

# **Digital Clues to Paper Resources: Using the Online Records of the Missouri State Archives to Find Offline Collections**

Missouri State Archives  
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## **Missouri State Archives**

The Missouri State Archives was created by the State Legislature in 1965 as the official repository for records of permanent and historical value. Its holdings date from 1770 – present and include: executive, legislative, and judicial records; records of state departments and agencies; land records; military records; state publications; photographic collections; county and municipal records on microfilm; and manuscript and reference collections.

Currently, the Archives holds more than 336 million pages of paper; 830,000 photographs; 9,000 maps; 72,000 reels of county records on microfilm, 1,200 cubic feet of published state documents, and 4,000 audio/video items. Of these records, only a very small percent are indexed online, and even fewer have available images. Offline records can be harder to discover and access, but materials found in the Archives' online collections are an invaluable springboard for these trickier avenues of further research.

## **Indexed Records without Images**

- Pre-1910 Birth and Death Records
- Naturalizations
- Coroner's Inquests
- Certain Land Records
- Certain Supreme Court records and judicial records

## **Missouri State Penitentiary Register of Inmates, 1836-March 1931**

- Trial court records
- Previous incarcerations
  - o Missouri Intermediate Reformatory (Algo):  
[www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives/resources/findingaids/RG214.01.pdf](http://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives/resources/findingaids/RG214.01.pdf)
- Bertillon Measurements, 1908 – 1931
- Pardons, extraditions, and commutations: [www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives/rg005-20.pdf](http://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives/rg005-20.pdf)
- Escape records, 1904-1992
- Escape files, 1903-1935

### **Missouri Death Certificates, 1910-1972**

- Coroner's inquests
- Incarceration at Penitentiary or a State Hospital
- Employment with the state—check with agencies' publications and directories

### **Judicial Records**

- Sentencing to the State Penitentiary or any of the intermediate reformatories
- Dates of sales (check deeds)
- Reference to *other* cases

### **Governor's Records, 1837-1901**

- Register of Civil Proceedings:  
[www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives//findingaids//rg005-50.pdf](http://www.sos.mo.gov/CMSImages/Archives//findingaids//rg005-50.pdf)
- State Agency Publications

### **Census Records**

- State Penitentiary information
- Citizenship status
- Employment with the state—again!

### **Some Other non-Digitized Collections to Keep in Mind:**

- Governor's Records, 1901 to the Present
  - o [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default#003](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default#003)
- Records of the General Assembly
  - o [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default#550](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default#550)
- Civil War Regimental Returns
  - o [www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default#133](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/findingaids/default#133)
- Election Returns, 1836 to 1876
  - o 1877 to the present day through Official Manuals:  
[mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook](http://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/bluebook)
- Missouri State Penitentiary Registers of Inmates and mugshots, 1931-1983

### **Interested in providing access?**

Our volunteers are the reason the State Archives can provide so much information online! If interested in indexing projects, please contact our eVolunteer Coordinator at [archvol@sos.mo.gov](mailto:archvol@sos.mo.gov).



**Missouri Secretary of State**  
**State Archives**