



National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection

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The National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection is a treasure trove of books ready and waiting to assist researchers in their quest for family information. Whether accessed via your local library's interlibrary loan service or by visiting St. Louis County Library's Special Collections Department, which houses the Collection, these books are tools which can move your research forward.

BACKGROUND

In November 2001, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) moved their 98 year-old lending library* holdings from the NGS headquarters at Glebe House in Arlington, Virginia, to the Special Collections Department of St. Louis County Library (SLCL) in St. Louis, Missouri. The NGS Book Loan Collection, previously cataloged in the Library of Congress Classification System, was re-cataloged in the Dewey Decimal System.

The collection consists of more than 20,000 books. Previously loaned only to NGS members, this collection is now available to the general public through interlibrary loan (ILL) via a person's local library. Few libraries lend family histories through ILL, so the availability of this continually growing collection containing thousands of circulating family histories is significant for genealogists.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN

Interlibrary loan (ILL) is the process whereby one library borrows material from or provides material to another library. Even a well-planned library cannot be totally self sufficient when it comes to meeting the needs of its patrons, and ILL makes it possible to draw upon resources beyond its own holdings to serve patrons.

Not all libraries participate in ILL. For libraries which do not, but are considering the possibility, the American Library Association's "ALA Library Fact Sheet Number 8" provides information about the process (<http://www.ala.org/ala/professionalresources/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet08.cfm>).

* *The NGS Reference Library was not moved to St. Louis County Library.*

REQUEST

It is important to indicate to the interlibrary loan department of your local library exactly which book(s) you want. Begin by searching the SLCL catalog (<http://webpac.slcl.org/>) to see if the item of interest is listed. Do a subject, title, author, or keyword search. *There may be separate records for reference and circulating copies of a title.* (See image below.)

- Books that have call numbers starting with “R” (for example R 907.2) are reference and *do not circulate*. [See image below.] When a book is reference, a request can be placed in the “borrowing note field” of the ILL request asking for photocopies of specific pages.
- Books that have call numbers that start without “R” (i.e. 907.2 or Q 907.2) do circulate. [See image below.]

KEYWORD Evidence Explained View Entire Collection Search
 Limit search to available items
4 results found. Sorted by relevance | date | title .
Save All On Page Save to My Lists
KEYWORDS (1-4 of 4) More
Most relevant titles entries 1-2
1
Request Save
Evidence explained : citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace
R 907.2 M657E
Mills, Elizabeth Shown.
Baltimore, MD : Genealogical Pub. Co., c2007
LOCATION CALL NUMBER VOLSTATUS
HQ Spec. Col. R 907.2 M657E IN LIBRARY
Ref.
Evidence explained : citing history sources from artifacts to cyberspace c2007
907.2 M657E
Mills, Elizabeth Shown.
Baltimore, MD : Genealogical Pub. Co., c2007
LOCATION CALL NUMBER VOLSTATUS
HQ Special Col. 907.2 M657E IN LIBRARY
Closed
HQ Special Col. 907.2 M657E IN LIBRARY
Open

Call number starting with “R” is Reference — does not circulate.

Call number starting without “R” — circulates.

Print the SLCL catalog record for the desired item and have it with you when you place your ILL request so you will have complete and accurate information.

SEARCHING WITH WORLDCAT

Researchers may also search thousands of libraries at one time, including SLCL and the NGS Book Loan Collection items, via “WorldCat.” Advertised as the “world’s largest network of library content and services,” a free version of it is available (www.worldcat.org) and some libraries make a subscription database form of it available to their card holders.

REQUESTING AN ITEM OF INTEREST

One of the requirements for placing an ILL request is that the title cannot be available, even as a reference copy, in your home library system. If your library does not have the desired title, then contact the Interlibrary Loan Department of your library and, if possible, have with you a print-out from the SLCL catalog for the listing of the book you are requesting.

If requesting a family history, and you are told “Libraries don’t lend family histories,” refer the librarian to lending information for the collection (www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/ngs/ngs-ill.htm). That Web page provides information for both librarians and patrons about “Interlibrary Loan Procedures for the National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection.”

Keep in mind that when you receive a requested ILL book, the facility lending that book may be a library other than St. Louis County Library and the NGS Book Loan Collection. In some cases, it may come from a university library in your area that has a wealth of “American History” materials of tremendous interest to your research.

ILL REQUESTS FOR NGS BOOK LOAN COLLECTION ITEMS

A researcher may submit up to two ILL requests at a time for NGS Book Loan Collection items from SLCL. No patron may have more than two NGS books checked out at any given time.

SLCL will also make up to thirty copies from a printed item. For some patrons, that service may be preferable to borrowing a copy of the book and making their own copies. This service is also important if the desired book is a non-NGS item that is reference and does not circulate.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NGS BOOK LOAN COLLECTION

- **8000+** family histories
- State, county, and local histories
- Published abstracts of
 - ◇ Cemeteries
 - ◇ Church records
 - ◇ Court records
 - ◇ Deeds
 - ◇ Marriages
 - ◇ Wills & related probate records

VISIT

Many patrons decide to visit SLCL to use the NGS Book Loan Collection in person. We welcome visitors from across the U.S. and from foreign countries. In addition to the NGS Book Loan Collection, Special Collections includes the following:

- St. Louis Genealogical Society library holdings
- Mary F. Berthold Collection, which includes materials acquired from the National Genealogical Society's Reference Library
- Julius K. Hunter & Friends African American Research Collection
- Genealogical and local history materials of SLCL including extensive holdings for Jewish research such as Yizkor books

There is a number of restaurants within two blocks of the Headquarters building where Special Collections is located. The Frontenac Hilton is nearby, and a number of other hotels/motels is available within a five-mile radius of the library.

Before visiting, we encourage you to visit Special Collections' extensive web site (<http://www.slcl.org/branches/hq/sc/>) which includes a site map and a Google-based search engine. The SC Web site is designed to help researchers prepare for a visit and assist them in organizing a "to do" list before they arrive.

DONATE

Authors, compilers, or translators wanting to place their genealogical publication in a library where it can circulate might want to consider donating a copy to this collection. Also, libraries with a duplicate copy of a genealogical book that needs a good home may wish to donate it to the NGS Book Loan Collection.

MAIL DONATIONS TO:

The NGS Book Loan Collection
St. Louis County Library
1640 South Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63131

PLEASE INCLUDE A NOTE GIVING YOUR ADDRESS SO AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR THE DONATION CAN BE SENT.

DIRECT QUESTIONS REGARDING A DONATION TO:

scollections@slcl.org

OR

314.994.3300, EXT. 2070