

Genealogy at the California State Library

California History Section

California State Library
California History Section
916-654-0176
cslcal@library.ca.gov

California State Library

- In operation since 1850
- One of the premiere collections of Far West material
- Mandate to collect anything to do with California
- Serves everyone



2 cities, 4 buildings, 6 sections

- 6 sections
 - Witkin Law Library
 - Government Publications
 - Information Services
 - Braille and Talking Book Library
 - California History Section
 - Sutro Library



Sections for Genealogy Work

- Sutro Library
 - General Genealogy
- California History Section
 - California Genealogy
- Other sections also have scattered information



Research on California Genealogy: How we can help

General References (across California)

Resources for specific groups

Records with varied coverage

Other Resources

Visiting

General References

Unique Indexes

Vital Records

Newspapers

Directories

Local Histories

Maps

Specialized collections

Unique Indexes

- California Information File (see reference desk for subject headings)
- San Francisco Newspaper index
- Photo card file (lots of portraits)
- Historical and genealogical society indexes (see reference desk)



Vital Records

- California Death index (1905-1995)
- California Marriage Index (1949-1986)
- California Divorce Index (1966-1984)
- Nevada Marriage Index (1968-2003)
- Nevada Divorce Index (1968-2004)

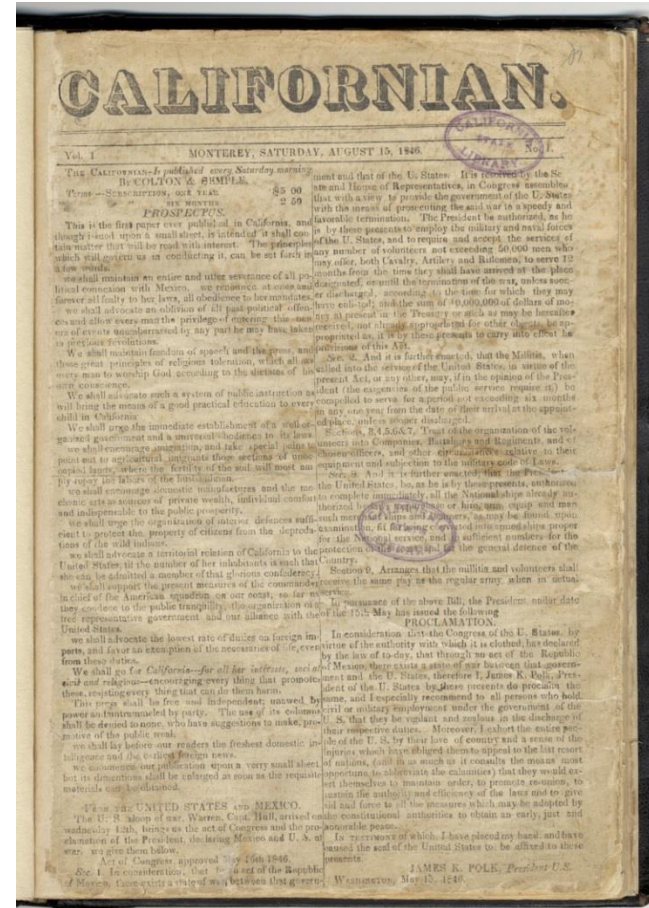


Newspapers

Main Catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?func=file&file_name=calif-newspapers

Databases: <http://www.library.ca.gov/services/online-resources.html>

- Premiere collection of California newspapers
- At least one paper for each county
- Some highly specialized
 - Writings from the Western Standard
- Some indexed
 - Sacramento Bee
 - San Francisco Newspapers
 - Fresno Bee



Directories

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

City: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm

Telephone: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm

- Extensive collection of city directories (mostly Polk)
 - Earliest 1850
- An equally extensive collection of phone books
 - Earliest 1878
- Some business directories
 - Subject search “Business California Directories”



Local histories

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

- Location County History (Subject Search)
- County histories for every county
 - ie: *History of Sacramento County, California : with biographical sketches...* By William Willis.
- Publications by numerous local historical societies

