

Online Resources (02/01/26)

These are just most of the online resources that I most commonly utilize. I'm still adding to it, but it's also already stretched past ten pages. Enjoy. Research tips at end.

- **Newspapers and newsletters**

- [Anchorage Times via the Atwood Foundation](#) (free)
- Anchorage Daily News
 - Accessing the ADN's historical archive is more difficult. You can . . .
 - [Use their own site](#). This costs money, at least \$10 for a day pass.
 - [Use the Anchorage Library system](#). This is free but only goes back to 1985.
 - If you are connected to the University of Alaska Anchorage, you can access the full run of the ADN, but again, you have to be a student, staff, or faculty.
 - [See UAA's Consortium Library database page](#)
- [Chugiak-Eagle River Historical Society newspaper archive](#) (free)
 - They offer some scattered scans of the *Knik Arm Courier* (1958-1973), *Chugiak Calendar* (1953-1954), and *Eagle* (1962)
- [Wrangell Newspapers](#) (free)
- [Tundra Times](#) (free)
 - Just the newspaper archive, via Tuzzy Consortium Library
- [Alaska Bar Rag](#) (free)
 - Published by the Alaska Bar, this is somewhere between a newspaper and a high-end newsletter, but they often include legal lore and are too often unknown outside legal circles.
 - Their link to the archived Bar Rag is often broken, but the editions are still online. Searching "Alaska Bar Rag" plus your topic or person will bring them up.
- [Arctic Warrior](#) (free)
 - Via Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson
- [Alaska Railroad Record](#) (free)
- [The Esquimaux](#) (free)
- [Seattle Library](#) (Free membership)
 - Access to Seattle Times and Seattle PI
- [BC Historical Newspapers](#) (free)
 - Via the University of British Columbia
- [Washington Digital Newspapers](#) (free)
 - Many states have some sort of collection of free newspapers, and it's always worthwhile to check. As regards Alaska, since so much trade and travel—historical and current—passed through Washington, it's usually a good idea to

check here as well. The same thing goes for California and Oregon (see below).

- [California Digital Newspaper Collection](#) (free)
- [Historic Oregon Newspapers](#) (free)
- [Chronicling America](#) (free, Library of Congress)
 - [Alaska State Library guide to Alaska-relevant Chronicling America](#)
- [Alaska Newspaper Project](#) (free)
 - Via Alaska State Library
 - Guidance and links to Alaska newspaper related resources, scans, and indexes
 - [Alaska Newspapers on Microfilm, 1866-1998](#)
 - Guide to newspaper history and archive/library holdings
- [Arctic Shield](#)
 - Newsletter of the 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery stationed at Fort Richardson from 1972 to 1979
 - Issues from 1974 to 1978
- Pay sites:
 - [Old News](#) (Pay)
 - Every modern historian hates the way newspaper archives are scattered about, often stuck behind paywalls or locked by university access. The major pay-to-play newspaper aggregators have extensive overlap, but there's always unique papers only available in one of them. For example, I recently had to use this site over others, because it included the Boston Globe, necessary for an article on Boston pilots.
 - [Newspapers.com](#) (Pay)
 - [Newspaperarchives.com](#) (Pay)
 - One of this site's attractions for me is a more complete holding of the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*
 - [Small Town Papers](#) (Pay)
 - I've not used them, but they claim unique holdings.
- **Photograph/image archives**
 - [Wikimedia Commons](#)
 - [Alaska Digital Archives](#)
 - This site displays material from museums, libraries, archives from around the state.
 - [Anchorage Museum](#)
 - This site is solely photographs and apart from both the Museum's collections website and the Alaska Digital Archives. Notably, these images are higher quality, better than at the Alaska Digital Archives.
 - It is broken in many ways, primarily that the search engine doesn't work well.

- My first advice is not to bookmark images but download them. When I bookmark specific images, somehow many of them link back to different images when I return to them.
 - My second advice with this site is to familiarize yourself with the finding aids. It requires a bit more work, but if you find an interesting description on a finding aid, you can often backtrack it on this site using the accession number (unique photo ID number). And if you go to the [Museum's regular website](#), their search form also searches through their finding aids.
- [Anchorage Museum Collection](#)
 - This site is primarily focused on their objects (e.g., paintings, prints, ephemera) and is apart from the photo archive, the Museum homepage, and the Alaska Digital Archives.
- [Anchorage historical aerials](#)
 - Via the Municipality of Anchorage. Oldest is 1939.
- [Matanuska Valley Historical Photo Project](#)
- [Valdez Museum](#)
- [Ketchikan Museums](#)
- [Tundra Times photographs](#)
- [Kenai Peninsula Historical Photo Repository](#)
 - Via Kenai Peninsula College
- [Alaska State Museum collection search engine](#)
 - This is separate from the Alaska Digital Collections, more thorough
- [University of Washington Digital Collections](#)
 - Many Alaska items here.
 - A few similar sites are mentioned here (e.g., Oregon, California, New York), but most states have something like this, and thanks to gold rushes and other settler migrations, they often have at least a little Alaska-related material. For example, I've found some very unique Alaska photos in Massachusetts. But they often don't come up under a regular Google search, for several reasons including the decline of Google as a search engine.
- [Washington State digital archive](#)
- [Oregon Digital](#)
 - A statewide library and university collaboration
- [Calisphere](#)
 - Calisphere is the digital collections for the University of California system.
 - There are many Alaska items, including many of Bernard Hubbard's photographs.
- [New York Public Library Digital Collections](#)
 - Many other states and even cities have some form of a digital archive, and it's worth checking.

