

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

JAPANESE AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA



[VISIT US](#)

*California History Section*

*900 N Street Room 200*

*9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Are you researching your Japanese American ancestry? Are you curious about the Japanese contribution to California's farming industry? Maybe you're writing a paper on the Japanese American internment in California. Regardless of your interests, you can explore the extensive history of Japanese Americans in California via the [California History Section's](#) rich collections!

[Digitized Resources](#) .....3

Reference Works:

[Books](#) .....4

[Periodicals and newspapers](#) .....6

[Manuscript Collections](#) .....7

[Special Collections](#) .....8

Search:

[General Research Tips](#) .....9

[Subject-specific resources in our Catalog](#) .....11

[County-specific resources in our Catalog](#) .....12

[On-site Research Resources](#) .....13

[Other On-site Resources](#) .....14

[Other Places to Look](#) .....15

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 California's Japanese Americans!

---



### [Digitized Images](#)

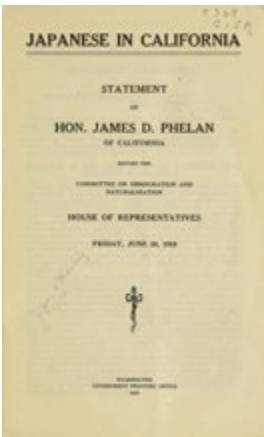
We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to California's Japanese Americans. You can see them on Calisphere!



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

**Type in Subject Box:** Japanese

---



### [Digitized Publications](#)

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile resources on California's Japanese Americans. You can see them on Internet Archive!



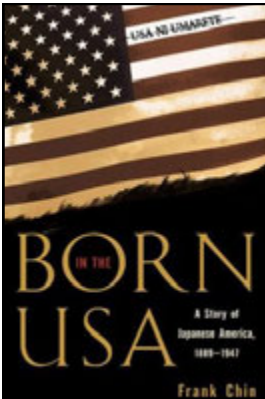
**URL:** <https://archive.org/>

**Type in Search Box:** Japanese AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)&sin=TXT  
**Select Option:** "Search full text of books"

---

## BOOKS

Unsure about where to start? Consult a book! These works provide overviews of Japanese American history in California as well as period-specific information.



Chin, F. (2002). **[Born in the USA](#)**. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

How does a community deal with injustice? This edited collection of primary sources and oral histories documents the different ways in which Japanese Americans and community organizations wrestled with prejudice and the outright denial of civil rights over a fifty year period.



URL: [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&sortBy=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortBy=rank)

Search by: Title and/or author



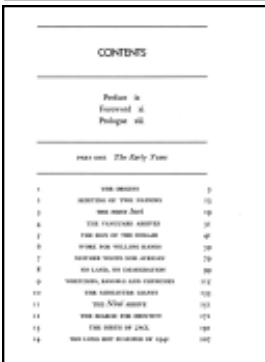
O'Brien, D., & Fugita, S. (1991). **[The Japanese American experience](#)**. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

A high level overview of Japanese-American history, this book covers everything from the early large-scale Japanese migrations to America in the 1880's through to affirmative action in the 1980's.



URL: [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&sortBy=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortBy=rank)

Search by: Title and/or author



Hosokawa, B. (1969). **[Nisei: The quiet Americans](#)**. New York: W. Morrow.

This older book relates the history of second generation Japanese Americans from the days of the Wakamatsu colony, through internment and up to the 1960s.



URL: [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL\\_INST:CSL&sortBy=rank](https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&sortBy=rank)

Search by: Title and/or author

## BOOKS

---



Dempster, B., et. al. (2011). [Making home from war : Stories of Japanese American exile and resettlement.](#) Berkeley: Heyday.

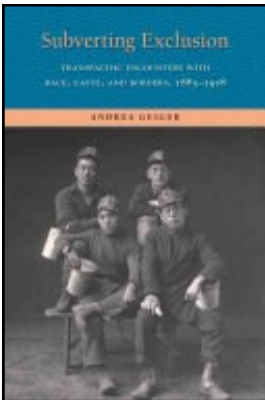
How does one rebuild a life interrupted? This edited collection of memoirs reveals how Japanese -Americans faced and overcame the immense challenges of starting over after internment.



