

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

## RESEARCH GUIDES

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HISTORY



[VISIT US](#)

*California History Section*

*900 N Street Room 200*

*9:30-4 Monday-Friday*

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Designated as a county in 1850, Santa Cruz County had an estimated population of 274,255 people as of 2018. Not only is Santa Cruz County home to several natural wonders including amazing beaches, awe-inspiring redwood groves, and a gravity defying “Mystery Spot,” it is also the site of the third major Spanish settlement in California, Branciforte, several historic ranchos, and an early mission. It is even home to a concrete ship from WWI and the nation’s longest covered bridge! 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!

## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

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

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### [Digitized Publications](#)

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



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

**Type in Search Box:** (Santa Cruz 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 Santa Cruz County. You can see them on Calisphere!



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

**Type in Search Box:** ("Santa Cruz County")

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## DIGITIZED RESOURCES

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### [California State Association of Counties](#)

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



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



### [County Website](#)

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



**URL:** <https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

## 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 Santa Cruz County resources.



### Catalog

If you are looking for Santa Cruz 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!



**URL:** [https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?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:** (Santa Cruz 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 Santa Cruz County deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!



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

**Type in Search Box:**

1. Santa Cruz
2. Name of a city in Santa Cruz County

## GENERAL RESEARCH TIPS

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The screenshot shows a search interface for 'City and County Directories'. It features a title bar with a city skyline image. Below the title, there is a search instruction: '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., 1940-1950.' The form includes several input fields: 'County', 'City', 'Year', 'Title', 'Author', 'Publisher', and 'Material type'. Each field has a small 'GO' button to its right. At the bottom, there is a larger 'Submit Query' button and a help icon.

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

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

1. Santa Cruz
2. Name of a city in Santa Cruz County



The screenshot shows a search interface for 'Telephone Directories'. It features a title bar with a telephone keypad image. Below the title, there is a search instruction: 'Type in the city or county. If you get too many results, add the year to your search.' The form includes several input fields: 'Location-White Pages', 'Location-Yellow Pages', 'Year', and 'Material type'. Each field has a small 'GO' button to its right. At the bottom, there is a larger 'Submit Query' button and a help icon.

### 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. Santa Cruz
2. Name of a city in Santa Cruz County

## SPECIFIC RESOURCES IN OUR CATALOG

Santa Cruz County has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this

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	Type	Residents
<a href="#">Maps</a>	<a href="#">Manuscripts</a>	<a href="#">Vitals</a>
<a href="#">Books</a>	<a href="#">Newspaper Indexes</a>	<a href="#">African Americans</a>
<a href="#">County Histories</a>	<a href="#">Newspapers</a>	<a href="#">Chinese Americans</a>
<a href="#">Images</a>	<a href="#">Periodicals</a>	<a href="#">Irish Americans</a>
		<a href="#">Japanese Americans</a>
		<a href="#">Jewish Americans</a>
		<a href="#">Latin Americans</a>
		<a href="#">LGBTQ</a>
		<a href="#">Native Americans</a>
		<a href="#">Women</a>
<b>Subject</b>		
<a href="#">Aeronautics</a>		
<a href="#">Agriculture</a>		
<a href="#">Birds</a>		
<a href="#">Business</a>		
<a href="#">Cooking</a>		
<a href="#">Education</a>		
<a href="#">Environment</a>		
<a href="#">Festivals</a>	<a href="#">Legal</a>	
<a href="#">Fiction</a>	<a href="#">Migration</a>	<a href="#">Railroads</a>
<a href="#">Fish</a>	<a href="#">Music</a>	<a href="#">Religion</a>
<a href="#">Folklore</a>	<a href="#">Oil</a>	<a href="#">Restaurants</a>
<a href="#">Geology</a>	<a href="#">Poetry</a>	<a href="#">Water</a>
<a href="#">Highways</a>	<a href="#">Politics</a>	<a href="#">Wildlife</a>
<a href="#">Land</a>	<a href="#">Shipping</a>	<a href="#">Wine</a>



A map of California with county boundaries outlined in green. Santa Cruz County, located in the central coast, is highlighted in red.



## 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.

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### 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: Santa Cruz

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### Map File

Looking for a Santa Cruz 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: Santa Cruz

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### 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: Santa Cruz

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## OTHER ON-SITE RESOURCES

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Santa Cruz 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: Santa Cruz

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### Postcard Files

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



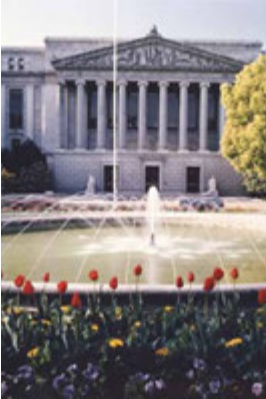
**Subject Headings:** Santa Cruz County

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## 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

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### **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>

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### **Other Organizations**

[Santa Cruz County Recorder](#)

[Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History](#)

[Santa Cruz County Museums Partnership](#)

[Santa Cruz County Public Library](#)

[UC Santa Cruz Archives](#)

[Genealogical Society of Santa Cruz](#)

[County](#)



#### **URLs:**

- <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/rcd/index.htm>
- <https://santacruzmah.org/>
- <http://www.santacruzcountymuseums.org/index.html>
- <https://www.santacruzpl.org/>
- <https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/aboutspeccoll/welcome>
- <https://scgensoc.org/>





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