## Resources for Local History…

### Kansas City, Missouri

### Books

These books are located in the Penn Valley Special Collections. Circulating copies of titles are indicated where they exist. Special arrangements for limited checkout can be made by an instructor’s request and the librarian’s permission. Other books on more specific topics or people related to Kansas City history can be found by doing a keyword search in WILO, our online catalog.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publication Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PV Spec Coll</td>
<td>At the River’s Bend: An illustrated history of Kansas City,</td>
<td>Schirmer &amp; McKinzie</td>
<td>1982</td>
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<tr>
<td>PV Circ</td>
<td>Independence and Jackson County</td>
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<tr>
<td>977.84</td>
<td>Description: General history of the Kansas City metropolitan area,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>including Independence and Jackson County, including company profiles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sch3a</td>
<td>City of the future: A Narrative history of Kansas City, 1850-1950</td>
<td>Haskell and Fowler</td>
<td>c.1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>H27c</td>
<td>Description: Looks at KC history by eras (decades) from 1850 to 1950</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>covering people and events.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PV Spec Coll</td>
<td>A Condensed history of the Kansas City area: its mayors and some V.I.P.s</td>
<td>Green</td>
<td>1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>977.84</td>
<td>Description: Biographies of Kansas City mayors. Short histories about banking, hospitals and sanitariums, the zoo, the American Royal, music and musicians, the Board of Education, fire and police departments, public utilities, airports, city physicians, and the Jackson County Medical Society. Invaluable information about funding and how people were selected for certain positions in local government.</td>
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<td>G82c</td>
<td>Crossroads of America, the story of Kansas City</td>
<td>Garwood</td>
<td>1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>977.84</td>
<td>Description: Important people and events in Kansas City history such as the Border War, Order No. 11, George Caleb Bingham, William Rockhill Nelson, and Swope Park.</td>
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<tr>
<td>G19c</td>
<td>Frontier Community, v. 1</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>PV Spec Coll</td>
<td>Description: General history of Kansas City to 1870 including the impact of the Civil War on this region and the subsequent development of the city, economic growth, the Railroad, and metropolitan politics.</td>
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<td>PV Circ</td>
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<td>B81f</td>
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<td>v.1</td>
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</table>
Here Lies Kansas City: a collection of our city’s notables and their final resting places

Wilda Sandy (1984)

**Description:** Biographical sketches of individuals important in Kansas City history.

Kansas City: an American Story

Rick Montgomery, Shirl Kasper (1999)

**Description:** Looks at KC history by eras (decades) from the 1830s through the 1990s.

K.C.: a history of Kansas City, Missouri

A. Theodore Brown and Lyle W. Dorsett (1978)

**Description:** Examines streets and transportation, fairs, real estate cycles, political reform movements, Kansas City Government, ethnic diversity, Black Kansas City, the 1951 Flood, the airport, crime, associations, and Kansas City leadership. Also contains biographical sketches of important local residents.

Kansas City: Heart of America

Jane Mobley; corporate profiles by Shifra Stein (1994)

**Description:** Topical history of KC: neighborhoods, health care, sports, art and artists, education, business; also people and general KC history.

Kansas City: rise of a regional metropolis


**Description:** General history of Kansas City, business enterprises, and economic conditions.

**Online Databases**

**History Resource Center:** U.S. provides full-text reference and journal articles related to Kansas City history. For local history, select “subject” search and type in “Kansas City.” You will retrieve a list of topics on Kansas City history.

**NewsBank** provides full-text articles from the "Kansas City Star" and the "St. Louis Post-Dispatch" as well as other major U.S. newspapers. It also includes state and regional stories from wire services and other Missouri newspapers.

**Kansas City Star,** 1991-current
**St Louis Post-Dispatch,** 1988-current

**Vertical File**

Older newspaper clippings and articles related to Kansas City can be found in the Vertical File.
# Kansas City, Missouri Area Vertical File Subject List

## A through C
- Afro-Americans
- Airports
- American Royal
- Architecture
- Art
- Art Galleries and Museums
- Bartle Hall
- Biographies
- Black Archives of Mid-America
- Bruce Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
- Business
- Centennial
- City Market
- Civic Improvement
- Country Club Plaza
- Crown Center
- Cultural Life

## D through G
- Description and Travel
- Downtown
- Eighteenth and Vine Streets
- Floods
- Folly Theater
- Fountains
- Freedom, Inc.
- Gambling
- GOP Convention

## H through L
- History
- Hotels, Motels
- Houses
- Housing
- Hyatt Disaster
- Industries
- Kansas City Museum
- Kemper Arena
- Labor and Laboring Classes
- Laws, Statutes, etc.
- Learning Exchange
- Libraries

## M through R
- Mafia
- Magnet Schools
- Mid-America Regional Council
- Midwest Research Institute
- Memorials
- Minorities
- Motion Pictures
- Music
- Neighborhoods
- Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Newspapers
- Parks and Recreation
- Police
- Politics and Government
- Population
- Public Buildings
- Public Utilities
- Race Problems
- Railroads
- Rape
- Refuse and Refuse Disposal
- Religion
- Restaurants
- Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base
- River Quay

## S through Z
- Sailors Project
- Schools
- Segregation Trial
- Small Business
- Social Services
- Sports
- Statistics
- Streets
- Student Uprising
- Taxation
- Transportation
- Union Station
- Universities and Colleges
- Urban Renewal
- Weather
- Westport
- Women
- Woodlands
- World’s Fair
- Zoo
Local History Websites

City Hall – Kansas City, Missouri
City hall provides information about Kansas City, Missouri history; 150th anniversary timeline; Parks and Recreation Archives; Liberty Memorial; Country Club Plaza.
www.kcmo.org/kcmo.nsf/web/history?opendocument

Liberty Memorial Online Museum
This website provides a virtual tour and key facts about the Liberty Memorial Museum, as well as a list of KC war dead.
www.libertymemorialmuseum.org/

Kansas City Public Library Local History Collection – Special Collections Department
This department provides access to extensive Kansas City photographs, postcard collections, maps, and biographies related to Kansas City history. An invaluable collection of materials.
www.kclibrary.org/localhistory/

The Kansas City Star – History
Decade by decade history of the Kansas City Star newspaper and its founder, William Rockhill Nelson. Includes information about the City Beautiful Movement, the Pendergasts, Thomas H. Swope, and general history about the Star itself. At the URL below, go to the Services box, click on ‘About the Star,’ and then click on ‘Our history.’
www.kcstar.com/

The Kansas City Star – Millennium Kansas City
Kansas City history from its earliest beginnings as a fur trading community up through the 20th century. The Kansas City Millennium Projects was a series of monthly article researched and written by two Star reporters and local history authors, Shirl Kasper and Rick Montgomery. To access, use NewsBank. Under the Kansas City Star, click on Advanced Search and enter ‘Millennium Kansas City’ as an index term.

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum
Nice collection on the history of African American baseball, leagues and teams, and player profiles.
www.nlbm.com/s/index.cfm

The Western Historical Manuscripts Collection – UMKC
This collection contains local history information related to commerce and industry, community histories, art and culture, religion, and science and technology. Specific topics in the collections include information about Crown Center, Ward Parkway, the speeches of J.C. Nichols, and the Jewish Community Archives.
www.umkc.edu/whmecue/