

Open Access Digital Resources on the California Gold Rush and Other California History

The California Gold Rush

Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/books/?q=gold+rush>

(This site features downloadable books on The California Gold Rush, some from the nineteenth century and many that include first-person accounts.)

California State Library

The California Gold Rush, an online exhibition of annotated primary sources

<https://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/gold-rush/>

Online Archive of California

<https://oac.cdlib.org/>

(This site provides details about manuscripts, letters, diaries, and other primary sources held in more than 200 contributing institutions across the state; enter a topic, keyword, or the name of an institution in the OAC search engine to find detailed descriptions and research aids, as well as information about possible online access.)

Internet Archive

[https://openlibrary.org/search?](https://openlibrary.org/search?q=gold+rush+california&has_fulltext=true&page=2&mode=ebooks)

[q=gold+rush+california&has_fulltext=true&page=2&mode=ebooks](https://openlibrary.org/search?q=gold+rush+california&has_fulltext=true&page=2&mode=ebooks)

(This site loans ebooks on The California Gold Rush and other topics.)

California History

Library of Congress

Earthquake and Fire, 1906 - before and after, 1897-1916

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/san-francisco-earthquake-and-fire-1897-to-1916/about-this-collection/>

Calisphere

<https://calisphere.org>

(Providing access to over 1,700,000 images, texts, and recordings, this site aggregates the digital collections of universities and special collections libraries across the state; The Society of California Pioneers' collections are here: <https://calisphere.org/institution/123/collections/>)

Online Archive of California

<https://oac.cdlib.org>

(This site provides details about manuscripts, letters, diaries, and other primary sources held in more than 200 contributing institutions across the state; enter a topic, keyword, or the name of an institution in the OAC search engine to find detailed descriptions and research aids, as well as information about what the institutions have digitized and made available online.)

Hathi Trust

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/006792078>

(This site offers access to many digitized books and journals, including The Society of California Pioneers' quarterly publications from 1924 to 1933; more will be open access on this site soon.)

Internet Archive

https://openlibrary.org/search?q=california+history&mode=ebooks&has_fulltext=true

(This site offers access to digitized publications and ebooks on many topics.)

Chronicling America; The Newspaper Collection in The Library of Congress

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

(This site offers open access to newspapers from across the country and over time; searches can be narrowed to one state, as well as specific dates.)

JSTOR (Journal Storage)

<https://www.jstor.org>

(This is a digital library for scholars, researchers and students offering many open access articles on a wide range of topics. A San Francisco Public Library card allows access to this collection; California residents can obtain that card here: <https://sfpl.libanswers.com/faq/65116>)

In response to the Covid-19 shelter-in-place order, JSTOR has expanded their catalogue of accessible publications.

University of California Press

<https://www.ucpress.edu/blog/49700/free-access-to-all-uc-press-journals-through-june-2020/>

(Digitized publications - with titles such as California History, Boom California, Mexican Studies, Pacific Historical Review, and Southern California Quarterly - are available on this site.)

In response to the Covid-19 shelter-in-place order, UC Press is offering free access to all of its' journals.

The Annals of San Francisco

<https://archive.org/details/annalsofsanfranc00soul/page/n8/mode/2up>

(Published in 1855, this seminal work was created to be “a summary of the history of California and a complete history of its great city: to which are added biographical memoirs of some prominent citizens.”)

San Francisco City Directories

<https://sfpl.org/locations/main-library/magazines-newspapers-center/bay-area-city-directories-and-phone-books/san-0>

(The San Francisco Public Library offers open access to the 1850 to 1982 directories.)

The Autobiographies and Reminiscences of Pioneers

<https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt8489q5km/>

(From The Society of California Pioneers' Institutional Records, eight volumes of first-person accounts are available via OAC; in these hand-written and transcribed autobiographies, early members describe their journey to California and life during the early years of statehood.)

Patricia Keats, Director of Library and Archives
April 22, 2020

pkeats@californiapioneers.org