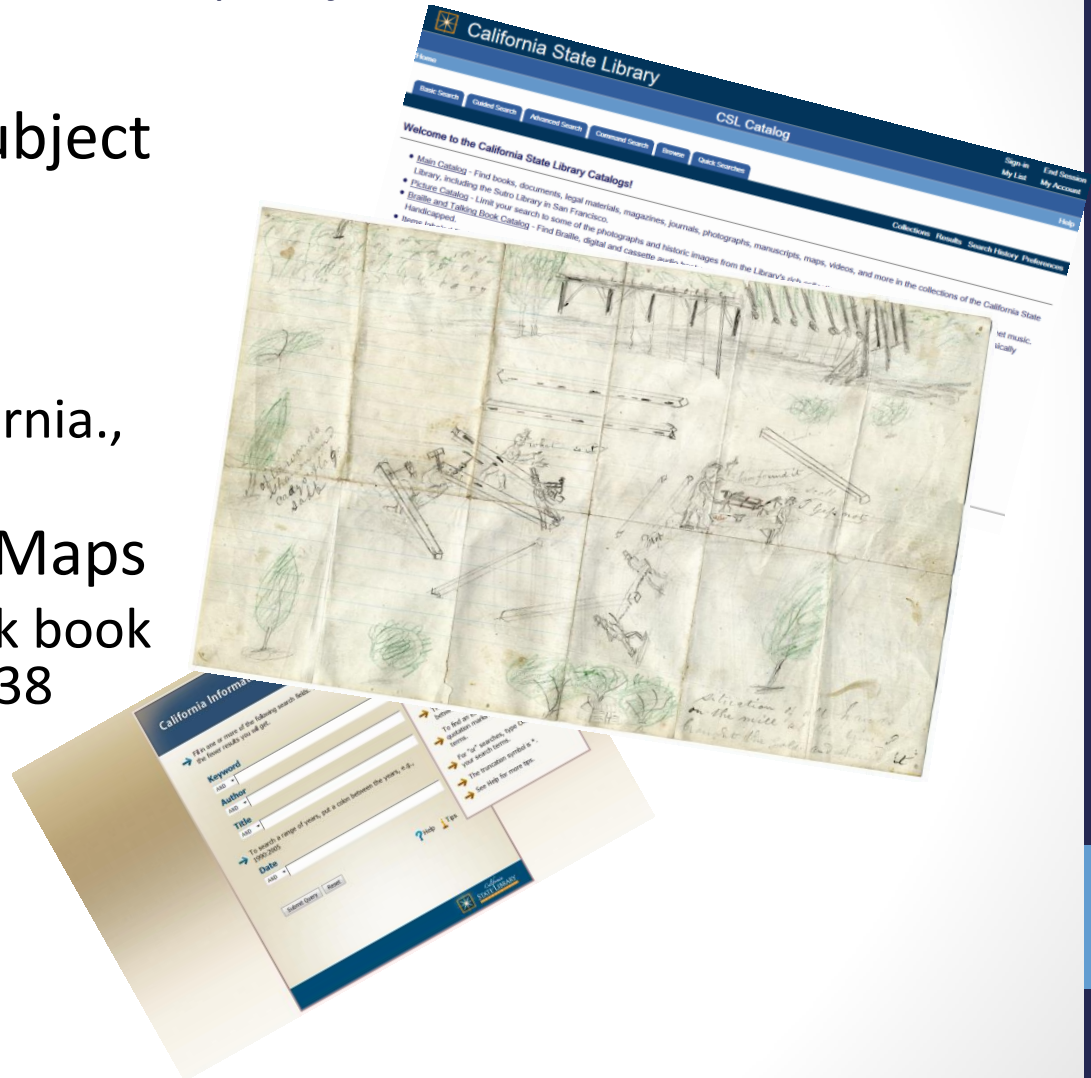


Maps

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Location Maps (Subject Search)
- Sanborn Maps
 - Insurance maps
Sacramento, California.,
(1915-1952)
- Thomas Brothers Maps
 - Thomas Bros. block book
of Sacramento (1938
and 1940)
- Other map types
 - Plats, Tablings etc.



