



Arkansas History Term Paper: Finding Published Primary Sources

I. NEWSPAPERS

A. Arkansas Gazette / Democrat-Gazette

The *Arkansas Gazette Index* and *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette Index* (Ref Index AI 2I .A75) cover 1819-1894 and 1960-. Once you have located dates and pages of interest to you, the newspaper can be found on microfilm in the Periodicals Room under F 419 .L7 .A7 and .A74.

For later years (1984-), the *Democrat Gazette* can be found full-text online in Lexis Nexis Academic. Use the **Sources** list to locate the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and then choose "search this title."

Lexis Nexis also provides the full text for more than 5,000 periodicals, business and trade journals, and newspapers, including the *New York Times*, 1980-, the *Washington Post*, 1977-, and transcripts of NPR and CNN broadcasts.

B. Arkansas Publication Index. Library Web Page.

Has selective indexing for some newspapers. A growing file.

C. Other Arkansas Newspapers

To find Arkansas newspapers in our collections, search in InfoLinks under the under **place name** as subject, e.g.

Fayetteville (Ark) – Newspapers
Washington County (Ark) – Newspapers
United States Arkansas Washington Fayetteville

To find Arkansas newspapers in other collections, use *Arkansas Union List of Newspapers*. (Ref Desk Z 6952 .A8 .A75) which has an index by place of publication.

Even though it is now superseded by the *Arkansas Union List*, Shirley Brendel's *Arkansas Newspapers*. (Ref Desk Z 6952 .A8 A74 1987) has very useful indexes by county and decade of publication.

D. Other Indexes / Online Newspapers

The *New York Times Archive* (Library Web Page) makes its entire paper searchable back to 1851. Once you have located an article of interest to you, the *Times* can be found on microfilm at call number F128.I .N48. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* is online from 1841-1902. Sometimes events in Arkansas history can be traced in these national newspapers.

II. MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS

A. Indexes

Arkansas Publication Index. **Library Web Page.**

If you are researching an event from the 1980s many articles indexed here may constitute primary sources.

Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature. 1890-1982. **Library Web Page.**

Indexes 375 popular general-interest periodicals published in the United States, including *Time*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, and *U.S. News and World Report*.

Poole's Index to Periodical Literature. 1802-1907. Ref-Index AI3 .P7.

Indexes popular U.S. magazines and journals of the 19th century.

B. Online Magazines and Journals

HarpWeek: Harper's Weekly Online. 1857-1912. **Library Web Page.**

Provides electronic access to *Harper's Weekly*, the illustrated 19th century "Journal of Civilization."

Making of America. 19th century. **Library Web Page.**

A fully-searchable collection of journals and books from the 19th century.

III. Biographies, Diaries, and Memoirs

Look in InfoLinks under the person as **author** to find memoirs or autobiographies by that person.

Try the keywords “personal narratives” or “sources” + your topic keywords in InfoLinks or WorldCat to find published collections of recollections on a particular topic.

Linda Arsky's *American Diaries*. (Ref CCT214 .A74) and the series *Travels in the South* (Ref Z1251.S7 C4) are examples of bibliographies that list published first-person recollections.

IV. Statistics

Arkansas. *Historical Report of the Secretary of State*. 1958-. Ref, Ark Coll, J87 .A84a.

These useful volumes offer historical sketches, state election results, and historical rosters of Arkansas county officials, circuit and Supreme Court judges, legislators, Constitutional officers, and federal delegations.

Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition. 5v. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006. Ref HA 202 .H57 2006.

U.S. Census: See Andrea Cantrell's handout on [Census Sources for Arkansas](#). Historical census data at the county level is available from the Historical Census Browser at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/>.

V. Other Government Documents

The University Libraries receive 80% of U.S. documents as a member of the Federal Depository Library Program. Many, in fact, *most* documents printed before 1976 will not be found in InfoLinks. Instead, one must consult with Government Documents staff or use indexes and catalogs to locate materials. Some online tools that make finding documents easier:

Congressional Serial Set Online and *American State Papers, 1789-1980*. **Library Web Page**.

The full text of almost 13,000 volumes of Congressional reports, including many reports submitted by executive branch agencies in the 19th century.

Lexis Nexis Congressional, 1789-. **Library Web Page**.

Indexes Congressional hearings back to 1789, and provides full text of many reports, hearings, and other documents from the 1990s-.

The Libraries also have a large collection of Arkansas state documents; most of these materials are in InfoLinks and often are housed in Special Collections.

VI. Microform Research Sets

Before historical collections were digitized, the most popular preservation medium was microfilm, fiche, and even opaque cards. A number of important research collections can be found in microform. Often one must use a printed guide or index to locate materials in these large sets. See the online guide to microfilm collections at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/periodicals/microformsatoz.asp>.

A few collections of note:

- Freedmen's Bureau Papers, 1865-1872 (PER MFILM, variously classed).
- Records of Ante-bellum Southern Plantations from the Revolution through the Civil War. Series J: Part 6: Mississippi and Arkansas. (PER MFILM F213 .R43 1985).
- Southern Tenant Farmer's Union Papers, 1934-1970 (PER MFILM S 3 S64 and S 65).
- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Papers, 1959-1971 (PER E185.61 .S7854 1994).

VII. Digital Collections

OAster search engine to locate: <http://oaister.umdl.umich.edu/o/oaister/>.