

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY  
John Hoffmann; July 1984  
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I. DESCRIPTION

A. Purpose: The Illinois Historical Survey is a reference and research unit devoted to local, state, and regional history. It serves a diverse group of student, professional, and lay readers.

B. History of Collection: Conceived in 1909 as an interdisciplinary research center, the "Illinois Survey" soon became known as the "Illinois Historical Survey," a unit of the Graduate College associated with the History Department. Before 1939, the Survey functioned as the editorial office of the Illinois State Historical Library, and mainly acquired materials of immediate use in the preparation of the Centennial History of Illinois, a multi-volume study, and the Illinois Historical Collections, a documentary series emphasizing the early periods of Illinois history. After 1939, when the state historical agency was consolidated in Springfield, the Survey continued its University affiliation, and gradually expanded its holdings in the field of Illinois history. In 1966, the unit moved from Lincoln Hall to the Library, under which it was fully consolidated, from an administrative point of view, in 1980. It has traditionally maintained strong ties with the Department of History.

C. Estimate of Holdings: 11,000 volumes, 1,050 ln. ft. manuscripts, 1,800 maps, microforms, broadsides, prints and photographs, vertical file materials in the Illinois Historical Survey.

D. State, Regional, and National Importance: The Survey is both a library and a manuscript repository. Its collection of printed materials related to Illinois history is substantial, though exceeded by similar collections at the Illinois State Historical Library and the Chicago Historical Society. Its manuscript holdings are more limited than the holdings of several Chicago and downstate repositories. Among the topics most fully supported by the manuscript collection are the history of the colonial and territorial periods, communitarianism in the early nineteenth century, and labor history in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

E. Unit Responsible for Collecting: Materials for the study of Illinois history are collected primarily by the Illinois Historical Survey. The History and Philosophy Library also collects in this area.

F. Location of Materials: The collection is located in the Illinois Historical Survey Library, but many items are elsewhere, especially in the Bookstacks.

G. Citations of Works Describing the Collection:

Brichford, Maynard, Robert Sutton and Dennis Walle. Manuscripts Guide to Collections at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1976.

## II. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

A. Languages: English, though a few documents and monographs are in French, Spanish, and German.

B. