

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

# RESEARCH GUIDES

EL DORADO COUNTY HISTORY



[VISIT US](#)

*California History Section*

*900 N Street Room 200*

*9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Organized in 1850, El Dorado County had an estimated population of 190,678 people as of 2018. Typically known for its Gold Rush history, this region is not only home to Coloma, the Mother Lode gold discovery site, but also to the only surviving Pony express stable in California, and one of California's most prominent trans-Sierra passes. It also claims partial jurisdiction over Lake Tahoe, and boasts a number of different historical societies and historic preservation organizations. If you are looking for exciting local history resources in the [California History Section's](#) rich collections, then check out what we have for this county!

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <a href="#">Digitized Resources</a> .....               | 4  |
| <a href="#">General Research Tips</a> .....             | 6  |
| <a href="#">Specific Resources in our Catalog</a> ..... | 8  |
| <a href="#">On-site Research Resources</a> .....        | 9  |
| <a href="#">Other On-site Resources</a> .....           | 10 |
| <a href="#">Other Places to Look</a> .....              | 11 |

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 El Dorado County!

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### [Digitized Publications](#)

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



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

**Type in Search Box:** (El Dorado) 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 El Dorado County. You can see them on Calisphere!



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

**Type in Search Box:** ("El Dorado County")

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## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

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### [California State Association of Counties](#)

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



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



### [County Website](#)

Want to learn about what El Dorado County residents have to say for themselves? Check out the county government's website!



**URL:** <https://www.edcgov.us/>

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our El Dorado County resources.



### Catalog

If you are looking for El Dorado 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](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank)

**Type in Subject Box:** (El Dorado)



### 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 El Dorado County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)

**Type in Search Box:**

1. El Dorado
2. Name of a city in El Dorado County

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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The screenshot shows a search interface for 'City and County Directories'. It features a header with the title and a background image of city buildings. Below the header, there is a search instruction: 'Enter one or more search terms. The more terms you enter, the fewer results you will get. To search for a range of years, type a colon between the years, e.g., 1940-1950.' The search form includes several input fields: 'County', 'City', 'Year', 'Title', 'Author', 'Publisher', and 'Material type'. Each field has a small 'GO' button next to it. At the bottom of the form, there is a larger 'Submit Query' button and a help icon.

### 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:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCityDir.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. El Dorado
2. Name of a city in El Dorado County



The screenshot shows a search interface for 'Telephone Directories'. It features a header with the title and a background image of a telephone keypad. Below the header, there is a search instruction: 'Type in the city or county. If you get too many results, add the year to your search.' The search form includes several input fields: 'Location-White Pages', 'Location-Yellow Pages', 'Year', and 'Material type'. Each field has a small 'GO' button next to it. At the bottom of the form, there is a larger 'Submit Query' button and a help icon.

### 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:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryPhonebk.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. El Dorado
2. Name of a city in El Dorado County

## SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

El Dorado 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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| <b>Type</b>                      |                             | <b>Residents</b>                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Maps</a>             | <a href="#">Manuscripts</a> | <a href="#">Vitals</a>             |
| <a href="#">Books</a>            | <a href="#">Newspapers</a>  | <a href="#">African Americans</a>  |
| <a href="#">County Histories</a> | <a href="#">Periodicals</a> | <a href="#">Chinese Americans</a>  |
| <a href="#">Images</a>           | <a href="#">Statistics</a>  | <a href="#">German Americans</a>   |
|                                  |                             | <a href="#">Irish Americans</a>    |
|                                  |                             | <a href="#">Italian Americans</a>  |
|                                  |                             | <a href="#">Japanese Americans</a> |
|                                  |                             | <a href="#">Jewish Americans</a>   |
|                                  |                             | <a href="#">Native Americans</a>   |
|                                  |                             | <a href="#">Women</a>              |
| <b>Subject</b>                   |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Agriculture</a>      |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Art</a>              |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Business</a>         |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Cooking</a>          |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Environment</a>      |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Festivals</a>        |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Geology</a>          |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Highways</a>         |                             |                                    |
| <a href="#">Land</a>             |                             | <a href="#">Shipping</a>           |
| <a href="#">Legal</a>            |                             | <a href="#">Railroads</a>          |
| <a href="#">Legislature</a>      |                             | <a href="#">Religion</a>           |
| <a href="#">Migration</a>        |                             | <a href="#">Restaurants</a>        |
| <a href="#">Mining</a>           |                             | <a href="#">Taxes</a>              |
| <a href="#">Politics</a>         |                             | <a href="#">Water</a>              |
|                                  |                             | <a href="#">Wine</a>               |

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A map of California showing county boundaries. El Dorado County is highlighted in red, located in the northern part of the state.



## 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.

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### 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:** Counties: El Dorado

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### Map File

Looking for a El Dorado 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: El Dorado

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### 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: El Dorado

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## OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about El Dorado county information contained in the following resources.

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### **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: El Dorado

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### **Postcard Files**

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to El Dorado County.

Most are not online.



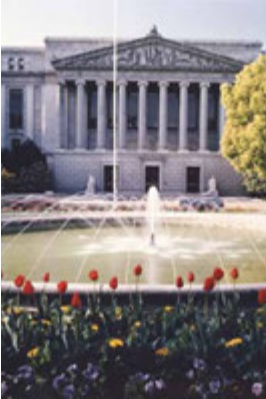
**Subject Headings:** El Dorado County

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## 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

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### **Other California State Library Sections**

[Government Publications Section](#)  
[Witkin Law Library](#)  
[Sutro Library](#)  
[General Information](#)



#### **URLs:**

- <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 Dorado County Clerk](#)  
[El Dorado County Historical Society](#)  
[El Dorado County Library](#)  
[El Dorado County Museum](#)  
[El Dorado Western Railroad](#)



#### **URLs:**

- <https://www.edcgov.us/countyclerk>
- <https://www.eldoradocountyhistoricalsociety.org/>
- <https://www.eldoradolibrary.org/>
- <http://museum.edcgov.us/home>
- <http://museum.edcgov.us/el-dorado-western-railroad>



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*California History Section*  
900 N Street Room 200  
Sacramento CA 95814

Phone: (916) 654-0176  
E-mail: [cslcal@library.ca.gov](mailto: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/>