RESEARCH GUIDES

1960’s in California

VISIT US
California History Room
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
Are you curious about the social changes that took place during the sixties? How about its art? Were you a flower child? Explore one of California’s more tumultuous decades via the California History Section’s rich collections of art, ephemera, photographs and papers!

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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 related to the sixties in California!

Digitized Images

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our photography collection, including images related taken during the 1960’s. You can see them on Calisphere! Check them out and remember that we have a lot more in the library.

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

Narrow by: 1960’s
GENERAL REFERENCES

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! If you are interested in sixties art, protests, civil rights movements or wartime debates, these items will help.


An exhibition catalog, this is a thorough, highly visual overview of the sixties art, culture and dress.

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

Search by: Title and/or author


This essay series covers the Vietnam War’s effects on 1960’s California culture discussing anti-war and civil rights protests, military veterans, refugees and more.

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

Search by: Title and/or author

Si se puede! This biography of Cesar Chavez, not only chronicles the rise of sixties farmworker protest movements but links them to other social trends from the era.

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


This book chronicles the many forms of African American civil rights protests both in America and the rest of the world and how they led to social upheaval in 1960’s Los Angeles.

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

Want first person accounts of this tumultuous period? Consider consulting our periodicals! Here are some promising titles.


A first-hand account of the struggle for civil rights in Oakland, this publication details both the political activities of the Black Panthers and the cultural milieu from which this group emerged.

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


A first-hand account of the struggle for farmworkers’ rights, this periodical includes articles on union activities like the grape strike.

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


One of the finest examples of psychedelic art and writing, this underground periodical provides a first-hand visual guide to the sixties art scene in San Francisco.

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

Want to see this era with your own eyes? These mostly hidden collections are treasure troves of images from the sixties.


This photo album contains a wide variety of images from 1969 and 1970 San Francisco. In it, you can see People’s Park, a portrait of General Waste More Land and more.

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


What was Los Angeles like during the 60’s? Find out by viewing this album with photos of anti-war protesters, ordinary people and the Watts region.

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

60’s Poster Collection. California State Library, California History Section.

Want to see band posters? We have a fantastic collection, including a number of poster produced by Bill Graham and Family Dog! Check in our broadside file for more information.

Subject Headings:
1. Broadsides: Producer name
2. Broadsides: Poster title
Sixties Manuscripts

Very few records beat personal papers. View sixties protest correspondence, pamphlets and more in these collections.


Want to see fliers, pamphlets and campaign literature produced by the Black Panther Party? This collection contains these items and more!

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


A Haight-Ashbury theatre group turned publishing company, this collection contains publications, photos and posters associated with the Diggers.

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


The papers of two Bay Area activists, this collection focuses on anti-war and social justice movements in Berkeley.

URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank
Search by: Title
While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our books, articles, and manuscripts on the sixties.

**Catalog**

If you’re looking for books and articles on the sixties, your best source is our catalog.

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

**Type in Subject Box:** ((hippie*) OR (Counterculture) OR (Politic*) OR (Protest*) OR (“Civil rights”) OR (Vietnam*)) NOT (Sinclair) NOT (Hoover)

**Limit:** By desired material type

**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; a continuation of the analog California Information File. In this resource, you can find information about sixties ephemera and more!

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

**Type in Subject Box:** ((nineteen sixt*) OR (196*)) AND ((hippie*) OR (Counterculture) OR (Politic*) OR (Protest*) OR (“Civil rights”) OR (Vietnam*))

**For a narrower search:** Add a place to your keyword search
Curious about sixties politics and protests in a specific county? While these catalog links don’t list all of what the California History Section has, they are a good starting point.

Alameda
Alpine
Amador
Butte
Colusa
Contra Costa
Fresno
Glenn
Kern
Kings
Los Angeles
Merced
Monterey
Orange
Placer
Riverside
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Francisco
San Joaquin
San Luis Obispo
San Mateo
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
Sierra
Siskiyou
Tulare
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 including ones from the sixties.

Subject Headings:
1. Civil Rights
2. Race Problems
3. Riots: (Location)
4. Strikes
5. Universities and Colleges: University of California: Berkeley
6. War: Vietnam

Picture 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.

Subject Headings:
1. Strikes
2. Protests
3. Location
Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about any information related to the sixties contained in the following files.

Vertical Files
Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of sixties social and political movements. You can check them for information on organizations that were active in sixties movements.

Subject Headings: Check with librarians.

Postcard Files
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images from the sixties. Most are not online.

Subject Headings: Check with librarians
Other Places to look

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:

- [Government Publications Section](http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/)
- [Witkin Law Library](http://www.library.ca.gov/law/)
- [Sutro Library](http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/)
- [General Information](http://www.library.ca.gov/services/)
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:
http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/