St. Louis is nationally recognized for many features of its urban life; one of the most interesting of these is the rich history and renewed vitality of its neighborhoods. With their distinctive traditions, landmarks and community spirit, St. Louis neighborhoods make the city an interesting and varied place to live, work, visit or study. This guide is designed to help you get started researching them. If you need further assistance, please visit or call the St. Louis Mercantile Library Reference Desk at: 314-516-7247.

Newspapers:

St. Louis Globe-Democrat Newspaper Archives. A unique and valuable resource on the people, history and places of St. Louis. Includes hundreds of thousands of clippings and photographs arranged by subject, company or personal name from the 1920s to the newspaper’s closing in 1986. Ask at the Mercantile Library’s Reference Desk for assistance with this collection. http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/special_collections/directory/slma-112.html


Index to St. Louis Newspapers, 1975-79. Provides subject indexing to Metro-East Journal; St. Louis Argus; St. Louis Commerce; St. Louis Globe-Democrat; St. Louis Magazine; St. Louis Post Dispatch; and the St. Louis Sentinel. (TJ REF INDEX A1 21 .S22)


Maps:

Atlas of the City of St. Louis, 1905. These city plat maps show property owners, streets, and businesses. Ask at the Mercantile Library’s Reference Desk for assistance with this collection.

Pictorial Saint Louis, the Great Metropolis of the Mississippi Valley; a Topographical Survey, by Camille Dry. Detailed views of St. Louis in 1875 including streets, buildings, businesses and industry. (MERC REF & TJ FOLIO G4164 .S4 1875 D7x).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps - Saint Louis, 1895-1983. Produced originally for insurance companies to help assess risk in insuring buildings, these detailed maps show houses, factories,
shops and other structures. They can be used to trace the growth and development of communities over the years. (TJ: Microfilm G4163.S35 1895)

Journals and Magazines:

Missouri Historical Review, 1906-current. Scholarly articles with an emphasis on biographical history; also included are many articles on St. Louis history. Indexes issued approximately every 25 years. (MERC: 1906-1981 & TJ: F461 .M59).

General Books and Information Sources:

Community Information Network: Official Website of the City of St. Louis – Neighborhoods provides useful introductions and maps to St. Louis neighborhoods including promotional brochures from over 70 communities and reprints of Norbury Wayman’s 27 neighborhood histories written for the Community Development Agency in the 1970s and early 1980s. This site also offers demographic data and a listing of neighborhood associations. (www.http://stlouis.missouri.org/neighborhoods


Sources on Specific Neighborhoods:

Be sure to consult Merlin, the Library’s online catalog, for books, restoration plans, reports, or other material about your specific neighborhood.

Lafayette Square Restoration Committee Records. An extensive collection of reports, photos, clippings, and other documents about this historic Victorian neighborhood. Ask for assistance with this collection at the Mercantile Library Reference Desk.

History of St. Louis Neighborhoods by Norbury Wayman. A series of booklets published in the late 1970s and early ‘80s on individual neighborhoods covering their history, topography, parks, schools, and industries. (These are cataloged individually, search Merlin by author or by name of neighborhood; or see #10, this guide).

Ethnic Groups:


Use these and similar search terms on Merlin, the Library’s online card catalog, to identify and locate additional material:

- African Americans – Missouri – Saint Louis
- Italian Americans – Missouri – Saint Louis
- German Americans – Missouri – Saint Louis
- Ethnic Relations – Missouri – Saint Louis

General Bibliographies:


GPA & MR 11/05