

Beyond Archives: Why Use the University Library?

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<https://instr.iastate.libguides.com/genealogy>

Why Use the University Library?

- To find/use materials that are not online nor available in other local libraries.
- For on-site access to databases that ISU subscribes to (walk-in users can get free guest login at Main Desk).
- To flesh out the bones of family histories – e.g., soldier letters, social events, news, biographies, major weather events, etc.

Collection Examples:

- *Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa*
- Soldier registers – e.g., *North Carolina Cavalry in the Civil War: a history and roster*
- *Daily Life of U.S. Soldiers* [3 vol. set]
- Books about historic gravestone art & symbolism
- *Tornado: Accounts of Tornadoes in Iowa*
- *The Birth Certificate: an American history*
- *Keeping Family Secrets: Shame and Silence in Memoirs...*
- Use [QuickSearch](#) on library website to look for these & more.

Collection Oddities:

In addition to U.S. records, the ISU library collection includes information on immigrant groups & vital records from:

Australia

Ireland

Barbados

Italy

England

Manitoba

Germany

Mexico

Greece

Norway

Tips for Parks Library visits:

- Check [Library hours](#) & SCUA hours in advance.
- To use databases on-site (get guest login – at Main Desk)
- Bring flash drive(s)
- Use FREE scanners
- Avoid beginning of each semester – scanners busy
- Wireless access available for campus guests
- Use QuickSearch and/or [CARDinal](#) from home – bring call numbers & locations list with you.
- Parking: Memorial Union parking garage (not free) or – parking around bus station north of football stadium (FREE bus to campus from there – alert driver if you've not been to library before and they will make sure you get there)

Overlooked Free Resources

- [Finding Newspapers](#) guide (from ISU Library)
- [Historical Newspapers](#) by Advantage Preservation
- [Farm, Field and Fireside](#) – U.S. farm weeklies
- [General Land Office Records](#) (U.S. Bureau of Land Management)
- [Iowa Land Records](#) – intro by FamilySearch.org
- [HathiTrust](#) – books, pamphlets, journals, etc.
- [Genealogy Research Guide](#) (from ISU Library)

Questions? Ask Us!

ISU Library Ask Us – <https://www.lib.iastate.edu/askus>

Special Collections & Archives – archives@iastate.edu