

**The Texas and Local History Collection (TLHC)**

**at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center (HMRC)**

Use the HPL catalog to see what we have. The [advanced search](https://halan.sdp.sirsi.net/client/en_US/hou/search/advanced?) lets you choose which library’s holdings you want to search.

**Gone to Texas (GTT) - generalized history about why people came to Texas. Examples:**

* Land
  + *Land of bright promise: advertising the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, 1870-1917* (333.73 B652)
* Health
  + *Health-Seekers in the Southwest, 1817-1900* (613.1 J76)
* Employment
  + *Harvey Houses of Texas: historic hospitality from the Gulf Coast to the Panhandle* (647.95764 L357)
* Military Service
  + *Soldiers in the Southwest Borderlands, 1848–1886* (355.00979 S684)

**Life in Texas - generalized history about Texas. Examples:**

* Eras
  + *The wings of change: the Army Air Force experience in Texas during World War II* (976.4062 A378)
* Events
  + *The feud that wasn't: the Taylor ring, Bill Sutton, John Wesley Hardin, and violence in Texas* (976.406 S635)
* Ethnic groups
  + *Life among the Texas Indians: the WPA narratives* (976.400497 L399)
* Built environment
  + *Texas houses built by the book: the use of published designs, 1850-1925* (728.09764 C967, e-book also available))
* Leisure time
  + *Friday night heroes: Texas high school football: glory at the goal line* (796.332 S893)
* Movements
  + *Citizens at last: the woman suffrage movement in Texas: essays* (324.623 T238)

**Biographies –** Finding a biography of someone your ancestor worked closely with, or for, or who was prominent in the area where they lived, may add some flavor to your narrative. **Examples:**

* *The grand huckster: Houston's Judge Roy Hofheinz, genius of the astrodome* (B H67R)

**More resources**

City directories

* + Not in the catalog
  + People and businesses by name
  + [Houston 1866-1923](https://cdm17006.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/citydir) on HPL Digital Archive
  + Houston on microfiche and film through 1986
  + Some other Texas towns as well

Yellow/White Pages

* + Not in the catalog
  + Houston 1904-2005, with some gaps
  + Bits and pieces for some other Texas towns

Cole’s/Polk directories

* + Not in the catalog
  + Houston households by address
  + 1961 forward, with some gaps

Maps

* + Some in the catalog
  + Some on [HPL Digital Archive](https://cdm17006.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/maps)
  + Digital Sanborn Maps, require a library card <https://digitalsanbornmaps.proquest.com/about?accountid=326>

Newspapers

* + Not in the catalog
  + Houston papers pre 1900 at HMRC/after 1900 at Central
  + Earliest “papers of record” digitized. Check The [Portal to Texas History](https://texashistory.unt.edu/explore/collections/TDNP/)
  + *Houston Chronicle* historical archive, 1901-2017, [available via HPL website.](https://houstonlibrary.org/newspapers) If you have a library card you can use it to log in from home
  + Houston Post indexes at HMRC for 1976-1985 (separate book for each year), Jan-Apr, 1995.
  + Some microfilm of other Texas city newspapers
  + Hard copy Houston community newspapers and specialized newspapers
  + Check the Houston & Texas resources page for digital access to more Texas newspapers

Periodicals

* Some in the catalog
* Some on [HPL Digital Archive](https://cdm17006.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/books)
* Hard copy trade publications, community newsletters, historical society publications, etc.

Yearbooks

* + Not in the catalog, but an online database coming soon
  + Some college level from Texas school
  + Primarily Houston high schools
  + Some middle schools

Vertical Files

* + Not in the catalog
  + Newspaper clippings and other ephemera

Asking us questions

* “Do you have a 1963 city directory for Corsicana?” = phone question
* “Is there a listing for Judy’s Plants in the 1963 city directory of Corsicana?” = email question

Coming in?

* Register in advance of your visit by completing [this form](https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b1151f378b0145dbb09ebe4cf9244318).
* Parking under Central Library uses an app called [Park Houston](http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/meters.html)
* When you arrive in the Texas Room, check in with your ID at the reference desk.
* All bags/containers go into a locker supplied free of charge

Bring:

* Driver’s license or other official photo id.
* HPL MyLink card (if you want to use public database/catalog computers)
* Sweater or jacket
* Coins, one/five dollar bills for photocopier
* Flash drive for saving documents from microprint

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