

NEAR NORTH SIDE

Newberry Library, 2nd Floor

60 West Walton Street
newberry.org
(312) 255-3522

Su & M: Closed
Tu, Th, F, Sa: 10:00 am–5:00 pm
W: 10:00 am–7:00 pm

About: The Newberry is consistently ranked within the top ten genealogical repositories in the country. The reference staff is superb and willing to provide personal help and research suggestions. Bring a photo ID to obtain a free library research card.

Directions: From Downtown, take the northbound #22 bus on Dearborn Street. It will drop you off right in front of the Newberry as the bus turns left on Walton, just past Washington Square Park.

- Kiosk of computers containing various family history databases as well as the Chicago *Tribune* online search.
- All Chicago city directories on microfilm
- Census, religious, and newspaper guides
- Military, ethnic, and passenger list indexes
- Chicago neighborhood history guides
- Research strategy and family tree tools

FAR NORTH SIDE

Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD), Cook County

5500 North St. Louis Avenue
neiu.edu/ronald-williams-library
(773) 442-4506

M–F: 9:00 am–4:00 pm*

About: The Illinois Regional Archives Depository at Northeastern Illinois State University is a repository of selected governmental records for Chicago and Cook County from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. It is administered by the Illinois State Archives and is located in the Lower Level of the Ronald Williams Library. *Call to check hours before visiting.

NEAR NORTH SIDE

Chicago History Museum (CHM), Research Center

1601 North Clark Street
chicagohistory.org
(312) 642-4600

Tu–F: 1:00–4:30
Sa: 10:00 am–4:30 pm
Su & M: Closed

About: This library is not really set up to allow for much research on the “common man” in Chicago history, but the staff is very knowledgeable.

Directions: From Downtown take the northbound #22 bus on Dearborn Street to North Avenue. The CHM is just ahead of you across North Avenue on the east side. The same bus goes right past the Newberry Library.

- Chicago city directories
- Many photographs of Chicago street scenes
- Chicago history clippings file
- All Chicago newspapers on microfilm, available by call slip
- Chicago building permits on microfilm
- Sanborn fire insurance maps
- Textual data on the notables of Chicago history

Directions: Take the Brown Line elevated train to the Kimball stop (end of the line). Transfer to the northbound #82 bus. Get off at Bryn Mawr Street and walk two blocks west through a quiet residential neighborhood. The library is the brown brick building on the west side of the campus quad.

- Cook County records such as births, deaths, and marriages on microfiche to 1900. No Chicago data
- Cook County government proceedings. Includes old Chicago City cemetery burial plot data
- Cook County Coroner's inquest reports
- Chicago Police homicide reports

CHICAGO FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH SITES

Find suggestions here for tracing your Chicago family history in our City's fine repositories, as well as a summary of their holdings. There are, of course, additional genealogical resources in the city, but those listed here are basic starting points. Directions from Downtown using public transit are also included.



Chicago Genealogical Society
ChicagoGenealogy.org

THE LOOP (DOWNTOWN)

Harold Washington Library Center

400 South State Street
chipublib.org/locations/34/
(312) 747-4300

M–Th: 9:00 am–9:00 pm
F–Sa: 9:00 am–5:00 pm
Su: 1:00–5:00 pm

About: Harold Washington Library Center is the main branch of the Chicago Public Library.

3rd Floor Microforms Room

- All Chicago newspapers on microfilm
- All Chicago city directories, telephone directories, and telephone books on microfilm or microfiche
- Cook County/Chicago Federal censuses on microfilm

6th Floor Chicago History Room

- Two copies of all books published concerning Chicago history
- Various Cook County histories

9th Floor Special Collections (call for hours)

- Rare and unique materials focusing on Chicago and the Civil War



THE LOOP (DOWNTOWN)

Daley Building

50 West Washington Street, East Concourse Lower Level, Room 25

Office of the Cook County Clerk

cookcountyclerk.com
(312) 603-5656 (call before visiting)
M–F: 8:00 am–5:00 pm

- *Genealogical* vital records (births, marriages, and deaths) are available here *within those limits* set by law (see their website, under “Vital Records”)
- No vital records available from before 1871

Cook County Building

118 North Clark Street, basement

Office of the Cook County Recorder of Deeds

cookrecorder.com
(312) 603-5050
M–F: 8:00 am–5:00 pm

About: To use this resource, one must be armed with either a *legal* description of the property or a PIN (Property Index Number). This office is not easy to navigate, but it holds essential valuable data.

- In book form, grantor-grantee (seller-buyer) records for each piece of property in Cook County from 1871 to 1986 (if a transaction was recorded)
- Online grantor-grantee records

Archives of the Clerk of the Cook County Court

50 West Washington Street, Room 1113
cookcountyclerkofcourt.org
(312) 603-6601
M–F: 8:30 am–4:30 pm

About: A friendly and helpful staff is on hand to help you with your search.

- Indexes to Cook County/Chicago probates (one-week delay to get data from storage)
- Indexes to Cook County/Chicago divorces (one-week delay to get data from storage)
- Indexes to Cook County/Chicago civil court records/dockets
- Naturalizations from Cook County Courts to 1924

Public Transit in Chicago: Riding Buses and Trains

CTA offers one-day and multi-day passes that allow unlimited rides for the specified time. Passes are available at Ventra machines, located at El stations and at several retail locations around town (for example, CVS and Walgreens).

Free-ride passes are available for eligible riders.

For system maps and more information, visit transitchicago.com and click on “How to Ride.”

Chicago Genealogical Society

If you have any questions during or after your visit, please e-mail us at info@ChicagoGenealogy.org and we'll assist you as best we can.



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ChicagoGenealogy.org



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