City Directories Through 1963
Now Available Online

More than 900 city directories are now available in the North Carolina City
Directories collection, making it one of the largest collections of freely-accessible
American directories available anywhere online. They contain information from 107
different cities and towns across 63 North Carolina counties. The directories are from the
North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University Libraries,
and public libraries around the state.

City directories are terrific resources for anyone studying local or family history. Far
more detailed than modern phone books, they include names, addresses, occupations,
and even the name of the spouse of the person listed. The reverse-directory sections
enable users to look up people by location. Many of the directories include short histories of the community and descriptions of local schools and businesses.

The Digital Heritage Center is still adding more directories in an effort to digitize
every North Carolina directory published prior to 1964 (volumes published later have
a different copyright status). Libraries that have city directories in their collections that
are not yet available online should contact the Center for more information.

Scrapbooks and More from the Northwestern Regional Library System

Scrapbooks and clippings from five libraries in the Northwestern Regional Library system are now available on DigitalNC. The
Alleghany Public Library, Elkin Public Library, King Public Library, Mount Airy Public Library,
and Yadkin County Public Library each contributed materials
from their historic collections to be digitized.

Above Alleghany County World War II Scrapbook, 1941-1945.
Left Windsor’s Cross Roads Grange Scrapbook, 1957.
Salem College Catalogs

Salem College is one of North Carolina’s oldest schools, tracing its origins back to 1772. Many of the college’s earliest catalogs are now available online. Containing a variety of information, including course descriptions, tuition and fees, and college rules, these catalogs provide a fascinating glimpse into life at a woman’s college in North Carolina in the 19th century.

FEATED PROJECTS

Alvin Howard Paintings

The Davie County Public Library recently brought a series of paintings by local artist Alvin Howard to the Digital Heritage Center to be digitized. These colorful images depict scenes and places from Davie County’s past, including country stores and views of downtown Mocksville. The paintings complement the more than 800 items already available in the Digital Davie online exhibit.

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SYLVAN VALLEY NEWS (BREVARD), 1900-1911
Published in Brevard, N.C., in the early 20th century, this paper provides a look at life in a small mountain town at the dawn of the modern era. Local improvements are a frequent topic of the coverage, with regular updates on the paving of local roads and the increasing availability of electricity in the region.

ROANOKE BEACON (PLYMOUTH), 1889-1918
The Roanoke Beacon, still being published in Plymouth, N.C., is a regional paper serving Washington County and the surrounding area. These early issues cover local news and politics during an important period in North Carolina history and also include the “Beacon Flashes” social column, which provides an especially lively look at the community.

ROANOKE NEWS (WELDON), 1878-1916
The small community of Weldon, N.C., was transformed in the 1840s with the completion of the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad. The digitized issues of The Roanoke News, covering the years 1878 to 1916, document the growth of Weldon in the tumultuous years between the end of Reconstruction and World War I.

NORTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPERS BY THE NUMBERS:
- 164,000 pages
- 25,000 issues
- 62 titles

FEATURED IMAGE
Rockingham County Bookmobile, 1939.
The Rockingham County Public Library’s bookmobile visits the rural community of Bakers Cross Roads in 1939.
Our Partners

The following institutions have worked with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to share materials from their collections online at DigitalNC.org:

Alamance County Public Libraries
Alleghany County Public Library
Appalachian State University
Ash County Public Library
Barton College
Belmont Abbey College
Bennett College
Braswell Memorial Library, Rocky Mount, N.C.
Brevard College
Buncombe County Public Libraries
Cabarrus College of Health Sciences
Cabarrus County Public Library
Campbell University
Carolina Aviation Museum
Catawba College
Central Carolina Community College
Charlotte Mecklenburg Library
Chatham County Historical Association
Chatham County Public Library
Chowan University
Cleveland Community College
College of the Albemarle
Cumberland County Public Library
Davidson College
Davie County Public Library
Duke University
Durham County Library
East Carolina University
Edgecombe Community College
Elizabeth City State University
Elkin Public Library
Elon University
Fayetteville State University
Fayetteville Technical Community College
Forsyth County Public Library
Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program
Gardner-Webb University
 Gaston College
Gaston County Public Library
Granville County Museum
Granville County Public Library
Greensboro College
Greensboro Historical Museum
Guilford College
Halifax County Library System
Haywood County Public Library
Henderson Institute Historical Museum
Hickory Public Library
High Point University
Hocutt-Ellington Memorial Library (Clayton, N.C.)
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Charlotte located at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center
Johnson C. Smith University
King Public Library
Kings Mountain Historical Museum
Lees-McRae College
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lincoln County Public Library
Louisburg College
Mars Hill College
McDowell County Public Library
Meredith College
Methodist University
Mitchell Community College
Montreat College
Mount Airy Public Library
Mount Olive College
Museum of the Albemarle
NC LIVE
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
North Carolina Central University
North Carolina Division of State Historic Sites and Properties
North Carolina Humanities Council
North Carolina Wesleyan College
Northwestern Regional Library
Old Salem Museums & Gardens
Orange County Historical Museum
Peace College
Pender County Public Library
Perry Memorial Library, Henderson, N.C.
Pfeiffer University
Piedmont Aviation Historical Society
Pitt Community College
Queens University of Charlotte
Randolph College
Randolph County Public Library
Richmond Community College
Rockingham Community College
Rockingham County Public Library
Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Saint Augustine's University
Saint Mary's School
Salem College
Sallie Mae Ligon Museum & Archives & Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
Shaw University
Sisters of Mercy Archives (Belmont, N.C.)
Southeastern Community College
Southern Pines Public Library
St. Andrews University
Stanly County Museum
Stokes County Historical Society
Surry Community College
The Crossnore School
Transylvania County Library
Tufts Archives, Pinehurst, N.C.
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Wake County Public Libraries
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Wake Forest University
Washington County Library
Wayne County Public Library
Western Carolina University
Western Piedmont Community College
Wilmington Railroad Museum
Wilson County Public Library
Wingate University
Winston-Salem State University
Yadkin County Public Library

About the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center is a statewide digitization and digital publishing program housed in the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Digital Heritage Center works with cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina to digitize and publish historic materials online. It is supported by the State Library of North Carolina with funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, and by the UNC-Chapel Hill University Library.

How to Get Involved

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center provides digitization and digital publishing services to cultural heritage organizations in North Carolina. Any organization that is open to the public and holds rare or unique materials related to the history and culture of North Carolina is eligible to work with the Digital Heritage Center. We have worked with libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies from around the state, ranging from very small organizations run by a single person to large academic institutions.

If you are interested in sharing selections from your collection online, or if you have questions about digitization in general, contact the Digital Heritage Center at digitalnc@unc.edu or (919) 962-4836. We are especially interested in hearing from smaller organizations who have not done any digitization on their own, as well as organizations from counties that are not yet represented on DigitalNC.org.