Specialized collections

NDGW Index: <http://www.cagenweb.com/cpl/mainindex.html>

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Custodial collections
 - NDGW Pioneer Index
 - Searchable by name
 - DAR Pioneer and chapter records
- State Library Collections
 - Biography and pioneer cards
 - Bio info files
 - Partially searchable by name



Resources for special groups

Soldiers

Immigration

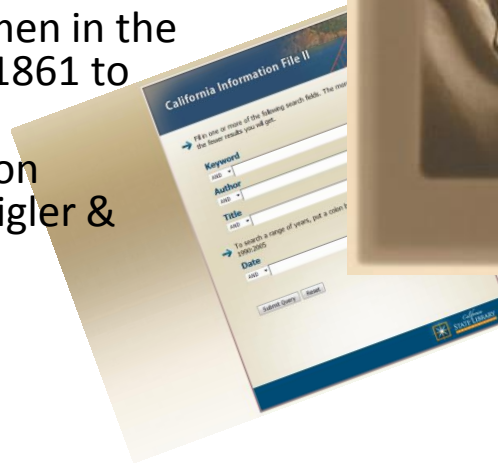
Minority groups

Soldier resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- War Registers (Subject Search)
 - World War I soldier's collection
 - Contact (1942)—Hemet Air Force Base Directory
 - Official, a list and description of deserters from the United States Army (1846)
 - Honor roll; World Wars I, II and Korean War service records, 1917-1918, 1941-1945, 1950-1953 (DAR)
 - Records of California men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1867 (Orton).
 - Army of Israel : Mormon battalion narratives (Bigler & Bagley)



Immigration resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Aliens (Subject Search)
 - San Francisco Alien Registration List (1920)
 - Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service-Mexican immigration (1906-1930)
- Immigration OR Naturalization (Subject Search)
 - Ship passenger lists [1893-1957]
 - Court naturalization indexes [1852-1928]

