

Spotlight on genealogical research facilities

A series of articles about places to do research

Sahyun Library

316 Castillo St., Santa Barbara, California

Hours: Tuesday: 10AM - 3 PM; Thursday: 10AM - 3 PM; Friday: 10AM - 3 PM; Sunday: 1 PM - 4 PM

The Sahyun Library will be closed for researching beginning December 22, 2010 and will re-open on Tuesday January 4, 2011

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The SBCGS ran out of space: Space for its business meetings, for its patrons to use its computer facilities, archival space for books, manuscripts, periodicals, and maps.

So in 2008 the Society embarked upon a capital campaign to raise funds to build a 2900 ft² addition to its Sahyun Library in Santa Barbara, an increase of 92% in available space.

Ground was broken in April 2010, and the first backhoe showed up to excavate the foundation in September. Now, as this piece is being written, the floor slab is being poured, and completion of the addition and renovation of the existing library wing is expected in August 2011. The construction is being done in two phases that allow the library to be open to patrons for research, albeit in a somewhat restricted mode, throughout the construction.



The Society, founded in 1975, has an active membership of 500 and has a research collection of over 14,000 books, CDs, microfilm, and microfiche. Our CD count, alone, is over 700 disks.

With the new addition, the library will have meeting space for 50, computer research space for 10 in-place computers but with wireless capability throughout the entire building, and shelf space for books and archival materials, much of which may never be digitized.

Society members will build the shelving, just as they did 10 years ago when the library acquired the existing building and property by a gift from the Sahyun family.

Visit the Society's web site and watch the construction progress on the Society's blog at www.sbgen.org. Better yet, come for a visit, see the construction, and utilize the great collection of materials for your own research. Our library holdings contain some 14,000 items, comprised of books, periodicals, microform (film & fiche), CDs, maps, and a collection of genealogical audio and video tapes. Strengths of the collection include: California, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the British Isles, as well as Quakers, military pension and service indexes, and sources for immigration. The library catalog is available on the society website.

— Arthur Sylvester