

State Archives Digital Collections Online

[Video Link](#)

About State Archives



North Carolina State Archives

The state archives are often one of my first stops when looking “outside the box.” By that I mean searching outside the Ancestry, FamilySearch or other platforms. They don’t have everything. Researching at the state archives in the area you are researching is your next stop (or at least high on your research priority list).

This handout and video are primarily focused on what’s online but know that most of the resources are not yet online.

If you are not finding what you need online, if possible, a visit to the state archives might be a great genealogy research trip.

Often, you’ll find the state archives also has a state library. Most of these state libraries focus on historical and genealogical materials.... most of which is not online but can be a valuable resource for genealogy.



North Carolina State Archives

In some states, the state library is managed by the state genealogical or historical society.

Also, some state archives have partnered with Ancestry.com and or FamilySearch.org to help digitize their records.



GenealogyTV.org



[YouTube.com/GenealogyTV](https://www.youtube.com/GenealogyTV)

Searching State Archives Online

The links to each state's digital archives (below) is a good start. In some cases, you will likely need to do keyword research to narrow your results.

Experiment with difference searches and learn about how the collections are organized in the state you are researching. Each state is different. There is not a centralized format across all states. Keep in mind that with thousands of staff adding information, not every employee is going to use the same keywords across all state archives. You'll need to get creative in your keyword research.

Tips: Try searching by the **surname of your ancestor**. Search by **locations**. Search the word "**genealogy**" for manuscripts and finding aids.

Not Finding It?

Pay attention to when a state was created. It could be that what you seek is in another neighboring state archive from which it was formed.

Requesting Records

Do your homework before contacting the archives staff. All archives have online catalogs. The more specific information you can provide the faster you'll get results, in most cases.

Keep in mind that the pandemic has put a strain on many archives and libraries staff and may have a backlog of records/research requests.

Fees will vary from state to state.

Emailing the Archives

Due to antispam software at the state archives, sometimes your email will not reach the archives staff because of hyperlinks or attachments, if their software suspects might be suspicious. To avoid getting caught in a spam filter, use only text in your first email to them. Even signature graphics can get caught in the spam filters.

Also be patient. If you don't get a response in a couple of weeks, then try again or call them.

Planning a Trip

As of this writing, there are still some archives that are closed due to the pandemic, but many are reopening under various rules. Just about every archive website has a "Plan Your Visit" page. Be sure to check out the rules and times they are open. Call ahead to ensure that the days you are planning to be there, they'll be open. Sometimes the websites are not up to date.

Every U.S. State Archive Digital Collections Online

Here is a list of every **State Archive in the U.S.** and their **Digital Archives Online** (if they have one). One should always get familiar with the state archives in the state they are researching.

Most have newspapers digitized, with more coming online every day.

State	Home Page	Digital Collections Online	Email	Phone
Alabama	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	reference.archives@archives.alabama.gov	(334) 242-4435
Alaska	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	archives@alaska.gov	(907) 465-2270
Arizona	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Contact Form	
Arkansas	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	state.archives@arkansas.gov	(501) 682-6900
California	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov	(916) 653-7363
Colorado	State Archives	Digital Collections Online		(303) 866-2358
Connecticut	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	https://ctstatelibrary.org/contact-us/email-us/	(860) 757-6500
Delaware	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Contact Form	(302) 744-5000
Florida	State Archives	Catalogs, Not Digital Collection	archives@dos.myflorida.com	(850) 245-6700
Georgia	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Ask an Archivist	(678) 364-3710
Hawaii	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	archives@hawaii.gov	(808) 586-0329
Idaho	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	public.archives@ishs.idaho.gov	(208) 334-2620
Illinois	State Archives	Database & Digital Collections	Contact Form	(217) 782-4682
Indiana	State Archives	Genealogy & Collections	Contact Form	(317) 591-5222
Iowa	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Contact Form	(515) 281-6200
Kentucky	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	KSHS.reference@ks.gov	(785) 272-8681
Kansas	State Archives	Online Collections	kdla.archives@ky.gov	(502) 564-8300
Louisiana	State Archives	Locate Historical Records	Contact Us Page	(225) 922-1208
Maine	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	maine.archives@maine.gov	(207) 287-5790

Maryland	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	msa.helpdesk@maryland.gov	(410) 260-6400
Massachusetts	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	archives@sec.state.ma.us	(617) 727-2816
Michigan	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	archives@michigan.gov	(517) 335-2576
Minnesota	State Archives	Research Records & Indexes	Contact Us Page	(651) 259-3260
Mississippi	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	refdesk@mdah.ms.gov	(601) 576-6876
Missouri	State Archives	Digital Heritage Collection	archref@sos.mo.gov	(573) 751-3280
Montana	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	mhslibrary@mt.gov	(406) 444-2681
Nebraska	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	hn.reference@nebraska.gov	(402) 471-3270
Nevada	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Request form	(775) 684-3310
New Hampshire	State Archives	Archival Holdings	archives@sos.nh.gov	(603) 271-2236
New Jersey	State Archives	Searchable Database	nj.archives@sos.state.nj.us	(609) 292-6260
New Mexico	State Archives	Searchable Database	archives@state.nm.us	(505) 476-7948
New York	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	archref@nysed.gov	(518) 474-8955
North Carolina	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	archives@ncdcr.gov	(919) 814-6840
North Dakota	State Archives	Genealogy Resources	history@nd.gov	(701) 328-2666
Ohio	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Contact Form	614-297-2510
Oklahoma	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	info@libraries.ok.gov	(405) 524-4416
Oregon	State Archives	Historical Records Index	reference.archives@sos.oregon.gov	(503) 373-0701
Pennsylvania	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	ra-statearchives@pa.gov	(717) 783-3281
Rhode Island	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	statearchives@sos.ri.gov	(401) 222-2353
South Carolina	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	ContactForms	(803) 896-6104
South Dakota	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	archref@state.sd.us	(605) 773-3804
Tennessee	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Contact form	(615) 741-2764

Texas	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	ref@tsl.texas.gov	(512) 463-5455
Utah	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	historyresearch@utah.gov	(801) 531-3847
Vermont	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	sos.archives@vermont.gov	(802) 828-2308
Virginia	State Archives/Lib of VA	Digital Collections Online	Contact Form	(804) 692-3500
Washington	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	research@sos.wa.gov	(360) 586-1492
West Virginia	State Archives	Finding Aides & Databases	WVArchives does not answer e-mail research requests.	(304) 558-0230
Wisconsin	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	asklibrary@wisconsinhistory.org	(608) 264-6460
Wyoming	State Archives	Digital Collections Online	Request a Document Forms	(307) 777-7826