Guide to Planning your Research – Genealogy

Researching your genealogy can be exciting and frustrating. The library has the following titles and databases to help you research your ancestors.

1830 Citizens of Texas
Ancestors, 900 Years in the Life of a Chinese Family
Austin Colony Pioneers, Including History of Bastrop, Fayette, Grimes, Montgomery, and Washington Counties, Texas
Biography and Genealogy Master Index
Creoles of Color in the Bayou Country
Ethnic Genealogy: A Research Guide
Finding Your Roots: How Every American Can Trace his Ancestors...
Genealogical Research on the Web
Genealogy for Librarians
Glimpses of Newton County History
Hispanic Surnames and Family History
Histoire et Genealogie des Acadiens
History of Hardin County, Texas
How Healthy is Your Family Tree?
In Search of Your Asian Roots
In Search of Your British & Irish Roots
Jefferson County, Texas Cemeteries
More Early Southeast Texas Families
Online Roots
Searching for Your Ancestors: The How and Why of Genealogy
The Sourcebook of County Court Records
Yellowed Pages (Periodical)

Port Arthur Public Library has some genealogy materials and the Port Arthur News on microfilm. 4615 9th Avenue 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday – Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday – 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Tyrrell Historical Library in Beaumont has a tremendous amount of materials. 695 Pearl Street Monday – Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DATABASES

American National Biography Online [TUTORIAL] - Offers portraits of more than 19,000 men and women, including the 17,435 original biographies from the print edition - from all eras and walks of life - whose lives have shaped the nation. Includes thousands of illustrations, more than 80,000 hyperlinked...
cross-references, and links to select web sites. Also included are 900 fully integrated articles from "The Oxford Companion to United States History", and over 2,500 illustrations. You may search in a number of ways: by full text (Words and phrases), by subject name, by gender, by occupation or realm of renown, by birth date, by birthplace, by death date, and by contributor name.

**The Handbook of Texas Online** - Provided by the Texas State Historical Association this encyclopedia furnishes a full-text searchable version of the complete text of the six-volume print edition, all corrections incorporated in the second printing, and approximately 400 articles not included in the print edition. More than 23,000 articles on Texas history, geography, and culture.

**MAS Ultra** - Provides full text articles for 478 popular general interest and current events publications with information dating as far back as 1975 for key magazines. This database also contains 362 full text reference books (including the Columbia Encyclopedia and the CIA World Fact Book), 944 biographies, 202 country fact sheets, 400 country reports, 11 educational reports, 3 government documents, 4 law books, 3 newspapers, 77 pamphlets, 155 speeches, 139 state/provincial fact sheets, and an Image Collection of over 592,000 photos, maps, flags, and color PDFs. MAS Ultra also includes 5 databases: American Heritage Dictionary; American Reference Library: Biographies; American Reference Library: Primary Source Documents; Britannica Biographies; and Hutchinson’s Biography Database. Under the law category all Supreme Court Cases from 1790-present.

**MasterFILE Premier** - Contains full text for 1,657 periodicals covering general subject areas: arts and entertainment, business, education, general science, health, history, literature, multicultural issues, science and technology, and social science, and much more. This database also contains full text for 469 reference books, 1,062 biographies, 203 country fact sheets, 117 country reports, 5 databases, 71 educational reports, 4 government documents, 25 health reports, 4 law, 5 newspapers, 100 pamphlets, 155 speeches, 139 state/provincial fact sheets, and an Image Collection of over 592,000 photos, maps and flags.


**Newspaper Archive** - Contains tens of millions of newspaper pages from 1759 to present. Every newspaper in the archive is fully searchable by keyword and date, making it easy for you to quickly explore historical content.

**Texas Digital Sanborn Maps** - Provides digital access to more than 660,000 large-scale maps of over 12,000 American towns and cities. These maps are valuable research tools for geographers, social historians, urban specialists, genealogists, planners, local historians, architects, environmentalists, and anyone who wants to learn about the history, growth, and development of American cities, towns, and neighborhoods.
**Texas Reference Center** - Provides full text for 32 journals, 58 magazines and trade publications, and 178 books about Texas history, ethnic and cultural diversity, gender studies, literature, public health, business as well as home and garden and sports and leisure. The database contains biographies portraying famous historical and contemporary Texans such as George Herbert Walker Bush, Lady Bird Johnson, Dan Moody, Susanna Dickinson and Sam Houston. Newspapers providing Texas and national news coverage are also included.

