

## Researching at Your Public Library

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Researching at your public library can provide you with many resources if you know where to look. Public libraries provide reference materials, city directories, local history and special collections, and databases to help you with your genealogical and historical research. This presentation will show you how to use a library for research and give you examples of resources you may find in your local library and in libraries around the county.

Since ancient times libraries have held collections of knowledge containing information on all sorts of subjects, preserving it for generations.

Collections of knowledge on any subject can be found in libraries.

Some of the largest libraries for genealogical researchers include:

- Family History Library - online and in person
- Library of Congress - online and in person
- College libraries - finding aids
- State Archives
- Regional Library systems - NEKLS, CKLS,
- History & Genealogy Society Libraries

5 things you can find at a public library

1. Historical Collections
2. Local and Family histories
3. Databases
  - Ancestry Library Edition
  - Heritage Quest
  - Fold3
4. Inter-Library Loan (ILL)
  - FHL Catalog, changes
  - World Cat, OCLC
5. Help/Personal Knowledge

Libraries are our friends, as well as the librarians that work there! You never know what information or help you might find there. Explore your local library and any of the libraries where your ancestors lived. You just might unearth a treasure of biblical proportions.



### RESEARCH OUTLINE

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## Kansas

### ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- Kansas State Historical Society  
6425 SW Sixth Ave  
Topeka, KS 66615-1099  
Telephone: 913-272-8681 Ext. 117  
Fax: 913-272-8682

The Kansas State Historical Society has several important facilities for genealogists. The Reference Library houses printed materials and the Department of Archives maintains original records of Kansas government jurisdictions, newspapers, and other historical documents. The Manuscript Department has unpublished papers, maps, and photographs.

- National Archives—Central Plains Region  
2312 East Bannister Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
Telephone: 816-926-6934  
Fax: 816-926-6982
- Kansas Genealogical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 103  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
Telephone: 316-225-1951
- Kansas State Library  
State Capitol Bldg.  
Room 343 N  
300 SW 10th  
Topeka, KS 66612-1593  
Telephone: 913-296-3296  
Fax: 913-296-6650
- University of Kansas  
Spencer Research Library—Kansan Collections  
Lawrence, KS 66045-2800  
Telephone: 913-864-4274  
Fax: 913-864-5803

# Researching at Your Public Library

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**LIBRARY** of Congress

ASK A LIBRARIAN DIGITAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY CATALOGS

Search  **GO**

The Library of Congress > Researchers


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**RESEARCHERS**

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## Research and Reference Services

Library of Congress collections and research tools




Notice: Appointments are optional, but encouraged. To help us better serve you, request a [research appointment](#) to ensure collection material is accessible during your visit at the Library. The Library of Congress asks all visitors to follow [our COVID-19 health screening protocols](#), which are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Office of the Attending Physician of the U.S. Capitol. For additional instructions, see the [Researcher Scheduling](#) page.

### Research Centers

#### General Collections

Books, pamphlets, journals, newspapers and other serial publications. [More about the General Collections](#) >

- ▶ [Main Reading Room](#)
- ▶ [Business](#)
- ▶ [Law Library](#)
- ▶ [Local History & Genealogy](#)
- ▶ [Newspaper & Current Periodical](#)
- ▶ [Science & Technology](#)




Main Reading Room, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith, [1980].

#### International Collections

More than 470 languages are represented in the Library's global collections. [More about the International Collections](#) >

- ▶ [African & Middle Eastern](#)
- ▶ [Asian](#)
- ▶ [European](#)
- ▶ [Hispanic](#)




International Collections, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith, [1980].

#### Special Format Collections

Photographs, maps, music, sound, film, manuscripts, and other media. [More about the Special Format Collections](#) >

- ▶ [American Folklife Center](#)
- ▶ [Children's Literature](#)
- ▶ [Geography & Map](#)
- ▶ [Manuscript](#)
- ▶ [Microform](#)
- ▶ [Moving Image](#)
- ▶ [Performing Arts](#)
- ▶ [Prints & Photographs](#)
- ▶ [Rare Book & Special Collections](#)
- ▶ [Recorded Sound](#)
- ▶ [Veterans History](#)




American Folklife Center, photograph by Carol M. Highsmith, [1980].