- [Library of Congress](#)
- [National Archives](#)
 - [Land Records](#)
 - [McNeil Island Penitentiary inmate photos](#)
- [Smithsonian Institution collections](#)
- [Stephen Cysewski photography](#)
 - His extensive wanders, especially around Fairbanks, Anchorage, and the state fair, include photos of many rarely documented locations. He has sadly passed, but he had a unique eye for street level, grounded perspectives of Alaska cities.
- [Dale DeArmond prints](#)
- [Royal BC Museum collection](#)
- [Life magazine photo archive](#) (hosted by Google)
- [Flickr](#)
 - While Flickr's heyday is long gone, the photos are largely still there. I have discovered many unique images there.
 - For example, here's
 - [a collection of older Alaska coffee stands.](#)
 - [or this album of mostly 1950s and 1960s Anchorage and Sand Point pictures](#)
- **Maps**
 - [Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps](#)
 - [Old Maps Online](#)
 - [David Rumsey Map Collection](#)
 - This site not only maintains images of sold maps but allows you to download very high-quality images
- **Books, reports, dissertations, doctorates, and other printed material**
 - [GoogleBooks](#)
 - [Internet Archive](#)
 - Everything from books and movies to obscure media ephemera
 - [HathiTrust](#)
 - Many government reports and documents
 - [Google Scholar](#)
 - [ScholarWorks at UA](#)
 - This is a collection of works and research by University of Alaska (UAA, UAF, and UAS) students, staff, and faculty.
 - [Forum](#) (the Alaska Humanities Forum magazine)
 - Even I have an article in there, on waffles!
- **Video repositories (apart from those already listed)**
 - University of Alaska Fairbanks Alaska Film Archive

- [UAF website](#)
 - Complete digitized collection
 - [YouTube page](#)
 - More like the highlights from their collection
 - [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#)
 - Lots of material from KUAC, KYUK, KAKM, and more.
 - [Taku for Two](#) (YouTube)
 - This couple specializes in digitizing material from southeast Alaska
 - [David Reamer's Alaska commercial collection](#) (YouTube)
 - [British Pathe newsreels](#)
 - Also some Empire, Reuters, etc. that fall under their umbrella
 - [Universal newsreels](#)
 - [Hearst Metrotone newsreels](#)
 - [Hearst Metrotone newsreels YouTube page](#)
- **Art Museum collections (apart from those already listed)**
 - [Seattle Art Museum](#)
 - [Frye Art Museum](#) (Seattle)
 - [Portland Museum of Art](#)
 - [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) (The Met), New York City
 - The Met is notorious in art/history/Alaska Native circles for its Alaska Native object collection, many of which have problematic provenances.
 - [National Gallery of Art](#)
 - [Smithsonian American Art Museum](#)
 - [British Museum](#)
 - Among other things, they hold the oldest surviving Dena'ina objects
- **Other museums (not as strictly art or photography focused)**
 - [Museum of the North collection](#) (University of Alaska Fairbanks)
 - This is the most complicated museum/university database, because it's access to their actual collection software used internally. It's not built for proper public use though they allow anyone to view it. So, it especially necessary here to read the guide to searching. Plus, you have to pick a category (e.g., fine arts, ethnology) for a search.
 - [Palmer Museum](#)
 - [1933-1957 Palmer yearbooks](#)
 - Also letters, newspaper clippings, exhibits, and photos
 - [Juneau Douglas City Museum](#)
 - [Genealogical records collected by Betty Miller](#)
 - [Pratt Museum](#) (Homer)
 - To call their digital collections minimal would be to oversell them, but there's always the hope that they later expand