Research guides are located on the Gates Memorial Library Home Page. You may access them to link to Web Sites.

**WEB SITES**

**Access Genealogy.com**  Access scanned images of genealogical books and documents available free on the Web.

**Afrigeneas.com** is a site devoted to African American genealogy, to researching African Ancestry in the Americas in particular and to genealogical research and resources in general. It is also an African Ancestry research community featuring the AfriGeneas mail list, the AfriGeneas message boards and daily and weekly genealogy chats.

**Ancestry.com** If you have a Port Arthur Library Card you may use this database at the Port Arthur Public Library.

**Ancestry.com Immigration and Passenger Lists** Early passenger lists typically include the name of the ship, the names of passengers, ages, ports of arrival and departure, date, country of origin, and occupation.

**Christine's Genealogy** Provides genealogy links, census links, and Freedmen’s Bureau (African American links)

**Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet** lists more than 329,705 Web sites.

**Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library** Provides links to sites useful to Texas families for genealogical research.

**Ellis Island Records** From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in the New York Harbor.

**Family Search.org** The LDS church’s (Mormon) searchable full-text collection of family history records and materials and links to genealogical research.

**The Freedmen's Bureau Online** Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freemen and Abandoned Lands provides marriage records, murders and outrages, and Freedmen’s Bureau labor records.

**Genealogy Research Guides** Offers tips and online records.
Genealogy Resources on the Internet

Jewishgen.org  “Our free, easy-to-use genealogy website features thousands of databases, research tools, and other resources to help those with Jewish ancestry research and find family members.”

Library of Congress, Local History and Genealogy Reading Room Web Site

Lone Star Genealogy.com  “This is a listing of the major pages that will assist you on your Texas research. These links will take you further into the vast amount of information available at LoneStar Genealogy.”

National Archives  Research records and resources for genealogists.

Obituary Central  Metasite focused for finding obituaries and performing cemetery searches.

Rootsweb.com  RootsWeb Genealogical Data Cooperative most comprehensive Web site for genealogy resources.


Sources2go.com  Provides links to genealogy sites.

Surnameweb.org  Metasite searchable by surnames.

Texas Cemetery Records  Browse by county and link to other Texas genealogy Web sites.

Texas Department of State Health Services  For fast, affordable service, order birth certificates, death certificates, and birth, death, marriage, and divorce verification letters through Texas.gov, the official eGovernment site for the State of Texas.

Texas History & Genealogy Links

Texas Genealogy and History Guide

Texas Land Grants  A guide to land grants available in the Archives and Records Division of the Texas General Land Office, with links to other relevant information in the Land Office.

Texas Marriages Search  Search for Texas Marriages (1966-2010) and Texas divorces (1968-2010).

Texas State Library and Archives Commission  Genealogy Resources at the Texas State Library “Our collections include microfilm of the federal census schedules for all states through 1910; selected states from the 1920 and 1930 censuses; printed family and county histories; and a variety of Texas government records. In addition, many of our frequently requested resources are highlighted below. Please use our Online Public Access Catalog to determine the cataloged titles in our collections.”

TXGenWeb Project  The TXGenWeb Project is a grass-roots all volunteer genealogical/historical effort. Each county webpage is commercial free and contains useful tips, online databases particular
to that area, volunteer lookups, surname queries, descriptions of local libraries, historical background information, contact information, and much more. All information is free.

**Usgenweb.com** U.S. Gen Web Project includes cemetery records, census data, family histories, newspapers, diaries, and more.

**Vitalrec.com** Information for all states and territories of the United States & International, United States birth certificates, death records and marriage licenses.

**Citing Sources**
Each database provides “How to cite” for each article but these sites provide more information for citing various media (books, databases, websites, etc.)

The guides and links in this section will enable persons to properly use body citations and create works cited or bibliography pages.

- APA Style
- MLA Style
- EasyBib MLA citation creator
- Referencing Tool
- Son of Citation Machine
- Turabian Style
- University of California Berkeley (APA, MLA, Chicago)

If you need further assistance, please ask a librarian, in person or online Ask/Chat with a Librarian

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