

Tip of the Month --- Libraries & Genealogy

By Howard Maynard Faulkner

Libraries are invaluable resources for the family historian. Specific useful resources include but are not limited to: newspapers, prepared genealogies, documents, maps, business records, account books, city/town directories, censuses, local historical records, photographs, obituaries, and frequently many 'online' searchable databases. I have identified here a few of the most notable and cherished libraries for genealogists in the United States along with their locations and website addresses. This list is not in order of preference or size, and is limited only by space in this 'Tip of the Month'. You will wish to expand the list for your own regional needs.

1. Godfrey Memorial Library, 34 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT 06457-2534
www.godfrey.org/
2. Family History Library of the Mormon Church, 35 North West Temple Street,
Salt Lake City, Utah, 84150-3400 www.familysearch.org/ (click on 'Library')
3. Library of Congress (LOC), Local History and Genealogical Reading Room
101 Independence Ave. SE, Thomas Jefferson Building, LJ G42
Washington, D.C. 20540-4660 www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/
4. State Libraries. State libraries are repositories for many valuable genealogical records. These are frequently excellent resources not only for records of 'local' importance but they are often regional, national and international holdings. Check "Cyndi's List" for addresses and website URL's at: <http://www.cyndislist.com/libes.htm>
5. Texas State Library, Lorenzo De Zavala State Archives & Library Building
Capitol Complex, 1201 Brazos St., Austin, Texas
www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/genfirst.html
6. St. Louis County Library (SLCL), 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63131-3598
<http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/> (click on 'genealogy' on the right side of this page).
In 2001, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) moved their ninety-eight-year-old lending library holdings, of 20,000 books, from their headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, to the Special Collections Department of St. Louis County Library (SLCL) in St. Louis, Missouri. This collection is now available to the general public through Interlibrary Loan (ILL).
7. Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Copley Square, Boston, MA 02116
<http://www.bpl.org/research/socsci/genealogy.htm>
The BPL has a very extensive and broad based collection of New England historical records, perhaps the best anywhere. Their collections includes but is not limited to newspapers, maps, military records, land records, passenger lists, obituaries, vital records, and censuses. If it's New England ancestors you seek you will want to be here! To access most online databases you will need a library card, free to Massachusetts residents with a photo ID.
8. Virginia State Library 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219-8000
<http://www.lva.lib.va.us>
9. American Antiquarian Society 185 Salisbury Street Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-1634
<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/>
10. Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA 23180
<http://swem.wm.edu/>

