Modoc 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.

**Type**

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# Specific Resources in Our Catalog

[Image of a map of California highlighting Modoc County]
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:** Modoc County

### Map File

Looking for a Modoc 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: Modoc

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

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**Postcard Files**

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

**Subject Headings:** Modoc County
Other Places to Look

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

Modoc County Library
Modoc County Historical Museum
Central Modoc River Center
City of Alturas

https://modoccountylibrary.org/
https://sierranevadageotourism.org/entries/modoc-county-historical-museum/acce18f1-aa59-4839-9f52-5e71030841a1
http://www.centralmodocrivercenter.org/
http://www.cityofalturas.us/