- [Alaska State Library & Museum](#) (and Sheldon Jackson Museum)
 - This is separate from the Alaska Digital Archives, a detailed listing of holdings with many pictures
- [Kodiak History Museum](#)
- [Cordova Museum](#)
- [SFO Museum](#)
 - This is the aviation museum at the San Francisco airport
 - They have a slot of aviation ephemera, from vintage cocktail napkins and luggage stickers all the way to flight attendant uniforms.
 - Their search engine is wonky and requires practice to efficiently explore.
- [Museum of Flight](#)
 - This is in Tukwila, Washington, south of Seattle
 - They have the Alaska Airlines archives, such as is publicly available
- [Alaska Native Heritage Center](#)
- [Yukon Archives](#)
- **Auction houses. Many unique and rare Alaska items pass through the auction houses (e.g., Alaska Railroad golden spike), often to never be seen again. Make sure and search their past auctions. These are only some of the largest.**
 - [Heritage Auctions](#)
 - [Bonhams](#)
 - [Christie's](#)
 - [Sotheby's](#)
 - [Phillips](#)
 - [Coeur d'Alene Art Auction](#)
 - Many Alaska landscapes (e.g., Sydney Laurence) sold here
 - [eBay](#)
 - I check eBay daily for vintage Alaskana and have written several stories based off those finds. You absolutely never know when something relevant to you, perhaps even personally, might be thrown on there.
- **Postcards. Postcards are an underused historical research resource.**
 - [Card Cow](#)
 - Card Cow is a retail site, but they also maintain sold listings, so in effect they created a postcard database.
 - [Cardboard America](#)
 - A curated collection of postcards by a University of Mississippi professor hosted on Flickr.
 - [Postcard History](#)
 - A collection of postcard and postcard collecting articles. It includes several guides to postcards, including identifying when they were made.
- **History article collections**

- [David Reamer *Anchorage Daily News* article archive](#)
- [Dave Kiffer's *SitNews* article archive](#)
- [Robert "Bob" DeArmond's history articles, focused on Juneau area](#)
 - Via Juneau Douglas City Museum
- [Robert "Bob" DeArmond history articles, focused on Sitka, from the *Daily Sitka Sentinel*](#)
 - This is via the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society, and the DeArmond page is horribly formatted. But it's there. The rest of the website is neater.
- [Anchorage 1910-1940 Legends & Legacies](#)
 - Anchorage area biographies
- [Ray Bonnell's Sketches of Alaska](#)
- [Clark Fair articles with the *Peninsula Clarion*](#)
- [Alaska Women's Hall of Fame](#)
 - For many of the inducted women, this website offers the most detailed and, in a few cases, wrangelonly publicly available biographies.
- [Michael Gates Yukon News articles](#)km
 - Note, this site isn't put together well enough to link to just his articles. However, you can search, and this link is the results.
 - Gates has written extensively, sometimes with significant original research, about the Yukon and its surroundings. A lot of it would either interest or be relevant to Alaska researchers.
- [Wrangell History Unlocked](#)
 - Ronan Rooney puts this together, and it's podcasts, videos, and articles devoted to Wrangell
- [Hank Nuwer *Cordova Times* article archive](#)
- [Choss Lore](#)
 - An atlas of geographic naming history in Southcentral Alaska
- **Genealogy**
 - Ancestry (pay)
 - [Genealogy Bank](#) (pay)[FamilySearch](#) (free)
- **Other important sites**
 - [Alaska Census information](#)
 - Don't trust the 1880 Census
 - [Alaska DOT Winter Road Maintenance Priority Map](#)
 - [Community Crime Map](#)
 - [Anchorage property information](#)
 - [Anchorage code](#)
 - [Anchorage voting results](#)
 - [Anchorage Library databases](#) (membership)

- I'm also not going to list every library website, but the idea is here to check the library for wherever you are, or wherever you are researching.
- [Alaska Native language resources via UAF](#)
- [Alaska DNR Recorder's Office](#)
 - Deeds, plats, etc.
 - [Anchorage Recording District History](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management document search](#)
 - I use this to search for homestead patents.
 - If there is no patent, then the claimant did not prove up.
- [Alaska Federation of Natives](#)
- [Alaska Historical Society](#)
 - Articles, guides to research, etc.
- [Sitka Maritime Heritage Society](#)
- [Local Alaska historical societies](#)
 - This is a list of local historical societies, from the Alaska Historical Society. I'm not going to include every local history society here, but it's important to search for them if you're looking into a topic that is geographically focused.
- [Eldred Rock Lighthouse Preservation Association](#)
 - I'm not going to list every Alaska structure with its own website, but it's always good to search. I'm often in the situation where I'm researching a place, only to find some obscure site where someone has already put all the information together.
- [Project Jukebox](#)
 - Oral history archive at the University of Alaska Fairbanks
- [Anchorage Memorial Cemetery master burial list](#)
 - I've used their grave index more times than I ever would have expected
- [Angelus Cemetery](#) (Anchorage)
 - I won't list every other cemetery in Alaska but always search for master burial lists wherever you are researching.
- [Find a Grave](#)
 - I can't overemphasize how useful this site has been, for biographical information.
- [Anchorage property information](#)
 - A key resource for starting research on homes and parcels (e.g., build dates)
 - The map function, lower on the page, can be easier to use
- [Consumer Price Index Inflation Calculator](#)
 - This is the one from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. There are many inflation calculators online. Many of those take from this version, but to be a good researcher, you should rely on this one before all others.