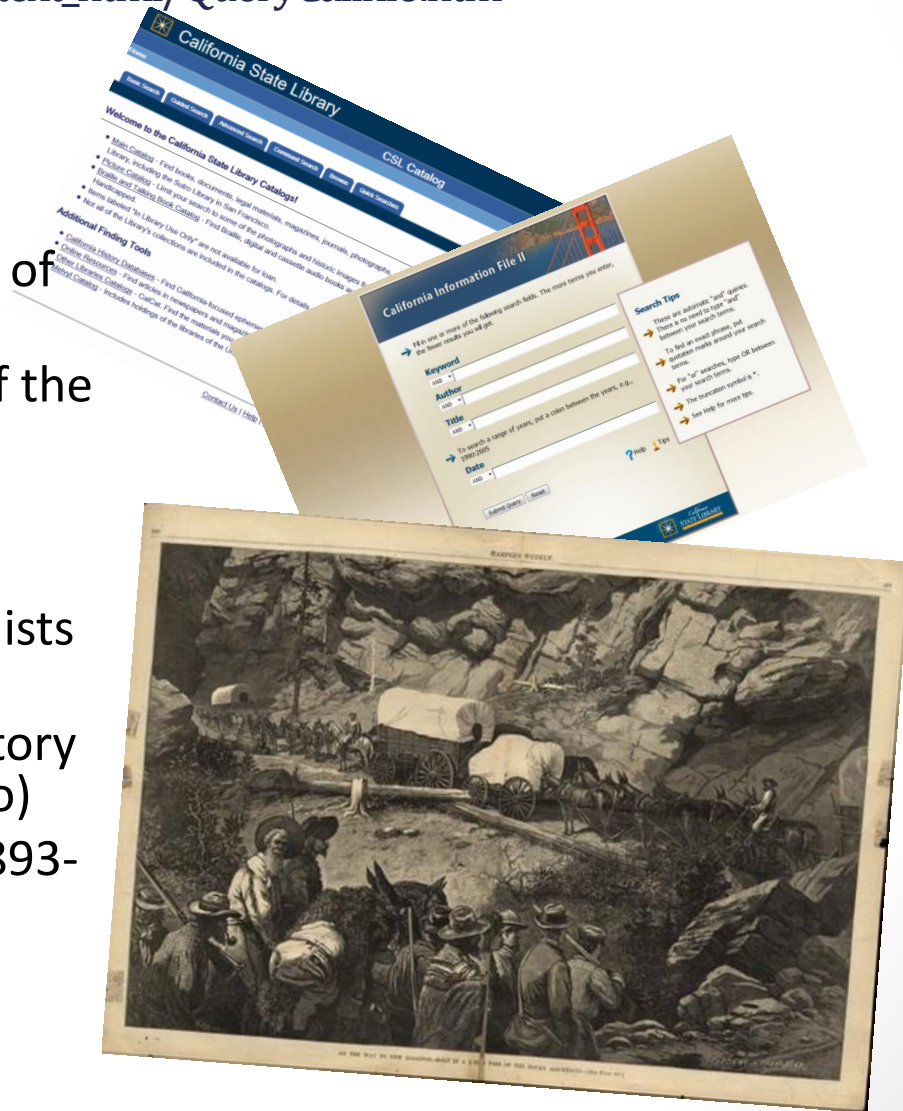


Overland/U.S. immigration

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Pioneers California (Subject Search)
 - Index to the Argonauts of California (Spinazze)
 - Unpublished records of the families of California pioneers (DAR)
- Specialized resources
 - California wagon train lists (Rasmussen)
 - Zamorano index to History of California (Zamorano)
 - Ship passenger lists [1893-1957]

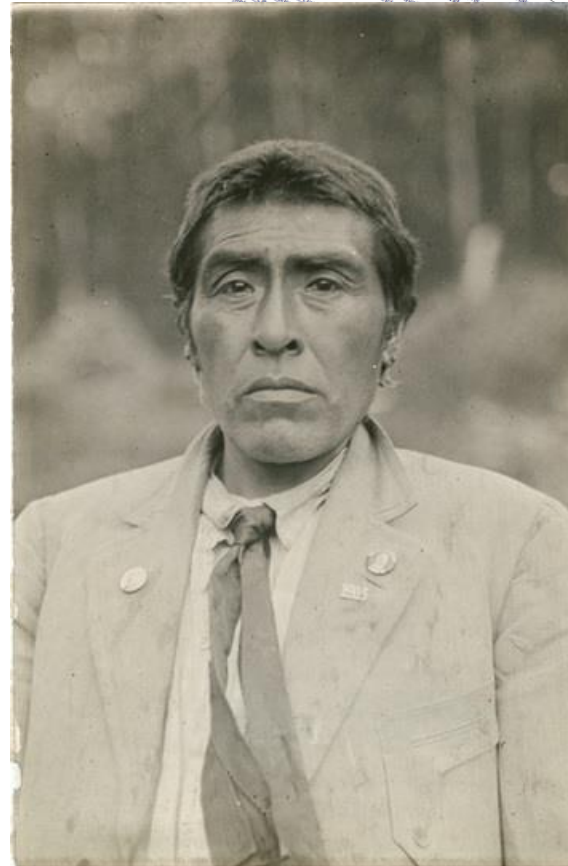


Native American resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Indians California Sources (Subject Search)
 - Register of students (Sherman Institute)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (Author Search)
 - Census of California Indians (1928)
 - United States, Bureau of Indian Affairs records
- California Indian Library Collections Project (Publisher Search)
- References in the CIF (original card file)



Chinese American resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm



- Chinese immigration (Subject search)
 - Lists of Chinese passengers arriving at San Francisco, (1882-1914)
 - Katharine R. Maurer Collection
- References in the CIF (original card file)
- Individual collections



Japanese Americans

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. (Keyword Search)
 - Oral Histories
- Japanese Americans California History (Subject Search)
 - Catholic church Sacramento, Japanese Records (1932-1945)
- References in the CIF (original card file)



Religious Groups--LDS

- Mormon* or 'Latter Day Saints' (Subject search)
 - Periodicals
 - Millennial Star (scattered volumes)
 - Improvement Era
 - Biographical histories and directories
 - A century of Mormon activities in California (Muir)
 - Regional vital statistics
 - A record of the grave markers and tombstone inscriptions, Mormon Island Cemetery (Nuttall)
 - Historic Churches Index (Dove)
 - Conference minutes
 - Minutes of conference (1852)



Records with more varied coverage

Legal records

Land records

Indigent and criminal records

School Records

Misc. Vital Records

Cemetery

Hospital

Tax

Vital statistics

Pre-statehood resources

Legal records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Court records (Subject search)
 - San Francisco Superior Court Cases, 1905-1922
 - Tuolumne County 1865-1879
 - Other individual and county cases
- Legal Documents (Subject search)
 - California Legal Records, N.D. –multiple counties



