



Arkansas Oral History Topics: General Sources

I. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXTS

Use reference and text books to provide background for subjects that are new to you.

A. Textbooks and General Histories

Arkansas : A Narrative History. Fayetteville : University of Arkansas Press, 2002. (Reserve and Ark Coll F411 .A772 2002).

The Arkansas Delta: Land of Paradox. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1993. Main and Ark Coll F417.A67 A75 1993.

Contributed essays on time periods and topics such as women, social life and customs, agriculture, and towns.

A Documentary History of Arkansas. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1984. Ref and Ark Coll F 406 .D64.

Collects primary source documents from all periods; includes statistical summaries.

Histories of Arkansas Series from the UofA Press:

Moneyhon, Carl H. *Arkansas and the New South, 1874-1929*. Fayetteville : University of Arkansas Press, 1997. Main, Ark Coll F411 .M74 1997.

Johnson, Ben F. *Arkansas in Modern America : 1930-1999*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2000. Main, Ark Coll F411 .J64 2000.

B. Subject Encyclopedias

Encyclopedia of Arkansas: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net>

An important tool for facts, dates, names, and places. The signed articles will often provide you with a basic working bibliography. A popular work written for a general audience.

Consult more general academic reference works that may help you place events in Arkansas in a national or regional context and also provide a basic bibliography on your topic. You can find more subject encyclopedias by searching InfoLinks under keyword "encyclopedias" + your topic.

Encyclopedia of Southern Culture. Chapel Hill : University of North Carolina Press, 1989. Ref F209 .E53 1989.

American Folklore: An Encyclopedia. New York: Garland, 1996. Ref GR 101 .A54.

Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History. 2nd ed. 6v. Detroit: Gale, 2006. Ref E 185 .E54 2006.

Greenwood Encyclopedia of African American Folklore. 3v. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2004. Ref GR 111 .A47 G74 2004.

Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Regional Cultures. v. 7: *The South*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2004. Ref E 169.I .G756 2004.

II. Statistics, Facts, Dates, and Places

A. Chronologies

Chronologies will help you locate the events narrated by your informant in a national timeline.

American Decades Series. Detroit: Gale, 1995. Ref E 169.12 .A419 1900z.

Each volume covers a decade and offers key events, personalities, and highlights in popular culture, politics, arts, sports, and more.

The American Years: A Chronology of United States History. New York: Scribner's, 1999. Ref E 174.5 .G753.

Day by Day Series. New York: Facts on File: 1977-.

Summaries world events for each day. Ref D 840 and subsequent call numbers.

B. Arkansas Government Documents

Arkansas. *Historical Report of the Secretary of State*. 1958-. Ref, Ark Coll, J87 .A84a.

These useful volumes offer historical sketches, state election results, and historical rosters of Arkansas county officials, circuit and Supreme Court judges, legislators, Constitutional officers, and federal delegations.

[County Profiles, County Economic Profiles, Economic Development Profiles]. Little Rock: University of Arkansas System Cooperative Extension Service, c.1991-.

Latest edition online:

http://www.arcommunities.org/econ_dev/economic_profiles/county_profiles.htm

Earlier years can be found in Law or in Ark Coll. Look in InfoLinks under [county name] (ark)—economic conditions to find them.

Published by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extensive Service since circa 1991, these summaries provide detailed statistical data on population, household composition, health, income, poverty, employment, agriculture and forestry, retail activity, property taxes, and roads for each county. In some cases, the data go back in time to 1970 or earlier.

C. U.S. Census Documents

See also Andrea Cantrell's handout on U.S. Census Sources for Arkansas

(<http://libinfo.uark.edu/webdocs/reference/Census.pdf>).

United States Historical Census Browser: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>

This database from the University of Virginia's Geostat Center offers selected statistics from the decennial censuses of population from 1790-1960. By choosing a time period and then categories of available data, one can create a statistical spreadsheet or even a map at the county level. A great shortcut if you only need county-level data.

County and City Data Books: <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/ccdb/>

This sister database of the Census Browser offers county-level data from 1944 – 2000.

