

# Spotlight On California Genealogical Research Facilities

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

## University Libraries As A Resource

### California State University Long Beach As An Example

by Susan M. Hillier Roe

#### California State University Long Beach

1250 Bellflower Blvd.

Long Beach, California 90840-1901

<http://www.csulb.edu/library/>

#### Hours:

Monday-Thursday 7:45 am - midnight

Friday 7:45 am to 5 pm

Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 12:30 pm to midnight

If you haven't been to your local university library to do genealogical research, you are missing a great opportunity! They will tell you they don't have a genealogy collection, but don't believe it. Universities have the following collections that may be very useful: history, geography, biography, maps, unpublished manuscripts, and special collections.

California State University, Long Beach, is my alma mater and is very close to where I live. I have been there for research many times. In this library you will find all of the things I mentioned above and more. The second floor houses the History Department. When I was there recently, I did a quick perusal of the California History section. It contains general histories of California and then is broken down into counties. For example, I spotted single or multi-volume histories for the following counties: Los Angeles, Monterey, Orange, Nevada, Sacramento, Riverside, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and more. Within each county there are all sorts of books on towns, important features, etc. For example, I found histories for the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego, Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley. I also found books on The Presidio in San Francisco, the Santa Monica Pier, Mission San Fernando Rey, etc.

The history collection also contains the writings of important persons. There are too many to mention but, to name a few, they have the writings of George Washington, the papers of John Calhoun, letters of Theodore Roosevelt and the writings of William Penn.

If you are a student, faculty staff, or alumni of any California State University, you can check books out from



any other campus and bring them home to study. What genealogy library will let you do that? If you graduated from Cal State San Francisco but now live in Long Beach, all you have to do is join the alumni association at

your alma mater in San Francisco, and you can check books out in Long Beach or at any other Cal State campus. I have looked at all 12 volumes of the *Plymouth Colony Records*, at home, by checking them out (two at a time) from the CSULB Library.

Here are the locations of some materials at Cal State Long Beach that will be of interest to California researchers: Maps (lower level); Special Collections/University Archives (third floor); California Documents (check computer catalogue, COAST, to print out online); Federal Documents (check computer catalogue, COAST, to print out online).

There are geography books and biographies. You may even want to check the Thesis Dept. to see if anyone has written a thesis on your topic. Online databases are only available offsite to students, faculty and staff. Alumni will have to go to the campus to use them.

The University is located at 1250 Bellflower Blvd. in Long Beach. The library is located on the 7th St. side of the campus. Parking can be tricky so if you are not familiar with the campus, I recommend that you phone for parking directions. You may want to go on the weekend the first time because you can park nearer to the library. The hours are listed above. These hours will vary and will be shorter during semester breaks. There are also holiday closures. Check online for current hours before heading out (<http://www.csulb.edu/library/>). You can also call 562-985-8472. And, finally, if you want to make a day of it, there is a Starbucks inside the newly remodeled first floor and a snack bar just outside the main library entrance. Maybe I'll see you there sometime.