Land records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- US Land office records, Sacramento 1858-1908
- Deeds (subject search)
 - El Dorado County 1873-1930
 - Partial Sacramento (focus on Sutter) 1849-1886
 - Other individual deeds/records
- Land Titles (subject search)
 - Various manuscript land grants and land claims records...San Francisco 1852-1854
 - Individual records
- Land Grants (subject search)
 - Individual Records

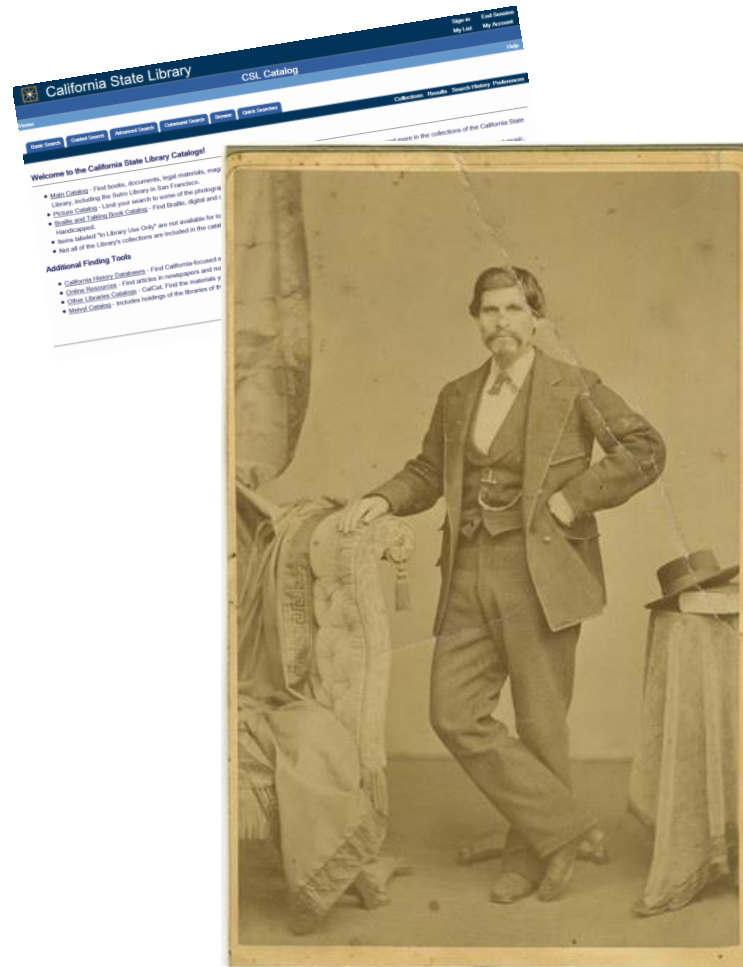


Indigents and Criminals

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Indigent records in Sonoma County California (1878-1926)
- Sacramento County burial grounds (1927-1957)
- San Francisco Mug Books (1895-1914 and 1922-1928)
- Record book of convicts sent to Folsom and San Quentin prisons, (1899-1905)

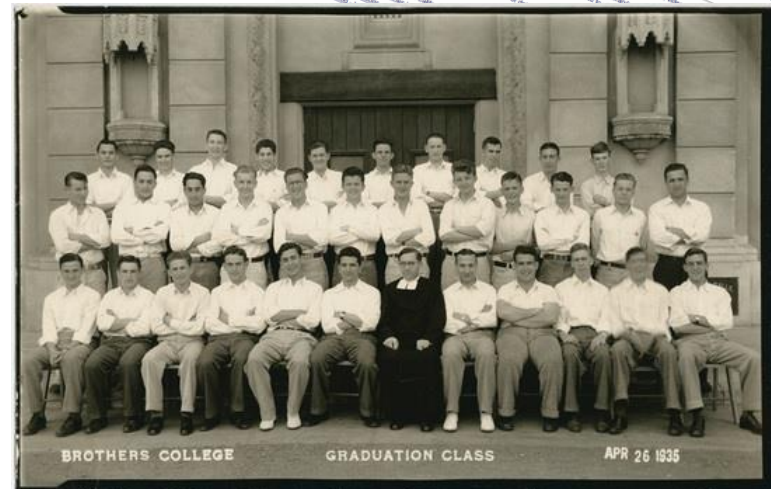
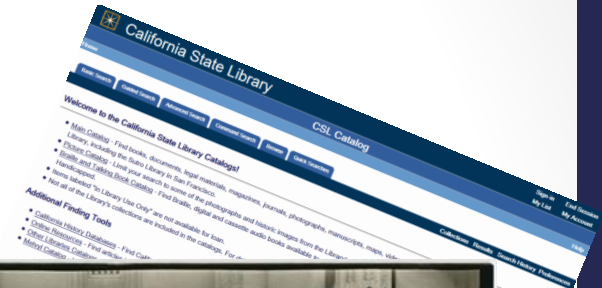


