

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/>

Internet Archive

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

[https://openlibrary.org/search?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)

California History

Online Archive of California

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.

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

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/>

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 expanded their catalog of accessible publications in 2020.

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 Maritime Heritage Project

<https://www.maritimeheritage.org>

An online resource focused on maritime history in San Francisco in the 1800s