

TYPES AND EXAMPLES OF ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES

The National Archives -- State Archives -- County & Municipal Archives

These institutions generally manage records created in the process of government business. They will have records where the government was involved.

Examples:

National Archives and Records Administration (United States)

www.archives.gov

The Center for Legislative Archives (also NARA)

www.archives.gov/legislative

California State Archives

www.ss.ca.gov/archives/archives.htm

Orange County Archives

(714) 834-2536

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian includes a vast array of collections including artifacts and archival material. They have a series of very specific museums including the National Museum of American History and The Museum of the American Indian.

www.si.edu/research

www.siris.si.edu (catalog)

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress was established in 1800 as the research branch of Congress. It now the largest library in the world, with more than 130 million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 29 million books and other printed materials, 2.7 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4.8 million maps, and 58 million manuscripts on many topics. The Library's American Memory Project has worked with local historical societies to digitize many items.

www.loc.gov

<http://memory.loc.gov>

State Historical Societies -- County & Local Historical Societies

In the past these repositories have had very broad collecting policies, but they are also great resources for local history outside of the governmental administrative functions, you will find oral histories with local residents, personal papers of community leaders, and often the best local photograph collections.

California State Historical Society

www.californiahistoricalsociety.org

Historical Society of Southern California

www.socalhistory.org

Historical Society of the City of Los Angeles

www.lacityhistory.org

Local Public Libraries

Often public libraries will have history rooms which have good collections on local history.

New York Public Library

www.nypl.org

Los Angeles Public Library

www.lapl.org

University Archives and Special Collections

While these two are often housed in the same building, they are not always the same thing. University archives generally hold the administrative records of the particular university. While special collections departments often hold manuscript collections related to a variety of topics.

University of Southern California

www.usc.edu/libraries/about/arc

Duke University

<http://library.duke.edu/specialcollections>

Northern Arizona University

www.nau.edu/library/specoll

Online Archives

These are associated institutions who have gotten together to make available finding aids and images of both large and small institutions. They are a good place to start.

Online Archives of California

www.oac.cdlib.edu

Calisphere

<http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

Arizona Archives Online

<http://aao.lib.asu.edu>

Special Topic Archives -- Ethnic and Religious Archives

Growing in popularity, these museums and archives are dedicated to telling the story of a particular group of people.

Japanese American National Museum

www.janm.org

Center for Jewish History

www.cjh.org

Military Archives

These repositories are dedicated to telling the military story of America. They include the history branches of each of the Armed Forces as well as local societies.

Center for Military History

www.army.mil/cmh/

California Military Museum

www.militarymuseum.org

Industry Archives

These repositories are dedicated to specific industries or business and can have both administrative papers and personal papers.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Archives

www.oscars.org/mhl/index.html

George Eastman House (founder of Kodak)

www.eastmanhouse.org