School Records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- College Periodicals
(Subject search)
 - Junior college magazines
(Modesto junior college)
 - Private college magazines
(St. Mary's etc.)
 - Subject specific magazines
(UC Berkeley football)
- School Yearbooks
(Subject Search)
 - Junior High yearbooks
 - High school yearbooks
 - College yearbooks

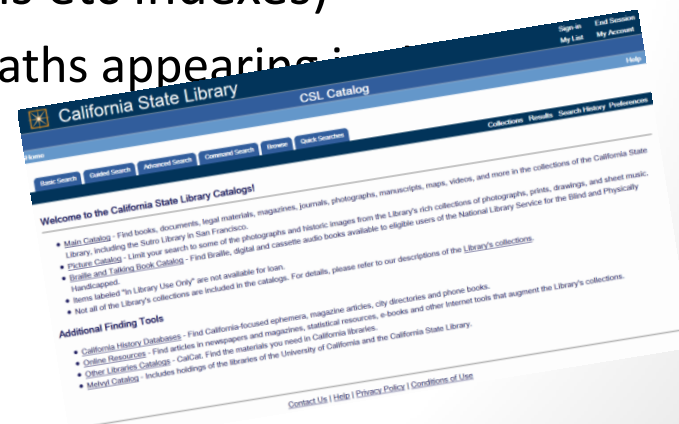


Misc. Vital Records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Church registers (subject search)
 - Catholic Church records, Sacramento(1850-1998)
 - Episcopal Church. Northern California Diocese (1849-1957)
 - Historic Churches Index (Dove)
- Inquests (Subject Search=Coroners Sources)
 - Marin (1857-1910)
 - Sacramento (1855-1861)
- Other Records (Subject search=Births etc indexes)
 - An Index of births, marriages and deaths appearing in the Sacramento Bee (1857-1905).



Cemetery records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Cemeteries California
(Subject Search)

- [City Cemetery,
Broadway at 10th Street,
Sacramento, CA], (1850-
193?)
- Masonic lawn cemetery
... : Masonic plot in old
city cemetery, 1859;
Masonic lawn to 1939
(1986?)—Put out by
Root Cellar



Hospital records

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Asylums/Sanatoriums/Hospitals (Subject Searches)
 - Agnews Asylum (1859-1978)
 - Arequipa Sanatorium scrapbook (1910-1986)
 - Deaths and burials at Weimar Sanatorium

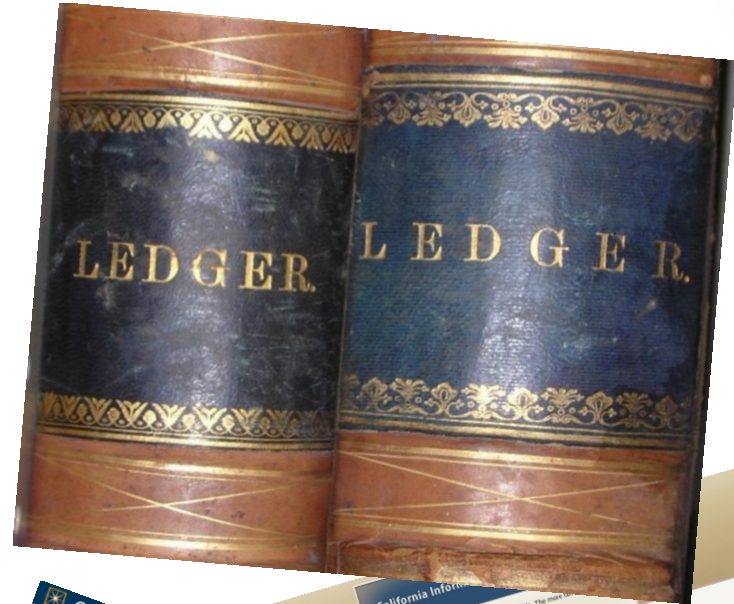


Taxes

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Tax Assessment or Tax (Subject Search)
 - Internal Revenue assessment lists for California, (1862-1866)
 - Mariposa County Memoranda book, (1885)
 - Contra Costa County Tax assessment ledger, (1865)

