RESEARCH GUIDES

ORANGE COUNTY HISTORY

VISIT US
California History Section
900 N Street Room 200
9:30-4 Monday-Friday
Separated from Los Angeles and organized as an independent county in 1889, Orange County had an estimated population of 3,185,968 people as of 2018. Typically known for Disneyland, Knott’s Berry Farm and its many amazing beaches, this region is also home to historic missions, historic sites described by Spanish explorers or American whalers and early land grants. Given this rich past, it isn’t surprising that it also boasts a number of different historical societies and historic preservation organizations. If you are looking for exciting local history resources in the California History Section's rich collections, then check out what we have for this county!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!
Can’t come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Orange County!

**Digitized Publications**

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile publications. You can now see documents related to Orange County on Internet Archive!

**URL**: https://archive.org/

**Type in Search Box**: (Orange County) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

**Select Option**: “Search Full Text of Books”

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**Digitized Images**

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to Orange County. You can see them on Calisphere!

**URL**: https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/

**Type in Search Box**: (“Orange County”)
California State Association of Counties

Like Wikipedia but locally grown, this government website will provide basic information about Orange County.

URL: http://www.counties.org/county-websites-profile-information

County Website

Want to learn about what Orange County residents have to say for themselves? Check out the county government’s website!

URL: http://www.ocgov.com/
If you are looking for Orange County materials, your best source is our catalog. You can do a general search on the catalog but also be sure to check out our specialized resources on page 8 of this research guide!

**Catalog**

URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?
vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank

Type in Subject Box: (Orange County)

**California Information File II**

Sometimes the catalog doesn’t provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II, successor to the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find indexing to individual articles, as well as Orange County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!

URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Search Box:
1. Orange
2. Name of a city in Orange County
**City Directories**

Looking for a person? How about the history of a location? You can trace this information and more via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.

**URL:** http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Orange
2. Name of a city in Orange County

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**Telephone Books**

Are you not finding what you need in our city directory collection? No worries, you might find it in our telephone book collection. See what we have by checking our phone book database.

**URL:** http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm

**Type in Search Box:**
1. Orange
2. Name of a city in Orange County
Orange County has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this county’s complex past!

### Residents

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### Subject

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On-Site Research Resources

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.

California Information File
In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California articles, books, and manuscript collections from all 58 counties.

Subject Headings: Counties: Orange

Map File
Looking for a Orange county map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborn fire insurance maps. Some of our maps cover settlement patterns and even natural history.

Subject Headings: Counties: Orange

Photographic File
Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our picture file card catalog.

Subject Headings: Counties: Orange
**Other On-Site Resources**

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Orange county information contained in the following resources.

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**Vertical Files**

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including individual counties. You can check them for pamphlets, certificates and even posters related to organizations, individuals, and area histories.

Subject Headings: Counties: Orange

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**Postcard Files**

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Orange County. Most are not online.

Subject Headings: Orange County
Other Places to look

Of course, the California History Section doesn’t have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations

Other California State Library Sections

Government Publications Section
Witkin Law Library
Sutro Library
General Information

URLs:
- http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/
- http://www.library.ca.gov/law/
- http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/
- https://www.library.ca.gov/services

Other Organizations

Orange County Clerk
Orange County Archives
Orange County Historical Society
Orange County Public Library
Orange County Parks: Historic Sites

URLs:
- http://www.ocgov.com/gov/clerk/
- http://www.ocarchives.com/
- http://www.orangecountyhistory.org/wp/
- http://www.ocpl.org/
- http://www.ocparks.com/historic