History Day Resources
Online Archives and Databases

General Resources

Ad Access - http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/adaccess/
This collection houses thousands of advertisements dated between 1911 and 1955 from the US and Canada in five categories: beauty and hygiene, radio, television, transportation, and WWII.

American Memory - http://lcweb2.loc.gov/amhome.html
This archive of American history and culture features prints, photographs, motion pictures, manuscripts, printed books, pamphlets, maps, and sound recordings dating back to the late 1400s.

Avalon Project - http://avalon.law.yale.edu/
The Avalon Project has digitized documents relating to law, history economics, politics, government, and diplomacy throughout the world from ancient times through the present. Documents are grouped together with related texts making finding additional sources simple.

Chronicling America - http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
A project of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities, Chronicling America has digitized more than 1,000 newspapers circulating between 1836 and 1922. Newspapers can be searched and browsed. Also included is information on American newspapers published between 1690–present.

Internet Archive - http://www.archive.org/
The Internet Archive offers digital copies of millions of books, movies, music, and websites. This fully searchable site allows for easy and direct access to its collections.

The Library of Congress represents the national research library and is one of the largest library collections in the world. Here you can find documents, audio and visual recordings, prints, photographs, newspapers, maps, manuscripts, and more all relating to the United States and its history.

National Archives - http://www.archives.gov/
The National Archives online provides access to documents, images, and government records from the beginning of our nations’ history until the present day. Primary sources can be found on a wide variety of topics relating to United States history.

Smithsonian Collections Online - http://www.si.edu/Collections/
This site houses collections from the Smithsonian covering the topics of art and design, history and culture, science and technology, libraries, and archives. Browse through millions of artifacts, digital records, library volumes, and archival materials.

Telling Their Stories - http://www.tellingstories.org/
This online repository contains oral history interviews conducted by students, with witnesses to key events of the twentieth century. Topics covered include civil rights, the Holocaust, and Japanese American internees, as well as many others.
WorldCat - http://www.worldcat.org/

WorldCat is an online database that allows you to search libraries all over the world for books, articles, and much more. Often your local library can help you to borrow books from these other libraries for a small fee and sometimes for free.

Topical Resources

African American History

African American Women - http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/collections/digitized/african-american-women/

This collection contains images and transcripts focused on the lives of three African American women and their experiences.

Behind the Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South - http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/behindtheveil/

Behind the Veil is a collection of 100 recorded oral history interviews recounting life in the South during the era of Jim Crow and legal segregation, from the 1890s to the 1950s.

Slave Voices - http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/scriptorium/slavery/

This online collection contains transcripts and images of rare manuscripts held by Duke University libraries relating to the history of slavery in America. Included are items like a bill of sale for a slave named Caesar and a poster announcing an award for the return of a runaway slave.

American Indian History


The Doris Duke Collection provides access to typescripts of interviews conducted with hundreds of American Indians in Oklahoma discussing the histories and cultures of their tribes. Between 1967 and 1972, members of every tribe residing in Oklahoma were interviewed. These interviews portray various ceremonies, customs, social conditions, philosophies, and standards of living.

From Warrior to Saint - http://digitalibrary.okstate.edu/Oakerhater/about.html

This project makes available letters, photos, and some secondary source materials detailing the life of David Pendleton Oakerhater, a Cheyenne warrior who became the first Oklahoman to be added to the Episcopal Church’s calendar of saints, and provides an interesting perspective on the American Indian experience.


Contains hundreds of original manuscripts, five hand-drawn maps, and seven published documents concerning the Illinois and Wabash Land Companies and their efforts to secure Indian lands from 1775–1823.


This collection contains digital copies of government documents pertaining to American Indians and serves as a great source for primary literature.
This collection provides the decisions made by the Indian Claims Commission, a judicial panel established to hear claims of American Indians against the United States. Many claims brought involved grievances about broken federal treaties.

Indian-Pioneer Papers - http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/pioneer/
This collection contains oral histories collected from thousands of Oklahomans from 1861 to 1936. Included are many interviews with pioneers and American Indians which discuss the settlement of and life in Oklahoma and Indian territories.

Native American Constitution and Law Digitization Project - http://thorpe.ou.edu/
This project makes available tribal constitutions, tribal codes, and other legal documents, as well as offering research guides to aid in finding sources in the field of tribal law.

