

IRAD resources

Several resources are available to assist in your research:

County listings

Computer listings of IRAD records arranged by county, office and record title are free. Please limit requests to no more than five counties at a time.

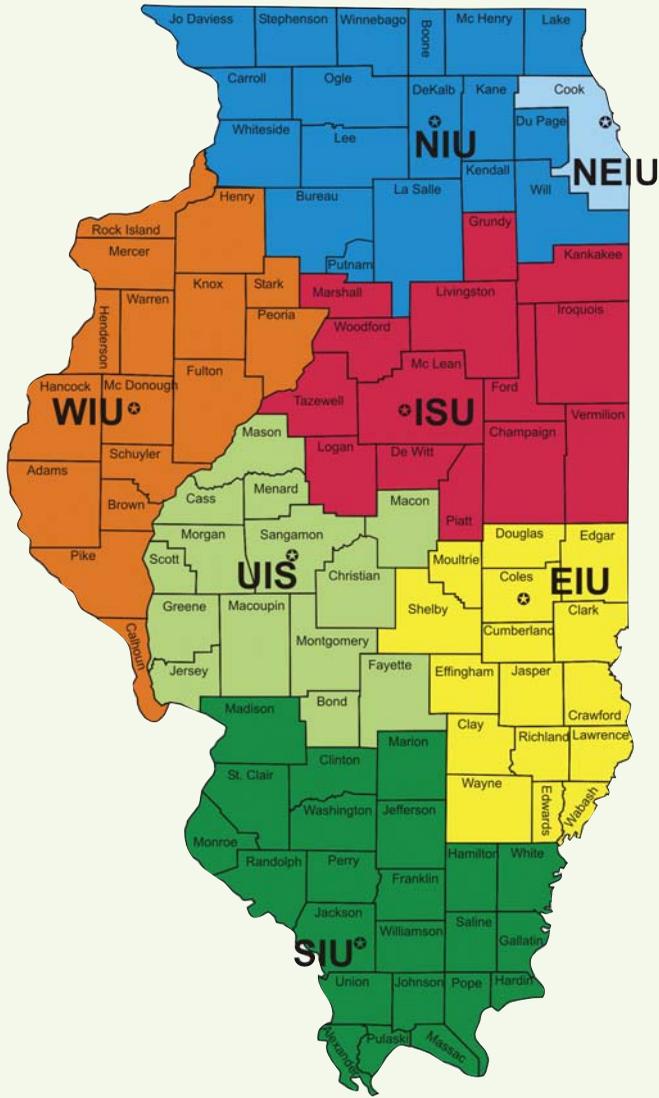
Please send inquiries or orders for these research aids to:

IRAD, Illinois State Archives
Norton Building
Springfield, IL 62756
217-782-3645

Website resources

Visit IRAD on the Web at: www.cyberdriveillinois.com (click Departments, Illinois State Archives, Illinois Regional Archives Depository (IRAD) System).

- Search listings of local governmental records held by IRAD depositories.
- Search name indexes to some local government records.
- View information about county offices and a description of their records.
- Discover historical and useful facts about Illinois counties.



IRAD Regions

IRAD depositories

IRAD—Booth Library
Eastern Illinois University
600 Lincoln Ave.
Charleston, IL 61920
217-581-6093

IRAD
Illinois State University
2016 Warehouse Rd.
Campus Box 1520
Normal, IL 61790-1520
309-452-6027

IRAD—Regional History Center
Founders Memorial Library-400
Northern Illinois University
Rm. 400
DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-1807

IRAD—LIB-144
University of Illinois at Springfield
1 University Plaza, MS BRK 140
Springfield, IL 62703-5407
217-206-6520

IRAD—c/o Records Management
Morris Library, Mail Code 6808
Southern Illinois University
1835 University Press Dr.
Carbondale, IL 62901-6808
618-453-3040

IRAD—Ronald Williams Library
Northeastern Illinois University
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625-4699
773-442-4506

IRAD—Malpass Library
Western Illinois University
1 University Circle
Macomb, IL 61455-1390
309-298-2716

Discovering FAMILY & LOCAL History

Illinois Regional Archives Depository System



JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE

PRESERVING OUR PAST

for the future



Looking back into our past is an enriching experience. To ensure that future generations have the same opportunities to explore their heritage, the Illinois Regional Archives Depository system (IRAD) was established.

IRAD is a resource-sharing system that works with the Local Records Commission and area officials to transfer valuable records to the seven IRAD centers at Illinois state universities. Records at each IRAD reflect the unique history and traditions of that region. The relocation of local records to regional facilities makes the records more accessible to researchers and prevents their loss or physical deterioration.

These records are of great help to historians, genealogists and local government officials. IRAD staff can help you find whatever you need to discover the past.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Secretary of State & State Archivist

IRAD records

Local governments that have transferred records to regional depositories include counties, townships, municipalities and school districts. Records include:

- county board proceedings files and meeting minutes
- records of births, deaths and marriages
- land deeds, mortgages and tax sale records
- assessors' and collectors' tax books
- poll books and voter registers
- naturalization records, including declarations of intent
- probate records, including wills and will records, case files, administrators' and executors' records, guardianship records, and inventory and appraisal records
- court case files (civil and criminal), chancery cases (including divorces), docket books and court proceedings, and insanity proceedings files and records
- coroners' inquest records and inquest files
- miscellaneous county records, including almshouse/county home records and jail registers
- township meeting minutes
- highway commissioners' minutes
- school trustees' minutes
- pupil registers
- school land sale records

- city council proceedings files and meeting minutes
- ordinance records
- city election records

City of Chicago Records—A special part of IRAD's holdings is from the City of Chicago and includes nearly 35,000 previously unknown documents that predate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. In addition to city council proceedings files from 1833 to 1942, holdings include plats, atlases and Sanborn Maps.

Other Chicago records include election registers from 1888 to 1892 and ordinance records spanning from 1837 to 1916.

Making a request

Mail and telephone requests concerning genealogy and local history are welcome. Please include the following information when making a request:

- full name of the person you are researching
- approximate year the person is expected to appear in a record
- name of the county
- record title or type to search

Please limit inquiries to two names at a time and wait until you have received a response to your first request before submitting additional ones.

IRAD hours

Hours at the seven regional depositories vary. Researchers are advised to call a depository between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information, especially if they are planning a visit. Regional depositories are closed Saturdays and Sundays, state holidays and other weekdays the university libraries are closed.