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

**Search by:** Title and/or author

---



Geiger, A. (2011). [Subverting exclusion : Transpacific encounters with race, caste, and borders, 1885-1928.](#) New Haven: Yale University Press.

A look at early Japanese immigration to America from the perspective of caste, this book discusses how Japanese cultural mores both informed and complicated the manner in which the Issei dealt with xenophobia.



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

**Search by:** Title and/or author

---



Daniels, R. (1989). [American concentration camps.](#) New York: Garland.

This 9 volume set contains a carefully edited collection of documents showing the evolution of government policy on the Japanese-American internment from 1941-1945.



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

**Search by:** Title and/or author

---

## PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS

Want real-time accounts of Japanese-California history? At our library, you can read newspapers and periodicals documenting California history from a Japanese American point of view!

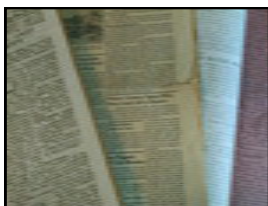


### [Nikkan shinsekai = Japanese daily new world.](#)

A turn-of-the-century Japanese language newspaper, this publication is filled with information that was of interest to the Japanese-American community in Oakland at that time.



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



### [Internment Camp Newspapers](#)

A vital source of information, our extensive collection of internment camp newspapers document ordinary life for people trapped in circumstances that were far from ordinary.



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

**Search by:** Title



### [Asian Week](#)

A pan-Asian periodical, this magazine covers over 30 years worth of topics of interest to both the Japanese American community in California as well as the broader Asian American community.



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

**Search by:** Title

## MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

In addition to periodicals, we have manuscript collections that focus specifically on Japanese American history. Here are some selected collections at the State Library.

---



### [Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu papers.](#)

A ground-breaking legal case, this collection documents Fred Korematsu's legal challenge of the government's ability to target an ethnic group for internment and the eventual overturning of his conviction.



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

**Search by:** Title

---



### [Tule Lake Collections](#)

Three separate collections all related to the Tule Lake internment camp, these papers include ephemera, art, official notices, block activity documents and even photographs.



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

**Search by:** Title

---



### [James Purcell Collection](#)

A lawyer who represented several Japanese-Americans who fought the internment in various ways including Mitsuye Endo and Fred Korematsu, this collection contains several boxes related to internment litigation.



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

**Search by:** Title

---

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

In addition to its other resources, the California History Section has several special collections devoted to aspects of Japanese American history and culture. Here are three stand-out ones:

---



### [Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Records](#)

With documentation on several camps and assembly centers, as well as information regarding public opinion, this extensive albeit challenging to use microfilm set is a must-see.



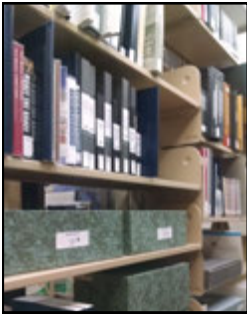
**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

`vid=01 CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank`

**Search by:** Title

”

---



### [California Civil Liberties Public Education Program](#)

The results of a grant funded project designed to document and educate the public about the Japanese internment, this collection contains a large number of oral histories.



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

`vid=01 CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank`

**Search by:** Title

---



### [Japanese Pamphlets](#)

A set of primary source pamphlets documenting the controversy over Japanese immigration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These papers reveal the attitudes that Japanese Americans encountered when they came to California. The collection is also available on Internet Archive.



**URL:** <https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?>

`vid=01 CSL_INST:CSL&sortby=rank`

**Search by:** Title

---



## 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 books, articles, and manuscripts on Japanese Americans

---



### Catalog

If you are looking for [images](#), [books](#) and [articles](#) on Japanese Americans, your best source is our [catalog](#).



**URL:** [https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?](https://cs1.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank)

**vid=01CSL\_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank**

**Type in Subject Box:** ( Japanese)

**Limit:** By place

---



### 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. In this resource, you can find catalog records on individual articles, pamphlets and more.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCalinfo.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm)

**Type in Subject Box:** Japanese

**For a narrower search:** Add a place to your keyword search

---

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

---



### City Directories

Looking for a person? You can trace this information via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.



**URL:** [http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext\\_html/QueryCityDir.htm](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCityDir.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Location



### 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](http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryPhonebk.htm)

#### **Type in Search Box:**

1. Location

## SUBJECT-SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

California's Japanese Americans contribute in a myriad of ways to this state. While these catalog links barely scrape the surface of this history, they provide a good overview.

---

	<b>Type</b>
	<a href="#">Maps</a>
	<a href="#">Books</a>
	<a href="#">Images</a>
	<a href="#">Manuscripts</a>
	<a href="#">Newspapers</a>
	<a href="#">Periodicals</a>
	<a href="#">Statistics</a>
<b>Subject</b>	
<a href="#">Agriculture</a>	
<a href="#">Art</a>	
<a href="#">Baseball</a>	
<a href="#">Business</a>	
<a href="#">Cooking</a>	
<a href="#">Education</a>	
<a href="#">Environment</a>	
<a href="#">Festivals</a>	
<a href="#">Fiction</a>	
<a href="#">Folklore</a>	
<a href="#">Geology</a>	
<a href="#">Legislature</a>	
<a href="#">Migration</a>	
<a href="#">Oil</a>	
<a href="#">Poetry</a>	
<a href="#">Politics</a>	
<a href="#">Shipping</a>	
<a href="#">Railroads</a>	
<a href="#">Religion</a>	
<a href="#">Restaurants</a>	
	<b>Residents</b>
	<a href="#">Vitals</a>
	<a href="#">Women</a>

A map of California showing its county boundaries and names. The counties are labeled as follows: Del Norte, Siskiyou, Modoc, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn, Butte, Sierra, Nevada, Colusa, Yuba, Placer, Lake, Yolo, El Dorado, Sonoma, Napa, Sacramento, Alpine, Colusa, Tuolumne, Mono, Marin, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Mariposa, Madera, San Francisco, Alameda, Merced, Fresno, Inyo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Kings, Tulare, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial.

## COUNTY-SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Researching Japanese American history in a specific region?  
While these catalog links don't list all that the California History  
Section has, they are a good starting point.

---



## 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 related to individuals active in California.



#### **Subject Headings:**

- Japanese in California



### **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.



#### **Subject Headings:**

- Portraits: Individuals by Name
- Japanese in California

## OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about any information related to Japanese Americans in the following files:

---



### **Vertical Files**

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including Japanese Americans. You can check them for information on organizations, event pamphlets and more.



**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians.

---



### **Postcard Files**

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images of Japanese Americans. Most are not online.



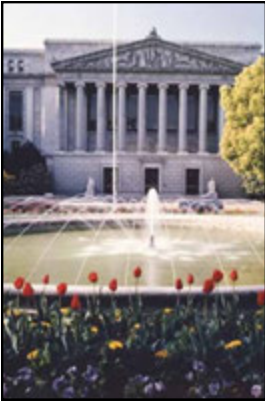
**Subject Headings:** Check with librarians

---

## 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/>
- <http://www.library.ca.gov/services>



### Other Government Agencies

[California State Archives](#)  
[California Museum](#)  
[California State Parks](#)

Local California libraries or archives



#### URLs:

- <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>
- <http://www.californiamuseum.org/>
- <https://www.parks.ca.gov/>



### Other Organizations

[Japanese American Citizens League](#)  
[Japanese American National Museum](#)  
[Japanese American History Archives](#)



#### URLs:

- <https://jacl.org/>
- <http://www.janm.org/visit/>
- <http://amacord.com/fillmore/museum/jt/jaha/jaha.html>



CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY  
CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

*California History Section*  
900 N Street Room 200  
Sacramento CA 95814

Phone: (916) 654-0176  
E-mail: [cslcal@library.ca.gov](mailto:cslcal@library.ca.gov)  
Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

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