

CITY DIRECTORY RESEARCH RESOURCE LIST:

Internet Sources....

www.familysearch.org - Family History Library catalogue of microfilms - search under the “keyword” category, using the words: “City Directory,” plus your town name. Example: “City Directory Cleveland.” This will produce a list of their entire microfilm collection for that city, indicating the years and the publishers of those directories. Not all of these films will necessarily be found at the Los Angeles Family History Center, but any missing ones can be ordered from Salt Lake City.

www.ancestry.com - Searchable databases for many U.S. city directories, including the 1890 Census Substitute. Access to most of these directories are part of their fee-based service, but can be accessed for free from Los Angeles Family History Library or the Los Angeles County Library computer terminals at several locations as “Ancestry Plus.”

www.jewishgen.org - Check their discussion group archives and “info files” for tutorials, fact sheets, information and suggestions on city directory research.

www.cyndislist.com - search the “City Directory” category for useful internet sites and links.

www.distantcousin.com - old city directories from across the country, searchable for free.

www.graonline.com - Genealogy Research Associates: a fee-based search service.

www.uscitydirectories.com - “City Directories of the United States” is a search engine with locations of printed, microfilmed and online directories and their repositories.

www.rootsweb.com – Has a mailing list for those who desire lookups in city directories and for volunteers who are willing to undertake such searches.

ON SITE RESEARCH - *Here in Los Angeles.....*

Los Angeles Family History Center – large city directory microfilm collection...some years might be missing for your town, but they can be ordered from Salt Lake City. www.lafhc.org or www.familysearch.org, and on-site free access to Ancestry.com.

L.A. County Public Library has the microfilm set City Directories of the United States representing most of the larger United States cities over a span of many years. To see what they have go to: www.colapublib.org, click on “search site,” and enter town name. They also have city directories for Los Angeles from 1873 to 1942. Criss-cross listings for addresses are found only in the 1897 and 1901-1905 directories. There are 88 cities in Los Angeles County. City directories for many of the suburban communities were published for varying periods of time. Criss-cross listings are found in them more frequently than they are in the Los Angeles directories. Some suburban city directories are in the Los Angeles Public Library, but more complete holdings are generally found in the public libraries of those communities.

The library does not accept telephone requests for searches of any of these directories. Requests must be sent by mail. The charge is \$5.00 per name for each book or year checked whether or not information is found, and \$.25 per photocopy. The searching fee must be prepaid.

UCLA Young Research Library – microfilms and some paper copies of Los Angeles area (and some northern California) city directories. Phone 310-825-8301 for a recording of the library hours of operation. See the Web page: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/url/> for information. You must buy a plastic debit card from one of the machines on the ground floor to use the paper copy machines (\$.10 each copy) and the microform machines (\$.36 each copy) on the 2nd floor. Use a catalog computer terminal or on-line catalog on the ground floor to locate materials or ask a person at the Information or Reference Desk. You must obtain a free orange library reference card at the Circulation Desk to use the Special Collections or Microforms Room. Obtain change from the cashier on the ground floor. See <http://www.library.ucla.edu/> for the menu for all the UCLA libraries.

Special Collections - in basement - special collections section has old, rare, poor condition materials, old maps, atlases, files of early California newspapers and city directories - look in card catalogue - fill out card for materials and wait 1/2 hr to 2 days for materials to be retrieved. You must have a orange library reference card to obtain items. Open MON-SAT 10 AM-4:45 PM. Phone 310-825-4879 to verify hours of operation.

Microforms Room - on 2nd floor - has microfilms of newspapers and city directories - fill out request card to obtain microforms. See the index of newspapers on microfilm on the counter. You must have a free orange library reference card to use the microforms. Open TUE-THUR 9 AM-6:45 PM, FRI-SAT 9 AM-4:45 PM. Phone 310-825-4003 to verify hours of operation. Gift Room - 2nd floor - used books for sale. Open TUES, WED and THURS 10 AM-4 PM. Phone 310-825-4248.

FOR OUT-OF-TOWN RESEARCH.....

When in New York - The New York City 42nd Street Public Library has a vast collection of city directory microfilms for the entire country, spanning many years, and offers extended evening hours. The NYC Municipal Archives on Chambers Street has only New York City Directory microfilms, they charge a \$5 fee to use their microfilm readers, and they close at 4:30PM Monday through Thursday, and earlier on Friday.

And across the United States... The National Archive branches, city and town public libraries, Family History Centers. Historical Societies, and university libraries, are good sources for city directory research. If a directory was published for the town you are researching...no matter how small...you should be able to locate it!

And finally....for more recent, reverse directory research:

Haines Criss + Cross Directories cover 1970 to the present. These directories are organized only by telephone number or address, not by name. Haines & Company will search their nationwide collection of directories for a fee by calling their North Canton, Ohio headquarters at (330) 966-5550., Reverse Directory Service of California will also search for a fee at (900) 420-0707. For information on their service, call (800) 231-8788. Current reverse directory information is also available for free on the Internet at: www.infospace.com.

