



# CSL Guide to Free Digital Law Resources for Genealogy

## Relevant Library Databases (Visit us)

- **Legal Journals and Miscellaneous Primary Law:** HeinOnline
- **General Legal Research Tool:** WestLaw

## California Legal Sources

### Legislation

- **Historic Statutes:** [https://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive\\_type=statutes](https://clerk.assembly.ca.gov/archive-list?archive_type=statutes)
  - Not organized into codes.
  - Check the indexes listed by year.
- **Historic Statutes:** HeinOnline
- **Subject Index to Laws (1850-1893):** <https://archive.org/details/indextolawscali01johngoog/mode/2up>
  - If the index cites a code section, use the table in the back of the book to crosswalk to the original statute numbers.
- **Current Codes:** <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>
  - Not terribly helpful for genealogy but good to know about generally.

### Case law

- **Historic Court Opinions:** <https://www.courtlistener.com/>
  - Searches across multiple jurisdictions, may miss some cases.
- **Historic Court Opinions:** Westlaw
  - Multiple jurisdictions.
- **Recent Court Opinions:** <https://scholar.google.com/>
  - Click the "Case law" option.



## Other

- **Governor's Executive Orders:** <https://www.library.ca.gov/government-publications/executive-orders/>
- **Attorney General Opinions:** HeinOnline

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## Federal Legal Sources

### Legislation

- **Historic Statutes at Large:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/united-states-statutes-at-large/about-this-collection/>
  - Not organized into codes.
  - Download pdf's of relevant looking search results to keyword search.
- **US Congressional Serial Set:** <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009980023>
  - To Search, click on advanced search:
    - Set one search field for a "Title" search and enter in "United States Congressional Serial Set."
    - Set another for a "Full Text & All Fields" and enter in your keyword.
- **Other congressional resources:** HeinOnline
- **United States Historic Codes:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/united-states-code/about-this-collection/>
  - This is less useful for genealogists as private laws are uncodified.

### Case law

- **Historic Court Opinions:** <https://www.courtlistener.com/>
  - Searches across multiple jurisdictions, may miss some cases.



- **Historic Court Opinions:** Westlaw
  - Multiple jurisdictions.
- **Recent Court Opinions:** <https://scholar.google.com/>
  - Click the “Case law” option.
- **Historic Supreme Court Opinions:** <https://www.loc.gov/collections/united-states-reports/about-this-collection/>

#### Other

- **Historic Executive Orders:** <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/disposition>
  - Later Executive Orders are indexed.
- **Historic Executive Orders:** <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents>
  - Keyword Searchable using the general search function.
- **Attorney General Opinions:** <https://www.justice.gov/olc/opinions-main>