

# Researching Local History

Special Collections Division  
Akron-Summit County Public Library  
60 S. High Street, Akron, Ohio 44326  
[speccollections@akronlibrary.org](mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org) or 330.643.9030

Special Collections holds primary, secondary and contemporary source material specific to the growth and development of Akron and Summit County. Before using any primary source material, you should first consult secondary sources. Most of the library's secondary sources can be found in the Library's Catalog, <http://encore.akronlibrary.org/iii/encore/app>. Simply access the catalog from our website and search for your topic. During this phase of your research, you will probably visit other divisions of the Main Library.

The most common divisions for this part of your research are History & Humanities, Business, Labor & Government, Science & Technology and Popular Culture.

- The History & Humanities Division maintains collections of books on the role of Ohio and the U.S. in various wars and social movements. Books on education, art and architecture, philosophy, and religion are also found here.
- Business, Labor & Government has large historic clippings files concerning many well known local businesses and many reports from government funded research projects. The reference staff can also help you navigate the State of Ohio's electronic resources.
- The Science & Technology Division has a large collection of books on the polymer industry (rubber and plastics) and can also facilitate access to information from the United States Patent & Trademark office. Books concerning the technological advancements in military weapons are also found here.
- The Popular Culture Division holds biographies as well as books on sports and sporting figures.

Once you have reviewed secondary sources, you are ready to identify primary or contemporary resources. If you are looking for online resources, visit [www.SummitMemory.org](http://www.SummitMemory.org) which provides digital access to many primary source documents and images relating to Akron and Summit County history. Also available online is a database listing our non book holdings such as manuscript collections, miscellaneous photographs or other artifacts. To search the listing, visit <http://www.akronlibrary.org/DBS/SpecColldbO/Default.aspx>. Detailed descriptions of each of our collections can be found on our website at <http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/lochist.html>.

Contemporary sources can also be found in Special Collections. These are sources that were published during the time of the event you are researching and in some cases may be used as primary source documentation. We have Akron and Summit County newspapers from the nineteenth century to the twenty first century. We hold high school yearbooks from Summit County schools and the University of Akron. Our Photograph Collection contains a variety of images of Akron and its people dating from the late nineteenth century. Our vertical files contain miscellaneous information about Akron's history, neighborhoods, and people.

Several other public libraries also hold local history collections.

- Stow-Munroe Falls Public Library <http://www.smfpl.org/lh.htm>
- Hudson Library & Historical Society <http://www.hudson.lib.oh.us/Hudson%20Website/Archives/archives.htm>
- Barberton Public Library [http://www.barberton.lib.oh.us/local\\_history\\_main.htm](http://www.barberton.lib.oh.us/local_history_main.htm)
- Peninsula Public Library <http://www.peninsulalibrary.org/>.

## Getting Started

- *Centennial History of Summit County and its Representative Citizens* (1908) **aisle 4A**
- *History of Summit County* (1881) **aisle 4A**
- *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County* (1892) **aisle 4A**
- *Akron and Summit County / Grismer* **aisle 4A**
- Vertical Files **aisle A1**
- *Indexes to the Akron Beacon Journal, 1841-1939* **microfilm**

## Additional Resources

- *Akron Beacon Journal* **microfilm**
- Military Rosters of Ohio and Akron **microfilm**
- Akron City Directories **aisle 7A, microfilm, and online at <http://www.akronlibrary.org/internetresources/sc/CityDirectories/>**
- Akron Telephone books **microfilm, reference stacks**
- *Kent State University Disorder May 2, 1970 thru April 29, 1971* **microfilm**
- Historic Atlases and Maps **atlas case, reference stacks**
- *Photograph Collection* **reference stacks**
- *Lighter-Than-Air Collection* (books) **aisle 12B**
- *Rubber History Collection* (books) **aisle 6A**
- Family Histories **aisle 11A**

## Electronic Resources

- The Summit Memory Project, <http://www.summitMemory.org/> provides access to primary source material related to the history of Akron and Summit County Ohio.
- Akron Archives of Alcoholics Anonymous, <http://www.akronaa.org/archives/> describes the beginnings of this important organization here in Akron.
- Akron Women's History, <http://www3.uakron.edu/schlcomm/womenshistory/> details the roles women have played throughout Akron's history.
- Ohio Memory, <http://www.ohiomemory.org/index.html> provides access to digital images of primary source material related to Ohio history from around the state.
- Digital Collections, <http://www.ohiohistory.org/resource/archlib/> provides digital access to the some of the images held by the Ohio Historical Society.
- Library of Congress, The First American West: the Ohio River Valley 1750-1820, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award99/icuhtml/fawhome.html> provides access to digital images of primary source material concerning westward expansion.
- Akron & Summit County History, <http://akronhistory.org/index1.htm>, provides digital access to primary and secondary source documents and images.

## Other Institutions

- **Kent State University Special Collections and Archives** holds an extensive collection of primary source material concerning the May 4, 1970 shootings. For more information see <http://speccoll.library.kent.edu/> or call 330.672.2270. They are open Monday – Friday 1-5pm and are located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of KSU's library.
- **Archival Services at the University of Akron** holds extensive collections on the rubber industry including the Goodyear and Firestone collections as well as archival collections from the Summit County Historical Society. Archival Services is located on the lower level of the Polsky Building. They are open Monday – Friday from 9-5 and can be contacted at (330) 972-7670.