American FactFinder (U.S. Census Bureau): <http://factfinder.census.gov/>.

Provides county and community-level data from 2000 –.

For township level data, you will need to refer to the printed census volumes:

Census of Population: GOVREF-CENSUS HA 201 1790 .B1 - HA 201 1980 .A568.

Census of Manufacturing: GOVREF-CENSUS HD 9724 .A4 1900 - HD 9724 .A211 1982.

Census of Agriculture: GOVREF-CENSUS HD 1753 1900 - HD 1753 .B87 1984.

Baker, Russell. *Township Atlas of Arkansas*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1984. Main, Ref, and Ark Coll G1355 .B34 1984.

Provides information on the historical boundaries of township names.

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 "manuscript census," or "census schedules" are the logs used by census enumerators as they visited each household. Useful for tracking specific persons or families. Arranged by county and then township.

D. Maps

See also Jan Dixon's handout on Arkansas Maps: <http://libinfo.uark.edu/GIS/arkmapquickguid3.00.pdf>.

County Road Maps: General Highway Map: [Arkansas counties] Ref Map-Cases G 4001 .P2 A62. Latest maps in Ref, earlier maps in Ark Coll. Also online at

<http://www.arkansashighways.com/maps.htm>.

Sanborn Digital Maps: Arkansas. 1867-1970. Library Web Page.

These fire insurance maps provide town plans, with building footprint and use. Dates covered vary for each town; for example, Blytheville maps cover 1908-1949.

III. Newspapers

A. Locating Newspapers in Collections

InfoLinks, the Library Catalog.

Search under **subject** United States Arkansas [county] [city], e.g., United States Arkansas Washington Fayetteville.

Arkansas Union List of Newspapers. Fayetteville, AR: University Libraries, 1993. Ref Desk, Ark Coll Z 6952 .A8 .A75. (Note that this list does not include foreign newspapers).

Brendel, Shirley J. *Arkansas Newspapers*. Fayetteville, AR: University Libraries, 1987. Ref Desk, Ark Coll Z 6952 .A8 A74 1987.

B. Indexes

Arkansas Gazette Index and *Democrat-Gazette Index*. 1964-. (Covers 1819-1894 and 1960-). Ref AI 21 .A75. Also online, 1993-, in Lexis Nexis Academic.

IV. Scholarship

Arkansas History : An Annotated Bibliography, compiled by Michael B. Dougan, Tom W. Dillard, and Timothy G. Nutt Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 1995; Ref Desk, Ark Coll F411 .D68 1995.
Lists books, articles, and dissertations on Arkansas by time period and topic.

Arkansas Historical Quarterly: Cumulative Index. 1942-2000. **Library Web Page.**

Page-level indexing of the journal for state history and culture.

Arkansas Publications Index. **Library Web Page.**

A growing index to articles and book chapters on Arkansas topics; indexes many county histories. Ask at the Reference Desk or in Special Collections for a search of years not yet online.

America: History and Life. 1963-. **Library Web Page.**

Indexes books, book reviews, articles, and dissertations on U.S. and Canadian social, political, economical, diplomatic, and cultural history. Indexes the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* from 1980 – present.

Once you have located an article citation of interest, check InfoLinks under the name of the journal to find your article. In many cases, the article will be available online from one of our full-text sources.

InfoLinks

The Libraries' catalog of books, journals, and other materials. Search by keywords or subject headings to find books on your topic. Remember that books tend to address broad topics and major events. If you don't find an entire book on your topic, look for one that may discuss your topic as part of a larger story. Some examples:

topic:

Phillips County

subjects or keyword in InfoLinks:

phillips county (ark)—history
phillips county (ark)—social life and customs
phillips county (ark)—economic conditions

Delta Blues

blues music
blues music—history and criticism
popular music—southern states
african Americans--music

Southern Women

women—southern states
southern states—social life and customs
sex role—southern states

WorldCat. **Library Web Page.**

A union catalog of more than 50 million items held in libraries all over the world. Use WorldCat to find books held in other libraries that you may obtain on Interlibrary Loan (ILL). Books requested on ILL generally arrive within 7-10 working days.