Native American Manuscripts - http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/homeNAM.php
Native American Manuscripts contains over two hundred manuscript collections about American Indians. The majority of the collections focus on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Indian history in Oklahoma, Indian Territory, and the Southwest, however, some collections house earlier documents as well.

Photographic Archives - http://libraries.ou.edu/locations/docs/westhist/intro/
The Photographic Archives provides access to over 250,000 prints and negatives focusing on the period between 1870 and 1940 in the American West and Southwest.

Business
The Bass Business History Collection focuses on the history of businesses and businesspersons. Included are: business newsletters, oral histories, and documents focused on General Electric Company and railroads.

Childhood and Folklife
American Folklife Center - http://www.loc.gov/folklife/
This special collection seeks to preserve and present American folklife. It contains millions of audiovisual materials, texts, and photographs documenting folklife in America.

Folkstreams - http://folkstreams.net/
Folkstreams is home to documentary films about American roots culture, including a diversity of films relating to life in the American South.

Civil War
Civil War Women - http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/collections/digitized/civil-war-women/
Civil War Women houses images and texts from digital collections of three separate women chronicling their experiences during the Civil War.

Documenting the American South - http://docsouth.unc.edu/
This digital publishing initiative provides access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture.
Gilmer Civil War Maps Collection - http://www2.lib.unc.edu/dc/gilmer/
This collection houses a large group of Civil War maps. The collection can be searched by state or geographic area.

North Carolina Civil War Image Portfolio - http://www2.lib.unc.edu/ncc/pcoll/civilwar/
This resource contains a number of prints, photographs, woodcuts, and lithographs chronicling the Civil War.

This collection contains the Civil War diary of Charles Kroff, a soldier in the 11th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The diary describes his life in the army and gives a personal account of what occurred during the Civil War. Also included are several letters that discuss the diary and the Cress family.

Cold War
This database offers digital copies of declassified records relating to NATO and the Cold War, from about 1947 to 1991.

Great Depression, Dust Bowl, and New Deal
New Deal Network - http://lcweb2.loc.gov/amhome.html
The New Deal Network provides photographs, texts, and other primary sources relating to the public works and arts projects instituted by Franklin Roosevelt during the 1930s. There are over 20,000 items contained in this database.

This collection contains audio recordings, manuscripts, publications, photographs, and ephemera relating to the daily lives of migrant work camps from 1940–41.

Human Rights
Caribbean Sea Migration Collection - https://repository.duke.edu/dc/caribbeansea
This collection contains materials related to Cuban, Dominican, and Haitian maritime migration from 1965–1996 including camps at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Many Latin Americans have risked a great deal when they have fled their homelands due to persecution or political unrest and boarded a boat headed for America. This collection helps to tell some of their stories.


Land Run/Pioneer Life
Indian-Pioneer Papers - http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/pioneer/
This collection contains oral histories collected from thousands of Oklahomans from 1861 to 1936. Included are many interviews with pioneers and American Indians which discuss the settlement of and life in Oklahoma and Indian territories.
**The Chronicles of Oklahoma Online** - [http://digital.library.okstate.edu/Chronicles/](http://digital.library.okstate.edu/Chronicles/)

This collection contains digital copies of the first 40 volumes (and the tables of contents for volumes 21–the present) of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, a scholarly journal released quarterly by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The database is searchable and many articles can be downloaded in PDF form.


The Oklahoma Townsite Collection contains court records of ownership disputes following the Land Run and provides valuable sources documenting early town development in Oklahoma. The completed collection will house over 100,000 records.

**Medicine**


This resource contains collections dealing with the history of medicine in America. Highlights include a rich collection on women in medicine and a look at the historical views of diseases and epidemics.

**Medicine & Madison Avenue Collection** - [http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/mma/](http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/mma/)

This collection highlights the relationship between modern medicine and modern advertising through hundreds of advertisements from the 1910s through 1950s. In addition, the collection houses other documents relating to health and wellness.


This great resource provides access to texts, films, and images related to the history of medicine. Researchers can browse the collection topically or can search the entire database.

**Oklahoma**

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**Early Oklahoma Serials** - [http://digital.library.okstate.edu/earlyokserials/publications.html](http://digital.library.okstate.edu/earlyokserials/publications.html)

Early Oklahoma Serials provides digital copies of several early Oklahoma publications, particularly Oklahoma magazines.

