

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

ARCATA HISTORY



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California History Section

900 N Street Room 200

9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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Originally known as Uniontown and later just Union, Arcata's history stretches back to the Wiyot Tribe that originally lived there. Nestled between the coastal redwoods and the sea, this port town played a central role as a shipping hub for regional mining and lumbering industries. Today, in addition to having an active preservation group, it is still home to the historic Humboldt State University and a number of well-preserved early structures. If you are looking for exciting local information resources in the [California History Section's](#) rich collections, then check out what we have for this city!

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ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

DIGITIZED RESOURCES

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Arcata!



[Digitized Publications](#)

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



URL: <https://archive.org/>

Type in Search Box: (Arcata)

Select Option: “Search Full Text of Books”

Select Collection: “California State Library”



[Digitized Images](#)

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



URL: <https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/>

Type in Search Box: (“Arcata”)

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our Arcata resources.



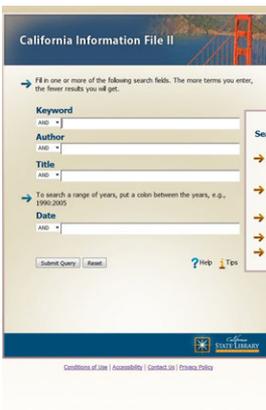
Catalog

If you are looking for Arcata 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 7 of this research guide!



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

Type in Subject Box: (Arcata)



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 Arcata deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



URL: <https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/cainfoii>

Type in Search Box:

1. Arcata

GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

City and County Directories

→ Enter one or more search terms. The more terms you enter, the fewer results you will get.
To search for a range of years, type a colon between the years, e.g., 1945:1950.

County
AND ▾

City
AND ▾

Year
AND ▾

Title
AND ▾

Author
AND ▾

Publisher
AND ▾

Material type
AND ▾

Submit Query Reset Help

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: <https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/citycounty>

Type in Search Box:

1. Arcata

Telephone Directories

→ Type in the city or county. If you get too many results, add the year to your search.

Location-White Pages
AND ▾

Location-Yellow Pages
AND ▾

→ To search for a date range, type a colon between the first and last years, e.g., 1910:1920.

Year
AND ▾

Material type
AND ▾

→ Request all items at the Information Desk.

Submit Query Reset Help

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: <https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/databases/phone>

Type in Search Box:

1. Arcata

SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Arcata has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this city's complex past!

Type

[Books](#)

[Images](#)

[Manuscripts](#)

[Newspapers](#)

[Periodicals](#)



Subject

[Architecture](#)

[Business](#)

[Cooking](#)

[Education](#)

[Environment](#)

[Festivals](#)

[Folklore](#)

[Medicine](#)

[Native Americans](#)

[Poetry](#)

[Railroads](#)

[Religion](#)

[Restaurants](#)

[Shipping](#)

[Streets](#)

[Water](#)

[Wildlife](#)

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 a variety of counties.



Subject Headings: Counties: Humboldt: Arcata



Map File

Looking for a Arcata 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: Humboldt County



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: Humboldt: Arcata

OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

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



Vertical Files

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



Subject Headings: Counties: Humboldt: Arcata



Postcard Files

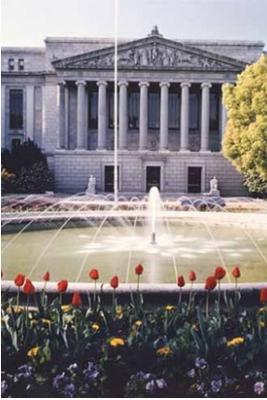
Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Arcata. Most are not online.



Subject Headings: Counties: Humboldt: Arcata

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

[Humboldt County Public Library](#)

[County Clerk-Recorder](#)

[Humboldt County Historical Society](#)

[Historical Sites Society of Arcata](#)



URLs:

- <https://humboldtgov.org/1346/Public-Library>
 - <https://humboldtgov.org/244/Clerk-Recorder>
 - <https://www.humboldthistory.org/>
 - https://arcatahistory.org/historic_arcata
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Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

This guide is also available online at:
<http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/>