Genealogy Resources Available in State Government

Below are genealogy resources available at the State Library and the Department of Archives and History with explanation of communication that occurs between the two agencies. S.C. Code Section 60-1-60(h) requires the state library to coordinate library services of the State with other educational agencies and services to increase effectiveness and reduce duplication.

South Carolina State Library (SCSL)
4,692 In-person visitors FY21-22
69 specific genealogy research requests FY21-22
32 WWII (MIA) Soldiers' information provided to Margraten Cemetery and SC Families
(Maintain historical documents, books, and other publications)

Department of Archives and History (DAH)
75% of 2,000 visitors in 2021 visited the agency to research family history
(Maintain original records authors use to produce historical books)

One-on-one in-person research assistance

The SCSL also offers virtual and in-person training (i.e., African American Genealogy Webinar: How I Found My Enslaved Ancestor; Beginner Strategies for African American Genealogy)

Ancestry.com
Collection of online family history records. Patron must come into the State Library, DAH, or ask personnel on site to find the information. Remote access for everyone is cost prohibitive. (State Library pays a subscription fee for the service. DAH sells microfilm to Ancestry.com and Ancestry.com provides DAH free access as part of the agreement.)

Fold3.com
Collection of military records from Revolutionary War to WWII. Patron must come into the State Library, DAH, or ask personnel on site to find the information. Remote access for everyone is cost prohibitive. (Ancestry.com recently purchased fold3.com. State Library pays a subscription fee for the service. DAH receives the service free from Ancestry.com.)

HeritageQuest
Collection of American genealogical primary sources, local and family histories and finding aids

Newspapers.com
Online newspaper archive (**1700-2000**) used for genealogy and family research.

Historical Black Newspapers Collection
Nine Historical Black Newspapers (1893-2005) of primary source material used for genealogical and historical research

Federal Document Depository
SCSL is a designated Federal Documents Depository (i.e., 1962 Kennedy Presidential Papers, 1890 agriculture, manufacturing data, muster rolls, Library of Congress Journals 1775-2020)

State Agency Documents (Original)
All State Agency documents created for use; frequently used for genealogy and agency research (i.e. Acts & Resolutions (1808-2021), SC Dept of Education Annual Reports 1922-2021, SCDOT Drawings and Road Construction, etc.)

State and County Documents (1785-August 2022)
State Agency documents may include names of families, individuals, occupations, etc. County records include City and County Directories (**1895-**). Published family documents detailing family history, relationships, land records, etc.

S.C. Electronic Document Archive (1770-present)
Documents that were provided to SCSL in digital format, retrieved by SCSL using a webcrawler, or an image which was digitally created by SCSL staff for public use

SC State Library Online Catalog and Records Index (SCSL Digital Collections)
Includes born digital documents and digital images created of original documents – **307,406** page views FY22; **8,002** items added in FY22

Definition of "Document" and "Record"
- DAH records are original documents (e.g., contracts and letters that evidence a film company working in S.C.). SCSL documents are created by State Agencies (e.g., directory of film companies that worked in S.C.).

Colonial Land and Court Records (Original documents)
Land grants from the King of England, plats, etc.

Revolutionary and Civil War Records (Original)
Service and pension records, etc. microfilm DAH purchased from the National Archives

State Agency Records (Original)
Agency records that are frequently used for genealogy research include Department of Education, Department of Corrections, and Department of Mental Health

State and Federal Census records (1790-1950)
Note: Federal government keeps them for 75 years before releasing them

State and County Records (back to 1785-1950/1960)
Estate papers, wills, inventories that list names of families and enslaved individuals; county land records and deeds; equity court records; civil and criminal court records

Online Records Index
Includes approximately 400,000 of DAH's 35 million original records that have been digitized so individuals can search and see documents online. Note, DAH continues to receive new original records on a regular basis.

S.C. Electronic Record Archive (2000-present)
Records that were provided to DAH in digital format

S.C. Archives Online Catalog (SC ArchCat)
Online list of all (original and digital) materials available from DAH

Examples of the agencies working together, include the following:
- The two agencies worked together to create the SC Memory Project (scmemory.org) which provides access to historic materials from over 40 cultural heritage institutions across the state.
- DAH website directs individuals to SCSL for additional genealogical resources
- State Library invites DAH to present during State Library webinars