

QUICK GUIDE

United States Census Sources for Arkansas

Census information is not limited to population statistics. Census publications also describe agriculture, housing, education, manufacturing, public institutions, businesses, community organizations, transportation, economic development, and much more. Census data are located in different areas of the library: the Government Documents Department, Reference Department, Periodicals Room, and Special Collections. Selected materials also may be found on "Reserve" at the Circulation desk. Materials may be available in one or more of the following formats: printed publications, microfilm, microfiche, and cd rom files. The United States government continues to add information to the Internet. One place to begin is the Census Bureau Home Page at <http://www.census.gov/>

Seven general categories of sources in the University Libraries provide information about Arkansas from the federal census:

Reference handbooks and cumulations

Available at the Reference Desk on level two, these works provide quick summaries of census information:

Arkansas Statistical Abstract
Desk Ref HA 255 .A7 [date]

County and City Data Book
Desk Ref HA 202 .A36 [date]

State and Metropolitan Area Data Book
Desk Ref HA 202 .S84 [date]

Historical Statistics of the South: 1790 - 1970
Ref HA 215 .D6 v.1

Current census statistics (1990 and 2000) Reports from the 2000 census are issued as compiled--for latest information, check <http://www.census.gov/> Publications available for the 1990 and 2000 censuses are located in the Government Documents Department on level four, call numbers include the abbreviation GOVREF-CENSUS or US DOC for a Superintendent of Documents number, for example:

1990 Census of Population
GOVREF-CENSUS HA 201 1990 .A568

Historical census statistics (1790 - 1980)

Shelved in the Government Documents Department. Frequently-used sets include:

Population: GOVREF-CENSUS HA 201 1790 .B1 - HA 201 1980 .A568
Manufacturing: GOVREF-CENSUS HD 9724 .A4 1900 - HD 9724 .A211 1982
Agriculture: GOVREF-CENSUS HD 1753 1900 - HD 1753 .B87 1984
A reprint set of the first through the ninth census can be found at:
GOVREF-CENSUS HA 201 1790a - HA 201 1870a v.4

Census schedules (sometimes called the "annotated census," "enumerated census," or "manuscript census") list individual names, ages, etc. These schedules are available in this library for the state of Arkansas for 1830 - 1880 and 1900-1930, on microfilm in the Periodicals Room on level two under the following call numbers:

ARKANSAS--CENSUS, [year]

United States. Census Office. *Census of the United States*. [Arkansas. Population].

for 1830-1910, 1930: MFILM F410 .C458 1830 -- F 410 .C458 1910 and MFILM F 410 .C458 1930

for 1920: MFILM F410 .C45 1920a

The Soundex indexes names in the census using a special code to group together names which sound the same even when they are spelled differently.

This library has the Soundex for the 1920 and 1930 censuses of Arkansas. They are located in the Periodicals Room with the call numbers **MFILM F 410 .I52 1920a** and **MFILM F 410 .I52 1930a**.

To use the Soundex, code the surname (last name) according to the following basic rules:

1. Use the first letter of a surname as it is, do NOT code it.
2. Do NOT code the letters **a, e, i, o, u, y, w,** and **h**.
3. Code as one letter all double letters (bb, rr, ss, tt, etc.) and letters that act as one (ck, ch, etc.).
4. Code the first three of the remaining letters according to the following guide. If less than three letters remain, insert zeroes at the end to yield a code with one alphabetical letter followed by three numerals.

b, p, f, v = 1
c, s, k, g, j, q, x, z = 2
d, t = 3
l = 4
m, n = 5
r = 6

Examples of coded names:

Allen = A 450 Donaldson = D 543 McDonald = M 235 McKey = M 200
O'Brian = O 165 O'Brian = O 165 Peters = P 362 Peterson = P362

Most of the 1890 census schedules were destroyed by a fire in the Commerce Department, including all of the 1890 schedules for Arkansas. "Reconstructed" 1890 censuses have been compiled for some counties from tax records, school records, etc. To identify these, consult InfoLinks by subject for: [the name of the county], (Ark.) – Census, 1890.

Schedules for the censuses of mortality, agriculture, manufactures, and social statistics are available for Arkansas for the years 1850-1880. No indexes to these schedules are available. The original schedules are fragile and their use is restricted. The schedules are available on microfilm in the Periodicals Room, for example:

ARKANSAS--CENSUS, 1880

Census of the United States (1880). Population. Arkansas. [Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, mortality].
MFILM F 410 .C46 1880a

Published indexes, transcriptions of the census for specific counties, and a few fragile originals are located in Special Collections, with location codes that include the abbreviations **A** or **ARK COLL**. Published statewide indexes are available for 1830-1870 only. Abstracts, transcriptions, and indexes are available for a small percentage of individual Arkansas counties. To identify them, consult the library catalog under the following subject heading:
[name of county you are researching], (ARK.)--CENSUS, [year you are researching]. Two sample titles are:

ARKANSAS--CENSUS, 1850--INDEXES

Arkansas 1850 Census Index. Edited by Ronald Vern Jackson, David Schaefermeyer, Gary Ronald Teeples.
ARK COLL F 410 .A85 1976.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY (ARK.)--CENSUS, 1850

Abstract of 1850 Federal Census Montgomery County, Arkansas. Abstracted by James M. & Lillian (Noles) Hart. **ARK COLL F 417 .M75 A24 1850**, also in MAIN stacks at the same call number.

If you have difficulty locating materials or if you have other questions, ask at the Reference Desk or in the Government Documents Department.