

School Yearbooks

Awkward Photos, Amazing Resource!

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Clayton Library Friends | Genealogy Face2Face

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School yearbooks are publications, usually compiled by a graduating class, that serves as a record of the year's activities.

Types of School Yearbooks:

- High School
- College / University
- Elementary School
- Middle / Intermediate / Junior High School

Other Non-School Yearbooks:

- Military (boot camp; specialized training, Navy cruise books)
- Church directories
- Corporate directories / anniversary publications
- Sports teams
- Clubs / social groups

WHAT'S INSIDE A YEARBOOK?

The Obvious:

Students

The Not So Obvious:

Faculty & Staff

Parents

School History

Local Businesses & Community

How is the information inside a yearbook be useful for genealogy?

- Determine an individual's approximate age from their grade level.
- Prove residence / location.
- Identify relationships (siblings, cousins, "sweethearts")
- Establish FAN (friends, associates, neighbors) club / cluster genealogy.
- Gives social context and history.

WHERE TO FIND YEARBOOKS?***In Print (Physical Yearbooks)*****Start Local:**

- Family members
- School
 - Library
 - Office / Administration
- Libraries
 - Local public library
 - Local / area archives
 - Nearby university libraries
 - Historical societies
- Local Resale
 - Antique stores
 - Estate sales / planners
 - Used book stores

Go Online:

- Facebook groups
 - Alumni
 - Local History & Genealogy
 - Marketplace / Buy-Sell-Trade
- Alumni websites
- Online auction / sales
 - Ebay
 - Abebooks.com
 - Memory Lane (memorylaneyearbooks.co)
 - Amazon (used book dealers)
 - Etsy
- Google search
 - School name + state + “yearbook”

Expand the Search:

- State libraries & archives
- WorldCat.org
- Reprint by original publisher

Online (Digital Yearbooks)**Ancestry**

- U.S., College Student Lists, 1763-1924 - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2207/>
- U.S., High School Student Lists, 1821-1923 - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2395/>
- U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-1999 - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1265/>

MyHeritage

- U.S. Yearbooks, 1890-1979 - <https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10568/us-yearbooks-1890-1979>
- U.S. Yearbooks Name Index, 1890-1979 - <https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10569/us-yearbooks-name-index-1890-1979>

FamilySearch Digital Library - <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/>

Use Advanced Search for better results / filters.

Keyword = [blank]

Title = [blank]

Subject = “yearbook”

Author = city + state + “school”

Internet Archive - <https://archive.org/>

Search = city + state + “yearbooks”

And when all else fails...

Google Search - <https://www.google.com/>

Search = [name of school] + digital yearbook