Becoming familiar with sources available remotely and on location at any library is beneficial for effective research. Planning a trip to a destination library should be done to use of access unique sources, or sources that can help you in your family history research pursuit, making the best use of your time when you on location.

What can be done at home to prepare? What should you look at while you are at the library or archive? What do you need to know about the location and how do you find out about it? This presentation will prepare you to access information from and about the Houston Public Library’s Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research so you get the most out of time spent at home and in the library.

The process of preparing for a trip to Houston can be applied to any repository you are planning to visit to find your ancestors. Good Luck!

**Library Catalog Search**

**Houston Public Library** [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org)

Enter search terms
Location, family name, type of record along with location
The card catalog will not search every name in every book
The HPL catalog contains materials from all HPL locations
From results screen if needed, you can limit search by library on the left side. Choose Clayton and click “include” – results narrow to Clayton only

**Information about Special Collections**

**Houston Public Library** [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org)

Research > Special Collections
This page is an overview of all three Special Collections, Clayton Library, The African American Library and Archives at the Gregory School and the Houston Metropolitan Research Center

**Clayton Library**

**Houston Public Library** [www.houstonlibrary.org](http://www.houstonlibrary.org)

Locations > Special Collections > Clayton Library
Our general page listing hours and other information including a link to get an *MyLinkCard*
Genealogy Databases / Select Program Handouts / Library Card
Research > Genealogy
Research Resources links you to the database and more information about Clayton Library

Other Databases
Houston Public Library www.houstonlibrary.org
Research > All Databases
Opens alphabetical listing of all HPL databases
Category tab opens database listing by category
Other categories can be used to supplement family history research
Explore Alternative Databases by Category
  Encyclopedias and Dictionaries
  Magazines, scholarly journals, and publications –
  History and Social Sciences
  Investigate other subjects to broaden your scope of research

Consultations
Call the library 832-393-2600 during open hours to ask a question. A new service we are offering are consultations. You can set up a consultation for more in-depth focused research help via phone, online or in person. The staff at Clayton have subject expert areas, and also have a deep knowledge of research and methods. Consultation appointments are for one hour and be scheduled during open hours. To begin the process, just call the library and talk to one of the staff. The staff will answer your questions, but if you feel as if you would like to have a deeper research consultation just ask the staff.

Newsletters
Houston Public Library www.houstonlibrary.org
Locations > Special Collections > Clayton Library
Click on Subscribe to Newsletter

The library offers two electronic newsletters that are emailed to you. We produce a quarterly newsletter The Clayton Town Crier, offering information about research sources. The monthly email The Clayton Extra lists our upcoming programs and events available through the library. At this time, we are only offering virtual programs. Many of our programs are presented by nationally recognized speakers on many topics.

Programs / Events
Houston Public Library www.houstonlibrary.org
Events > All Events
Searching can be done by date and by keyword = genealogy
Choose date range and keyword genealogy. You can register for the event there.

Digital Collections
Clayton Library is partner with FamilySearch.org. Our partnership is two-fold. As a
FamilySearch.org Library Affiliate, images that are restricted from viewing at home and can be viewed at a Library Affiliate can be viewed at the Library. Please note some images are restricted to viewing at a Family History Center. Clayton is not a Family History Center. These Centers are found at many Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints locations.

Clayton Library is also a partner in the Family History Digital Archive. Materials from the Library are being digitized and can be found at www.familysearch.org Search > Books. These books are completed OCR’d so searching this collection by family name returns results that might be applicable to your research. To specifically see what books have been digitized from Clayton search “Houston Public Library” in quotes to return most of the books from the Clayton collection, which numbers about 15,000 volumes.

Also, the Houston Public Library Special Collections has a digitized collection named the Houston Public Library Digital Collections. There is a direct link to the Clayton books digitized by Houston Public Library www.houstonlibrary.org Research > Special Collections scrolling down to Clayton Library for the button link to access directly the Family History Digital Archives without going through FamilySearch.org

**Visiting Clayton Library**
Library Hours as of May 2021
Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm
Planning your trip is the most important thing to do.
832-393-2600
Houston Public Library E-Books and More
http://houstonlibrary.org/find-it/e-books-more
Digital
Axis 360

Clayton Town Crier e-book information article
https://houstonlibrary.org/learn-explore/blog/clayton-crier-quarterly-newsletter-july-2020

FamilySearch (free account needed)
Link to the books and wiki from the “search” drop down menu or directly by:
FamilySearch Books
www.familysearch.org/books
Over 500,000 family history research books that includes county histories, vital records, family histories
FamilySearch Wiki
www.familysearch.org/wiki
Encyclopedia guide to research, education articles geographic and subject specific

Blogs
Blogs are a great place to learn, read and stay informed
For a list of blogs visit
https://blog.feedspot.com/genealogy_blogs/
https://www.cyndislist.com/blogs/

Genealogy by Paula
Paula Stuart Warren, professional genealogist blog
http://genealogybypaula.com/

Dana Leeds
Leeds Method of DNA color clustering
https://www.danaleeds.com/

Texas State Genealogical Society
www.txsgs.org