CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

CALIFORNIA HISTORY SECTION

RESEARCH GUIDES

NEWPORT BEACH HISTORY

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Established as a trading post in 1872 and laid out as a town in 1892, the city of Newport Beach boasted an estimated population of 85,326 people as of 2018. In addition to serving as the terminus for two different railway lines during its history, this area has played a key role in aeronautics firsts such as the first water-water hydroplane flight. It also boasts at least one museum and a number of historic preservation organizations. If you are looking for exciting local information resources in the California History Section's rich collections, then check out what we have for this city!

ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!

Can't come to the library just yet? No worries! There are a number of online resources you can explore related to Newport Beach!
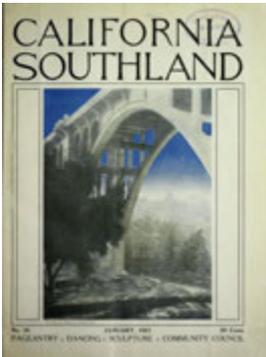
Digitized Publications

A few years ago we digitized some of our more fragile publications. You can now see documents related to Newport Beach on Internet Archive!

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URL: https://archive.org/

Type in Search Box: (Newport Beach) AND collection:(californiastatelibrary)

Select Option: "Search Full Text of Books"

Digitized Images

We have scanned and digitized a portion of our extensive photograph collection, including images related to Newport Beach. You can see them on Calisphere!

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URL: https://calisphere.org/institution/51/items/

Type in Search Box: ("Newport Beach")

While many of our materials are online, even more are only in hard-copy. You can use the following resources to learn about our Newport Beach resources.

Catalog

If you are looking for Newport Beach materials your best source is our catalog. You can do a general search on the catalog but also be sure to check out our specialized resources on page 7 of this research guide!

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URL: https://csl.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/search?vid=01CSL_INST:CSL&lang=en&sortby=rank

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California Information File II

Sometimes the catalog doesn't provide as much detail as you might like. This is why we created the California Information File II, successor to the analog California Information File I. In this resource, you can find indexing to individual articles, as well as Newport Beach deeds, restaurant menus, pamphlets and more!

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URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/QueryCalinfo.htm

Type in Search Box:
1. Newport Beach
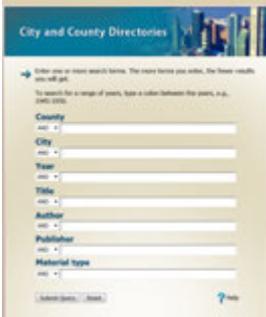
City Directories

Looking for a person? How about the history of a location? You can trace this information and more via our city directories! See what we have by checking our specialized database.

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URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/ QueryCityDir.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Newport Beach

Telephone Books

Are you not finding what you need in our city directory collection? No worries, you might find it in our telephone book collection. See what we have by checking our phone book database.

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URL: http://dbs.library.ca.gov/dbtext_html/ QueryPhonebk.htm

Type in Search Box:

1. Newport Beach

Specific Resources in Our Catalog

Newport Beach has a long and distinguished history! Check out our resources by type and by subject to learn more about this city's complex past!

Type

Maps
Books
Images

Manuscripts
Newspapers
Periodicals

Residents

Vitals
German Americans
Latin Americans
Native Americans
Women

Subject

Art
Business
Cooking
Education
Environment
Fiction

Fish
Folklore
Geology
Music
Politics
Shipping

Railroads
Restaurants
Taxes
Water

Our collection predates computers and so do some of our access points! If you are in the library, be sure to check the following analog files for leads on more resources.

California Information File

In the library? Check the California Information File before you do anything else! This file indexes over 130 years of California articles, books, and manuscript collections from a variety of counties.

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Subject Headings: Counties: Orange: Newport Beach

Map File

Looking for a Newport Beach map? Our map file is a great place to start. We have a wide variety of maps, including Sanborn fire insurance maps. Some of our maps cover settlement patterns and even natural history.

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Subject Headings: Orange County

Photographic File

Sometimes a picture is worth a 1000 words and not all of our pictures are online. To check the rest of the collection search our picture file card catalog.

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Subject Headings: Counties: Orange: Newport Beach

Despite our best efforts, some of our resources defy complete description. We suggest that you ask a librarian about Newport Beach information contained in the following resources.

Vertical Files

Our massive collection of vertical files covers a wide variety of topics including individual cities. You can check them for pamphlets, certificates and even posters related to organizations, individuals, and area histories.

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Subject Headings: Counties: Orange: Newport

Postcard Files

Separate from our photo collection, our postcard collection contains a number of images related to Newport Beach. Most are not online.

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Subject Headings: Counties: Orange: Newport Beach

Of course, the California History Section doesn't have everything, so we suggest that in addition to looking at our collections, you contact the following organizations

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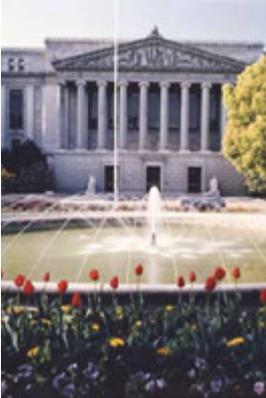
Other California State Library Sections

[Government Publications Section](#)
[Witkin Law Library](#)
[Sutro Library](#)
[General Information](#)

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URLs:
- http://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/
- http://www.library.ca.gov/law/
- http://www.library.ca.gov/sutro/
- https://www.library.ca.gov/services

Other Organizations
[Orange County Clerk](#)
[Orange County Archives](#)
[Newport Beach Historical Society](#)
[Newport Beach Public Library](#)
[Balboa Island Museum](#)

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URLs:
- http://www.ocgov.com/gov/clerk/
- http://www.ocarchives.com/
- http://www.newportbeachhistorical.org/
- https://www.newportbeachlibrary.org/
- https://www.balboaislandmuseum.org/

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Hours: 9:30-4 Monday-Friday

This guide is also available online at:
http://www.library.ca.gov/california-history/research-guides/