- The exceptions are for pre-1913 comparisons, which are extremely shaky at best on even a theoretical level.
- [Wayback Machine](#)
 - Via the Internet Archive, visit lost webpages
- [Classmates](#)
 - Free to join (ignore their pleas for paid memberships) and browse the yearbooks, including many from across Alaska.
- [Coleen Mielke's Alaska Family Roots pages](#)
 - For example, [her fatality list from the 1964 earthquake](#) is the most detailed and inclusive that I've come across.
- [Jane Haigh's history pages](#)
 - Heavily focused on Alaska Native history, especially disease and boarding schools
- [AKEthnoGirl blog](#)
- [Alaska Lost Ski Areas Project](#)
 - Much of the information here is simply not available anywhere else.
- [National Park Service articles on Alaska](#)
- [Yukon Archives](#)
- [USGS Geographic Names Information System \(GNIS\)](#)
 - If you want the official name for a landmark, if it has one. Often comes with a smidge of historical backstory for the name.
- [Outdoor Related Fatalities in Alaska](#)
- [Video Game History Foundation Digital Archive](#)
- [John's Alaska Railroad Web Page](#)
 - So many history articles and pictures.
- [Historic Roads of Alaska](#) (pdf)
 - This was published by the state DOT, DNR, and others in 2017
- [Anchorage Federation of Community Councils](#)
 - Information on community councils and sometimes the individual council pages have bits of history
- [Sailing for Salmon: The Early Years of Commercial Fishing in Alaska's Bristol Bay 1884-1951](#) (pdf)
 - Free book by Tim Troll, the authority of Bristol Bay history, particularly fishing
- [Google Scholar](#)
 - One of the fascinating lessons from researching so much is how different databases pulling from the same information produce different results. I see it with Google Scholar versus all the other academic search engines. Or Family Search versus Ancestry.
- [Nike Hercules Operations in Alaska: 1959-1979](#)

- Free report pdf
- [Digital Archaeological Record](#)
 - Database of archeological and preservation reports
- [WorldCat](#)
 - Search libraries around the world, especially useful when you need a specific, rare text and can't buy it. I recall one time when the Anchorage Museum had the only listed copy of a book in the entire United States.
- [David's Vintage Snowmobile Page](#)
 - This awkwardly designed page is a true passion project and the best resource on vintage snowmachines, including hundreds of old flyers, pamphlets, ads, manuals, and catalogs. If you're interested in snowmachine history, this is a crucial site.
 - I'm not that David.
- [US patents](#)
 - This has been a surprisingly useful site.
- [Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area website](#)
 - It includes many articles. Even I've written one for them.
- [Morningside Hospital website](#)
 - This has history and documentation, including patient lists, for the horrific Morningside insane asylum, where many Territorial Alaskans with mental health issues were sent, against their will.

Research Tips

- **The two biggest differences between professional and amateur historians are the ability to understand the greater context and the way they track their research.**
 - **In other words, professional historians know not just the immediate story but its place within the wider context (e.g., economic, cultural, military, political).**
 - **Professional historians track their own research. I note what websites I've visited, what I've found there, and what search terms I used to get there.**
 - **Some websites have better search engines than others. For example, some websites will return results for "museum" and "museums" if you search just "museum." Some websites will not. You will have to find this out the hard way. Tracking your search terms is paramount.**
 - **Also, repeat your searches on different sites. Even sites that pull from mostly the same source material, like Ancestry and FamilySearch, produce different results for the same search terms. So, it is important to search multiple sites.**
- **Databases and links die or are otherwise removed all the time. If you find an interesting source, some particularly crucial bit of information, then save it.**

Download or screenshot, whatever is necessary so that you still have access to that information.

- **For example, there is a website on KKK newspapers that was once free to the public. It was important material that I searched while conducting Black history research. Now, you can only access it through certain universities.**
- **Free trials.**
 - **Abuse them. Track the emails you use and make sure to cancel at least two days before the limit.**
- **Ask experts.**
 - **If you're researching a particular subject, find an expert and just email them. Most historians and other researchers are delighted to talk about their specialty.**
 - **I can think of only one instance where an academic author was rude to me, and she still answered my question, even if she still ordered me to buy her book.**
- **Search with file extensions. If you are looking for a report or book, try searching the name and .pdf, or .epub, or so forth. If you're searching comic books, try searching .cbz or .cbr. And so forth.**