

Genealogical Research Libraries in the United States

- **Allen County Public Library** (www.GenealogyCenter.org.) This Fort Wayne, Indiana, library's claim to fame is the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), which catalogs thousands of genealogical and historical periodicals published since 1800. Staff has collected more than 10,000 titles. You can access PERSI from any library that has a subscription to www.heritagequestonline.com.

The library specializes in Canadian, British Isles, African-American and American Indian research. Its collection comprises 588,645 microfilms and microfiches, 55,804 volumes of family history books, 206,366 volumes of local history books, 28,575 microfilm reels of historical newspapers, thousands of maps and gazetteers, and more.

- **Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research** (<http://www2.houstonlibrary.org/clayton/>.) This branch of the Houston Public Library keeps its entire collection in open stacks. It has the complete U.S. Census, as well as the General Register Office Vital Records Indexes for 1837 to 1930 for England and Wales. A variety of materials pertain to Mexico and the Gulf Coast region, including immigration records for Southern ports.

- **Family History Library** (www.familysearch.org/locations/saltlakecity-library.) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' research facility in Salt Lake City is the largest genealogical library in the world. It has a huge collection of primary sources, including U.S. federal and state census records and indexes, passenger lists for most U.S. ports and some foreign ports, naturalization records, county records, foreign civil registration records, 87,000 family histories, plus thousands of maps and gazetteers.

The collection includes over 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records; 727,000 microfiche; 356,000 books, serials, and other formats; over 4,500 periodicals and 3,725 electronic resources, many of which can be loaned to local family history centers around the world. See the directory to locate an FHC near you: www.familysearch.org/locations/centerlocator.

Family History Books (www.books.familysearch.org/) is a collection of more than 100,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world.

- **Library of Congress** (www.loc.gov.) The world's largest library holds more than 50,000 genealogies, 100,000 local histories, five-million maps, and extensive collections of city directories and newspapers. Its North American, British Isles and German collections are especially strong. Be sure to check out the online American Memory collections (www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html) and guides to the library's genealogy collections (www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/bib_guid/bibguide.html.)

- **Mid-Continent Public Library Midwest Genealogy Center.** The new Midwest Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri, accommodates the library's 80,000 [family history books](#), 100,000 local history items, 565,000 rolls of microfilm and microfiche and 7,000 maps. It earns high marks for its complete U.S. Census collection, many immigration and naturalization records, manuscripts pertaining to the American slave trade and the antebellum South and focus on the Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Plains states.

- **National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution Library** (<http://www.dar.org/library/>.) This Washington, D.C., library was founded as a collection of genealogical and historical publications used to verify application papers for society membership. It now houses those applications and supporting files, plus biographies, genealogies, [cemetery records](#), Bible records, church records, city directories, periodicals and manuscripts - making it an especially great resource for tracing your ancestry to the Revolutionary War.

- **National Society, Sons of the American Revolution Genealogical Research Library.** This part of the NSSAR's Center for Advancing America's Heritage will be housed along with its national headquarters and museum in a late 19th century historic building in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky's, "Museum Row." Featuring more than 52,000 items, collections include the George Washington Collection, 10,000 family histories, 15,000 state records with a special emphasis on New England, the SAR Patriot Index, and access to the online databases of Ancestry.com, Fold3.com and HeritageQuest. For hours and special events, refer to: library.sar.org.

- **New England Historic Genealogical Society Research Library** (www.americanancestors.org/; and library.nehgs.org/.) Specializing in New England research, the society's library in Boston has an impressive manuscript collection dating back to the 13th century. Eight floors hold unpublished genealogies, Bible records, family associations' papers, diaries, journals, photographs, cemetery records and other rarities.

The resources are not strictly New England-focused. There also are extensive Canadian, Irish and British collections, featuring censuses and census substitutes, maps, parish registers, local histories, historical newspapers and journals, and Canadian border-crossing records.

- **New York Public Library** (<http://www.nypl.org/>.) If your ancestors spent time in New York City, as so many immigrants did, the public library could hold genealogical clues. It offers "unique, one-of-a-kind manuscript volumes and privately published rarities, particularly those pertaining to old New York families," says librarian Ruth Carr.

While you're there, check out the extensive photo and map holdings. Another popular resource is the Emigrant Savings Bank Records collection of Irish immigrants' personal and family information.

- **Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County** (www.cincinnati.library.org/.) Patricia Van Skaik, director of this library's recently expanded Genealogy and Local History Department, says the department's biggest strength is its scope: "The collection covers all 50 states and some foreign countries, with a wide range of record types."

That includes microfilm of all available U.S. Censuses from 1790 through 1930, one of the nation's largest collections of African-American materials, many Civil War military records and histories, passenger lists and indexes for most ports, an impressive map collection, and city directories from 1,500 cities.

Some are in the new Virtual Library and Downloadables (www.cincinnati.library.org/downloadables/; and virtuallibrary.cincinnati.library.org/virtuallibrary/.)