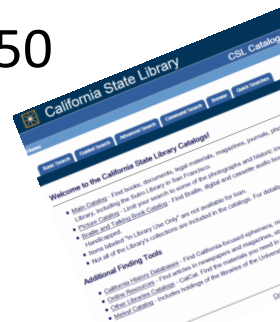


Pre-statehood resources

Main catalog: catalog.library.ca.gov/F/?

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Spanish Genealogy (Subject Search)
 - California colony : genealogy, land grants, & notes of Spanish colonial California (Castro)
 - Register of deaths, Mission San Jose (1797 to 1837)
 - Spanish-Mexican families of early California, 1769-1850 (Northrop)



Employee records

Online Archive of California: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>

- Check Archive of California
 - Search “employee” and limit to California State Library
- Record of appointment of postmasters, (1832-Sept. 30, 1971)



Other Resources

Specialized Periodicals

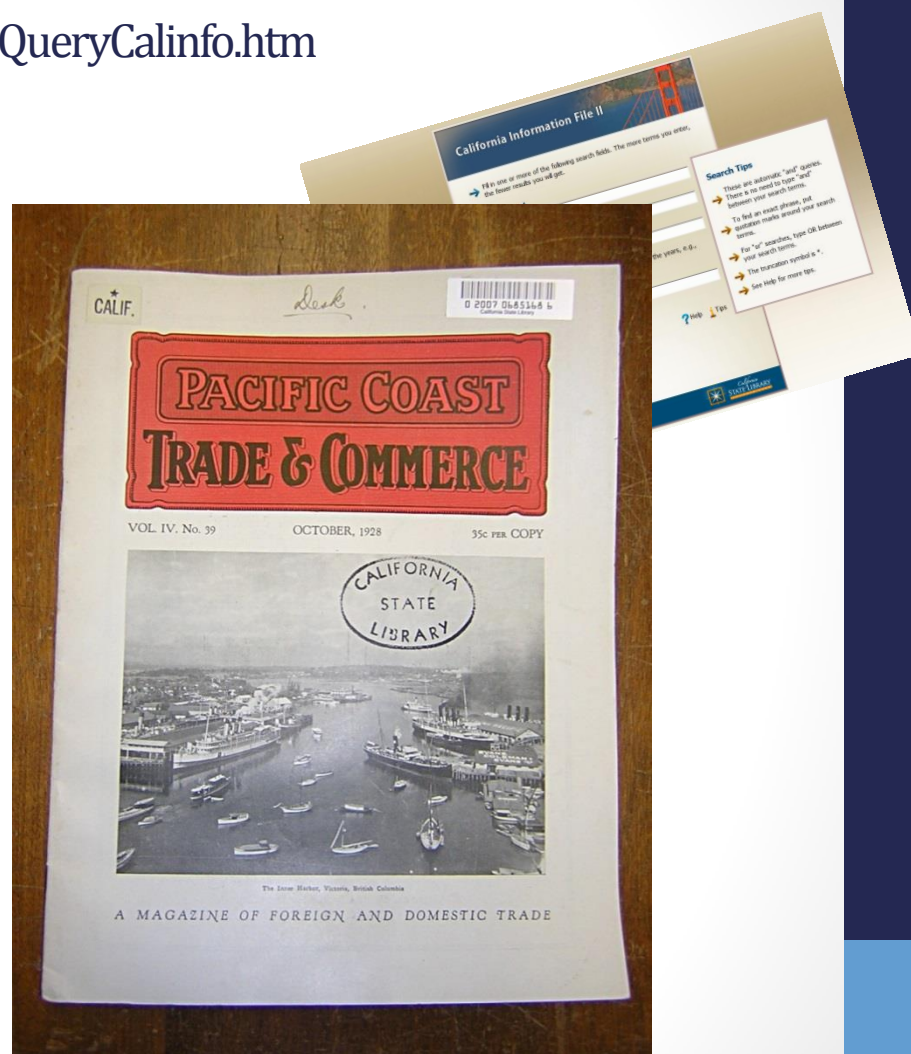
Genealogists' Manuscript Collections

Databases

Specialized periodicals

CIF II: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

- Have over 3500 periodicals
 - Elders' journal of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (1837)
 - Company magazines
 - Trade publications
 - Genealogy and Historical Society Publications
- Largely un-indexed, search by date and CIF
- Ask at desk if there is a paper index