#### Research on the Web

- ▶ [Research Guides](#)
- ▶ [Digital Collections & Services](#)
- ▶ [LC Online Catalogs](#)
- ▶ [Databases & E-Resources](#)
- ▶ [Finding Aids](#)
- ▶ [Webcasts by Library Curators](#)

### Featured Video Tutorial



▶ [View All video tutorials](#)

### Quick Links

- ▶ [Getting Started](#)
- ▶ [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- ▶ [Getting a Reader ID Card](#)
- ▶ [Research Guides](#)
- ▶ [Wireless Access at the Library](#)

### Research at the Library

#### Preparing for Your Visit

- ▶ [Hours of Operation](#)
- ▶ [Maps/Floor Plans & Building Access](#)
- ▶ [Conduct on the Premises](#)
- ▶ [Information for Researchers](#)
- ▶ [Restrictions on Personal Belongings](#)

#### Public Services

- ▶ [Ask a Librarian](#)
- ▶ [Using the Library's Collections](#)
- ▶ [Overviews of the Collections](#)
- ▶ [Orientation Classes](#)
- ▶ [Reference Service Policy](#)
- ▶ [Hold Services & Advance Reserves](#)
- ▶ [Study Shelves](#)
- ▶ [Special Search Request](#)
- ▶ [Copying and Printing Services](#)
- ▶ [Duplication Services](#)
- ▶ [Interlibrary Loan](#)
- ▶ [Virtual Programs & Services](#)

#### Government Services

- ▶ [Federal Research Division](#)

**General Information**


- ▶ [About the Library](#)
- ▶ [Concerts & Events](#)
- ▶ [Jobs/Fellowships](#)
- ▶ [Support the Library](#)
- ▶ [Shop the Library](#)
- ▶ [Inspector General](#)

**More Library Resources**

- ▶ [American Folklife Center](#)
- ▶ [Braille Audio Materials](#)
- ▶ [Center for the Book](#)
- ▶ [Copyright Office](#)
- ▶ [Copyright Royalty Board](#)
- ▶ [Kluger Center](#)
- ▶ [Law Library of Congress](#)
- ▶ [Poetry](#)
- ▶ [Research Centers](#)

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TOPEKA & SHAWNEE COUNTY  
**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

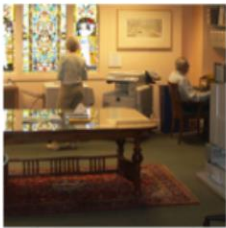
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## GENEALOGY



**Baker Genealogy Center**



**Popular Tools**




**Obituary Request Form**

**GENEALOGY**


- [Genealogy Home](#)
- [Baker Genealogy Center](#)
- [Popular Tools](#)
  - [Identity Quest & Heritage Celebration](#)
- [Obituary Request](#)
  - [Obituary Request Form](#)
  - [Obituary Index](#)
- [Topeka Room](#)
- [Genealogy Blog](#)
- [Genealogy Books](#)
- [Local History](#)

**GENEALOGY STAFF**



Genealogy Librarian  
**Sherry Camp**  
(785) 580-4510 or  
via email.

**LIBRARY NEWS**



[Library News Print](#)  
Your source for library events, classes and information.


**ASK A LIBRARIAN**

[Offline - Email Us](#)

**Email Us:** Ask A Librarian  
**Call Us:** 785-580-4400  
**Text Us:** 785-322-4099  
**Library FAQ:** Search

**The Baker Genealogy Center** is where you will find our computer lab with resources for genealogists to discover their family connections and stories. Located in the **Topeka Room Suite**, our computers are equipped with databases to help you find your family. In addition, we have the Scan Pro 3000 microfilm machines to help you find obituaries and newspaper articles from our collection of Topeka newspapers.

A few of our more popular databases are **Ancestry.com**, **America's Obituaries**, and **Fold3**. Other items in the Topeka Room Suite include: yearbooks from Topeka area high schools and Washburn University; Topeka city directories from 1870 to the present.



Our genealogy book collection, in the **Genealogy Research Room**, has over 3,000 books that cover anything from, how to get started and personal family histories, to books on Kansas and many states across the country and beyond.

The computer lab provides access to a host of other electronic databases as well as a copier and printer for both regular and large size prints. Library staff is always available to help you to use our resources and to aid you with your research needs.

Find your genealogy, upstairs in the **Baker Genealogy Center**.

## Researching at Your Public Library

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### Helpful Links

- Family History Library Catalog  
[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Introduction\\_to\\_the\\_FamilySearch\\_Catalog](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Introduction_to_the_FamilySearch_Catalog)
- FamilySearch Wiki - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page)
  - [Research Outlines](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research_Outlines) - [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research\\_Outlines](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Research_Outlines)
- [Library of Congress Catalog](https://eresources.loc.gov/) - <https://eresources.loc.gov/>
  - College libraries - finding aids
    - [University of Kansas Kenneth Spencer Research Collection](https://aeon.lib.ku.edu/aeon) - <https://aeon.lib.ku.edu/aeon>
    - [Yale Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library](https://beinecke.library.yale.edu/) - <https://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>
  - State Archives
    - [Kansas](#)
    - [Missouri](#)
    - [Oklahoma](#)
    - [Arkansas](#)
- Local Libraries
  - Midwest Genealogy Center - <https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>
  - Kansas City Public Library – Missouri Valley Room - <https://kchistory.org/>
  - Johnson County Public Library - <https://www.jocolibrary.org/research/our-genealogy-experts-johnson-county-kansas>
  - Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library – <https://www.tscpl.org/genealogy>
- Association of Libraries – <https://www.librarytechnology.org/libraries>