

Preparing for a Trip to the ISU Archives

AND using other ISU Library Collections

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)
- [HathiTrust](#)

**IOWA STATE
UNIVERSITY**
University Library



Why Use the University Library?

- For ISU-related info – e.g., alumni, faculty, photos, non-digitized publications such as Master’s theses.
- To find/use materials that are not online or available other places such as Ames Public Library.
- To flesh out the bones of family histories – e.g., soldier letters, social events, news, biographies, major weather events, etc.

Examples:

- *Iowa 1836 Territorial Census Index*
- *Personal Name Index to the 1856 City Directories of Iowa*
- *Iowa Aerial Photograph Collection, 1963-1984* [in Archives]
- Soldier registers – e.g., *North Carolina Cavalry in the Civil War: a history and roster*
- *Daily Life of U.S. Soldiers* [3 vol. set]
- *19th Century U.S. Newspapers* [full-text database]
- Books about historic gravestone art & symbolism
- *Tornado: Accounts of Tornadoes in Iowa*

Collection Oddities:

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

Australia

Ireland

Barbados

Italy

England

Manitoba

Germany

Mexico

Greece

Norway

ISU Library Also Offers:

- Free high-quality scanning into digital format
 - microfilm/fiche, print books, your photos, etc.
- In-library database use & downloading to flash drive
- Special Collections & University Archives
 - CARDinal – finding aids are now searchable online

Welcome to the Iowa State University Special Collections Request Systems

Current Iowa State University Affiliates

Includes Iowa State faculty, students, and staff with an active Okta account.

Logon with Okta

Non-Iowa State University Researchers

All users without an active Iowa State Okta account.

Logon or Create Account

All requests for materials held in Special Collections & University Archives are made through Aeon, an automated request and workflow management software common to many university collections libraries and archives. This system replaces paper registration forms and request forms for using our reading room or requesting copies.

With this system you can:

- Request materials ahead of your visit

 - Search [Library Catalog](#)

 - Search finding aids in [CARDinal](#)

- Track material you've already seen and items you want to see in the future

- Submit reproduction requests for duplication of materials

If you have any questions, please contact us at archives@iastate.edu.

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)

Examples of questions we receive:

- Looking for information on an abandoned town in Iowa.
- Can you check to see if Eugene Vandervort is mentioned in x book before I request on ILL?
- I am looking for an Iowa marriage certificate from April 1859. I read that vital records only go back to 1870. Can you advise me where else I might look?
- Great-grandfather went to ISU, do you have any photos of him? What degree(s) did he receive?

State University Name Confusions:

- State University of Iowa was the 1st university in Iowa and is still the legal name of the [University of Iowa](#).
- State College of Iowa, Iowa State Normal School and Iowa State Teachers College are all former names of the [University of Northern Iowa](#).

Questions? Ask Us!

APL Reference – webref@amespubliclibrary.org

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

ISU Archives – archives@iastate.edu