SCOPE OR BACKGROUND
Philadelphia is the birthplace of the United States and has a rich and long history. This resource guide includes selected books, databases and websites which focus on the history of Philadelphia, PA.

BROWSE FOR BOOKS USING THESE CALL NUMBERS

974.811 R 974.811

La Salle’s McShain Library Catalog on the Internet
If you would like to see more of what the “library downstairs” has on your topic, search our catalog on the Internet.
http://mlh.hslc.org:2053/search

The ACCESS PENNSYLVANIA Database is a web-based union catalog and resource sharing guide to Pennsylvania library collections. Librarians, library patrons, business and home users may search the Database. If you would like to borrow a book or other material through Access Pennsylvania just ask the library staff and we can get it for you.
http://205.247.101.11/

REFERENCE ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND HANDBOOKS


Atlas of Pennsylvania R 912.748 ATL (atlas stand)

Pennsylvania Almanac R 974.8 MAR

Pennsylvania Atlas & Gazetteer R 912.748 ATL (atlas stand)

Pennsylvania Gazetteer R 974.8 PEN
HISTORY

Philadelphia: A 300-year History. Russell F. Weigley, ed. 974.8 PHI

974.8 COL

Philadelphia: Portrait of an American City, 2nd ed. Edwin Wolf 974.811 WOL

Thomas J. Donaghy, F.S.C. 974.811 DON

Strange Philadelphia: Stories from the City of Brotherly Love. Lou Harry
974.81 HAR

974.804 JEN

History of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Edited James F. Connelly 974.811 CON

ABC-Clio

Comprehensive, current, and authoritative, this collection of social studies resources develops
historical understanding, information literacy, and critical thinking skills. This database consists of
four modules, of which the American History module will be the most useful for Philadelphia local
history.

American History - This resource presents the issues, perspectives, and history that have shaped
our nation.
http://www.socialstudies.abc-clio.com/iplogin.asp

Daily Life Online and World Cultures (from home and school)
This database provides a comprehensive, cross-disciplinary resource that gives life to history and
context to current events through the study of daily life of ordinary people.
http://dailylife.greenwood.com/login.asp

History Reference Center offers full text from more than 1,000 reference books, encyclopedias
and non-fiction books, cover to cover full text for 60 history magazines, 58,000 historical
documents, 43,000 biographies of historical figures, more than 12,000 historical photos and
maps, and more than 80 hours of historical video. It is available through Access PA Power
Library. Go to the McShain library online database page for access.
http://www.lschs.org/page.cfm?p=65
PEOPLE

African Americans in Pennsylvania: Shifting Historical Perspectives
Joe W. Trotter 974.8 AFR

The Elite of Our People: Joseph Willson’s Sketches of Black Upper-Class Life in Antebellum Philadelphia by Julie Winch 974.811 WIL

Life in Early Philadelphia: Documents from the Revolutionary and Early National Periods edited Billy G. Smith 974.874811 LIF

Mastering Wartime: A Social History of Philadelphia during the Civil War by J. Matthew Gallman. 974.811 GAL

Meeting House and Counting House: the Quaker Merchants of Colonial Philadelphia 1682-1763. 974.8 TOL


Philadelphia: Work, Space, Family and Group Experience in the 19th Century by Theodore Hershberg 974.811 PHI


William Penn: Apostle of Dissent Hans Fantel 974.8 PEN

Biography Resource Center (Gale Group)
This database contains biographies and articles on over 185,000 famous and notable people from all places and time periods.
http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/pl6058

PLACES

A Geography of Pennsylvania ed. Willard Miller, R 974.8 GEO

Dictionary of Pennsylvania Historic Places, 2 vols. R 974.8 DIC


Fort Mifflin of Philadelphia: An Illustrated History Jeffery M. Dorwart 974.811 DOR

Historic Houses of Philadelphia. Roger W. Moss. 974.811 MOS

Pennsylvania Gazetteer: A Comprehensive Reference to all the Places in the State. R 974.8 PEN

Philadelphia Beyond the Liberty Bell: A Guide to the Little-Known Hidden Treasures of the Delaware Valley Ron Avery 974.811 AVE

The Schuylkill Bennet Nolan 974.8 NOL


PHILADOX
The Philadelphia Department of Records has digitized deed information online. This may or may not be helpful to you. But you will know it is there. Please note this is a fee-based subscription service.
http://philadox.phila.gov/picris/splash.jsp

GRAPHICS

Imagining Philadelphia: Traveler’s Views of the City from 1800 to the Present 974.8 STE

Old Philadelphia in Early Photographs 1839-1914. Robert Looney 974.8 PHI

The Free Library of Philadelphia
FLP has an extensive collection of digital images and photographs of Philadelphia. Check out their website to see what is available.
http://libwww.library.phila.gov/collections/

Philadelphia Photo Archive Website (Philadelphia Records Department)
The City’s photo archive contains over 2 million photo records that date from the late 1800’s. This web site has a subset of those photos - currently about 35,000. All archive photos may be searched by keyword and date. Archive photos which have been assigned a geographic location are also searchable by proximity to an Address, Intersection, Place Name, or Neighborhood.
http://www.phillyhistory.org/photoarchive/

INTERNET WEB SITES
Atwater Kent Museum
The Atwater Kent Museum, located just around the corner from Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, is the gateway to Philadelphia history. Founded over 60 years ago as the city's history museum, the Atwater Kent Museum of Philadelphia (AKMP) provides many ways to learn about the city. [http://www.philadelphiadayshistory.org/](http://www.philadelphiadayshistory.org/)

College of Physicians of Philadelphia
The College's Historical Library includes collections of books, journals, manuscripts and prints and photographs documenting the history of medicine.

The Francis Clark Wood Institute for the History of Medicine aims to increase awareness in the scholarly community of the rich historical resources of the College's Library and Mütter Museum. [http://www.collphyphil.org/index.htm](http://www.collphyphil.org/index.htm)

Historical Society of Pennsylvania
The materials at the society represent various topics in Philadelphia history, gleaned from the Society's collections and interpretive activities. They offer a lens into the local, national and global stories in which Philadelphia has played a central role. [http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx](http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx)

Independence Hall Association
The association is devoted to providing information via the World Wide Web which educates, inspires, and entertains visitors worldwide with the importance of Philadelphia historically and into the present. [http://www.ushistory.org/](http://www.ushistory.org/)

Visiting an archive - Hints in using archival Materials

It is always a good idea to call ahead to learn about the rules for using the archive.

1. Ask how much photocopying costs. The archive staff may be the only ones allowed to photocopy documents and this is often more expensive than you doing it yourself.
2. You will probably be required to use a pencil when taking notes. Many ink pens contain acidic ink which will slowly destroy paper. Using a laptop to take notes is a good alternative.
3. You will probably be asked to check your bag and coat in a locker or cloak room. This is to protect the archival items from being stolen.
4. You will probably be asked to show a picture ID. A school ID or driver’s license will be acceptable.
5. You may have to pay a nominal fee to use the archive.

March 2006