**Fifty Golden Years** - [http://digital.library.okstate.edu/50goldenyears.pdf](http://digital.library.okstate.edu/50goldenyears.pdf)

This family history written by Orlando Swain, an Oklahoman who moved to Oklahoma Territory in the early 1900s, provides insight on territorial and early state history.
From Warrior to Saint - http://digital.library.okstate.edu/Oakerhater/about.html
This project makes available letters, photos, and some secondary source materials detailing the life of David Pendleton Oakerhater, a Cheyenne warrior who became the first Oklahoman to be added to the Episcopal Church’s calendar of saints, and provides an interesting perspective on the American Indian experience.

The Gateway to Oklahoma History - http://gateway.okhistory.org/
The Gateway to Oklahoma History provides free access to thousands of issues of historical Oklahoma newspapers dating from 1840 to the 1920s. Search, browse, and view these newspapers online. Also included are thousands of photographs.

Contains hundreds of original manuscripts, five hand-drawn maps, and seven published documents concerning the Illinois and Wabash Land Companies and their efforts to secure Indian lands from 1775–1823.

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This archive provides PDF versions of Oklahoma Today, a magazine in circulation in Oklahoma since 1956.

Oklahoma Digital Prairie is an online archive containing collections from Oklahoma’s history. Collections include state government publications, state agency forms, Confederate pension cards, images of historic Oklahoma postcards, state audits, documents from the state archives, and many others. Several collections focus on Oklahoma events such as the Tulsa Race Riots and the Red River Compact, and people such as Ada Lois Sipuel Fisher, Oklahoma authors and Oklahoma governors. Also included are thousands of other general Oklahoma primary and secondary sources.
Oklahoma Historical Society Research Division - http://www.okhistory.org/research
This site provides a wealth of resources related to Oklahoma history including census records, land records, Dawes Rolls, newspapers, photos, oral histories, and more.

Oklahoma Statehood, November 16, 1907 - http://www.archives.gov/legislative/features/oklahoma/
This section of the National Archives contains documents, maps, and other records concerning Oklahoma’s statehood.

Photographic Archives - http://libraries.ou.edu/locations/docs/westhist/intro/
The Photographic Archives provides access to over 250,000 prints and negatives focusing on the period between 1870 and 1940 in the American West and Southwest.

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This collection contains audio recordings, manuscripts, publications, photographs, and ephemera relating to the daily lives of migrant work camps from 1940–41.

Woody Guthrie and the Archive of American Folk Song - http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wwghtml/wwghome.html
This collection highlights letters between Woody Guthrie and staff at the Library of Congress in regards to folklife and culture. Included is a biography and timeline of Guthrie’s life.

Science, Technology, and Medicine
Oklahoma Biological Survey - http://digital.library.okstate.edu/obs/index.html
This site provides access to the publications of the Oklahoma Biological Survey from 1929 to 2011. The papers focus on research regarding animal and plant forms and ecological communities within the state.


The collection houses the literature produced by the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences from 1921–2011. Volumes showcase leading scholarship written by scientists in Oklahoma.

University of Oklahoma History of Science Collections - http://digital.libraries.ou.edu/homescience.php
Collection contains full text book by Copernicus, historic texts in geology, images from the onsite collection, portraits of historical scientists, full text rare books, images of artifacts, and title pages of other books related to the history of science.
Documenting the American South - http://docsouth.unc.edu/
This digital publishing initiative provides access to texts, images, and audio files related to southern history, literature, and culture.

Behind the Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South - http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/behindtheveil/
Behind the Veil is a collection of 100 recorded oral history interviews recounting life in the South during the era of Jim Crow and legal segregation, from the 1890s to the 1950s.

Vietnam War
Vietnam Center and Archive - http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/
This archive has hundreds of thousands of documents, photos, video, audio recordings, oral histories, maps, artifacts, and manuscripts relating to the Vietnam War available for online research.

Women’s History
Emma Spaulding Bryant Letters - http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/bryant/
These letters expose the life of a husband and wife during the second half of the nineteenth century, as well as discussing women’s health issues.

Documents from the Women’s Liberation Movement - http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/
This collection contains images and documents related to the origins of the Women’s Liberation Movement in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s.

World War II
This archive houses thousands of interviews, video, photos, documents, and newspapers centering on the Japanese American experience from the early 1900s through the 1980s. Of particular focus is the Japanese incarceration during WWII.

School at War Scrapbooks - http://library.uco.edu/archives/collections/bray/
This collection contains scrapbooks prepared by Oklahoma schools from 1942–1943 and documents each school’s effort to conserve scrap metal with photos, drawings, stories, and newspaper clippings.