Genealogists' manuscript collections

Online Archive of California: <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>

- George R. Dorman Collection
 - Covers Fresno and Early California
- Sacramento Genealogical society cemetery records
 - Sexton's registry transcriptions
- Other records for individual families
 - Check to see if our manuscript collections contain something by a family member.



Databases

Genealogy and Newspaper Databases: <http://www.library.ca.gov/services/online-resources.html>

History Room Databases: <http://www.library.ca.gov/calhist/databases.html>

- Genealogy Databases
 - Ancestry
 - Heritage Quest
- Online (searchable) newspaper collections
 - NewspaperArchive
 - Proquest (Chronicle, LA Times)
- Specialized Databases
 - CIF II
 - California city directories
 - California telephone books
- Not ours but still useful
 - <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/>
 - <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc>
 - <http://oac.cdlib.org/>
 - <http://www.worldcat.org/>



Visiting

Preparation

Contact Information

Transit Information

Before you come in

- Recommended resources to consult
 - CIF II
 - OAC
 - Library catalog
- Recommended research tools to pack
 - ID
 - Flash Drive
 - Camera
 - Quarters for parking etc.
 - Your notes/notebook
 - Preliminary list of what you want to see



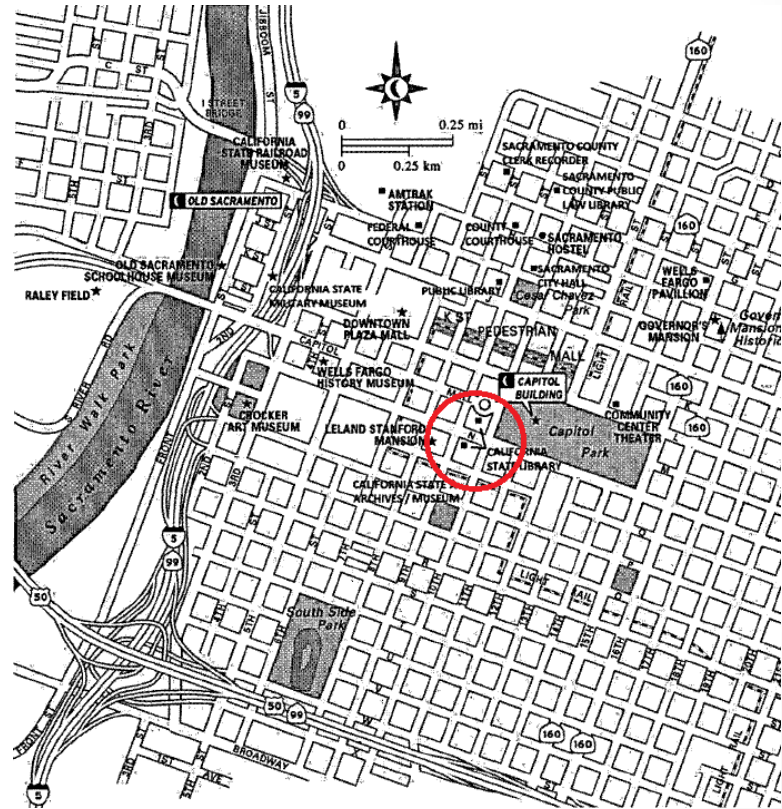
Contact Us

- 9:30-4 Monday-Friday--Excluding state holidays
- 900 N Street Sacramento (2nd floor)
- (916) 654-0176 to reach California History
- cslcal@library.ca.gov



Getting to the Library

- Light Rail stop: “8th and O” or “Archives Plaza” (Blue and Gold lines)
- Parking: Street parking or area garages (arrive before 9 for early-bird deals)



Review

General References (across California)

Resources for specific groups

Records with varied coverage

Other Resources

Visiting

Questions?