

Spotlight

On California Genealogical Research Facilities

A series of articles about places to do research around the state

Pioneer Room/Escondido Public Library

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Compared to some other genealogical libraries, the Pioneer Room in Escondido is small. Despite its size, for those seeking information on local area history and genealogy, it can't be beat.

The Pioneer Room was established through a bequest from Frances Bevan Ryan, a passionate local historian. It opened in 1992 and is located next to the main library.

The genealogy collection encompasses books for the whole United States with a nice collection of California-related works including many books on area towns and local history.

For local researchers, the Pioneer Room is a treasure. While many of its resources are from the city of Escondido, there is much information to be found on other

local communities and early residents of North San Diego County.

There are extensive vertical files on many topics, including individuals, organizations, businesses, churches, etc. In addition, there are several wonderful photographic collections. A number of these photos are available for viewing online when searching by topic through the library website at <http://www.ci.escondido.ca.us/library/>. You may also access information about the Pioneer Room and its collection including a brief history of Escondido by clicking on the Local History link.

The archival and manuscript collection includes yearbooks, maps, directories, oral histories, city of Escondido records, local business and organizational records and many scrapbooks. Volunteers have been working diligently on developing finding aids for these resources. The library catalog lists the book and microfilm holdings but not the archival collection.

This resource suffered of late because of reduced hours (only two afternoons a week). However, with the recent hiring of a new archivist, starting January 30, the hours will be extended to Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 1 PM - 5 PM and Saturdays, 10 AM - 2 PM.

*Please submit an article on **your** local research facility. Send articles and photos to newsletter@csga.com.*

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and presented in PDF format. It is not possible to grab text, but you can save or print the pages as needed. If you are not familiar with using Adobe Reader or Adobe Acrobat, you might want to find a class or just sit down and practice as more and more genealogical resources are being presented in that format.

Anyone who does research in California, whether it is California research or not should bookmark this site. It not only gives you access to the entire legislative history of the state, including treaties with the original Mexican settlers, it also provides links for current legislative personnel, bills in progress and other information on the state of California.

Realizing that California's entire legislative history is on-

line, I went searching for resources for other states. Another bookmark site is that of the Law Library of Congress <http://www.loc.gov/law/public/law.html>. Here you will find links to legal information for the United States, each state in the Union and many countries around the world. I did not find a link to the site listed above, however; it seems to be a well guarded secret.

You will also find a link to GLIN (Global Legal Information Network) at <http://www.glin.gov/>. GLIN is a public database of laws, regulations, judicial decisions and other complementary legal sources contributed by governmental agencies and international organizations. Full texts in the original language are accompanied by summaries in English. All summaries are available to the public.