



Plan Your Research Visit

The Reading Room is open to Researchers from 9:00am to 4:30pm Monday – Friday. Researchers will be issued a Researcher Card before accessing library materials. *Bring a photo ID with address upon your first visit.* Although not required, readers are welcome to request materials in advance of a visit. Materials do not circulate and are to be viewed on-site only. Reading Room staff will review your request and notify you of item availability or issues. Requests will be acted upon during paging hours (M-F 9:00am-4:30pm). If you experience issues using the online ordering system or would like to make these requests in person, a librarian will be happy to assist you. To speak with a staff member, please email alplm.reference@illinois.gov or call 217-524-6358.

To discover more about our library's vast holdings, please visit our website at PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov. To request materials ahead of your visit, register here and submit the items you would like to see:

<https://alplm.aeon.atlas-sys.com/>

Published Collection Resources:

Our published collection houses more than 200,000 books and pamphlets, 3000 maps, and 1200 periodical series all housed on 8 miles of compact shelving in climate-controlled stacks. Major collections relate to individuals, cities and towns, agriculture, industry, religion, and transportation. There are many family genealogies and a variety of material on the Civil War (including a large number of regimental histories). Our collection of county histories is very strong, especially those published between 1870 and 1915. Many contain biographical sketches of individuals and family living within the county. Unique to our library is the searchable surname index. To search our online catalog, visit:

<https://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/vf-alp/>

Microfilm:

Our Newspapers on Microfilm department has more than 5,000 newspaper titles preserved on over 100,000 reels. The library holds titles from every one of Illinois' 102 counties. Many date from the 19th century, including the earliest newspaper published in Illinois, the Illinois Herald (Kaskaskia) dated December 13, 1814, but we also have many current titles. All of our holdings are available on our website. An obituary index, comprised of researcher submitted citations, is available on our website. Research requests of the newspapers can be made from home. Please make sure to include all information pertinent to the research request being made, such as name of individual/event, city, and as specific of a date as possible. To see our holdings, visit: <https://www2.illinois.gov/alplm/library/collections/newspaper/Holdings/>

Manuscripts:

Our manuscripts collection contains handwritten materials such as letters, diaries, and reports – this includes the letters and diaries of Civil War Soldiers, the personal papers of legislators and governors, and the records of businesses. The manuscript collection boasts nearly 12 million documents. Some particularly interesting collections include topics on Slavery in Illinois, Civil War, Illinois' place in Westward expansion, women's studies, the Federal Writers Project, Labor History, Education and so much more. Visit our online catalog at

<https://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/vf-alp/> and <http://alplm-cdi.com/chroniclingillinois/collection-tree> to find out more about our holdings.

Audiovisual:

Our audiovisual department contains material dating from the founding of photography in the 1840s to recorded interviews from the present day. More than 400,000 photographs visual document Illinois politics, labor, and family life. The collection also contains an impressive collection of broadsides, nearly 5,000 in number, with a large portion being WWI and WWII posters. The photographs from our holdings of Illinois Civil War Soldiers are recorded in the Library's Boys in Blue online collection. To view this digital collection, visit:

http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/cdm/search/collection/alp_bib

To view other portions of our Audiovisual collection, visit: <http://alplm-cdi.com/chroniclingillinois/>





Electronic Resources Available From Home

[PapersofAbrahamLincoln.org*](http://PapersofAbrahamLincoln.org)

Images and searchable transcriptions of annotated documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln. Also includes identifications of the people, places, organizations, and events that are mentioned in the documents (this includes people/places etc. in Illinois from 1834-1841).

Use if you're searching for:

- documents written by Abraham Lincoln
- genealogical information about people in the Midwest, especially Illinois, from 1819 to 1841
- information about towns and geographical features in Illinois
- information about companies that operated in Illinois, especially if they were incorporated
- information about any legislation considered by the Illinois General Assembly from 1834 to 1841

*Currently this resource has 5,203 documents from 1819 to March 1, 1841. In the coming years, we will publish an additional 101,000 documents from the end of Lincoln's time in the Illinois General Assembly to his assassination.).

TheLincolnLog.org

A digital version of the print publication Lincoln Day-by-Day; with additions by PAL staff over the years. Use if you're searching for information about what Lincoln was doing on particular days of his life.

LawPracticeofAbrahamLincoln.org

Images of documents from every legal case handled by Lincoln and his partners. Also includes information about courts, the law, Lincoln's legal practice, and biographies of some people, mostly lawyers and judges from Illinois.

Use if you're searching for:

- images of legal documents written by Lincoln
- information about one of Lincoln's legal cases
- to verify if a person was associated with Lincoln in a case

Electronic Resources Available During Your Visit to ALPLM

- Ancestry Library edition
- Fold3
- Heritage Quest
- America's Genealogy Bank
- Newsbank – The Springfield paper from 1831 – current
- Chicago Tribune from 1849-1994
- Harper's Weekly 1857-1912
- JSTOR – academic journals

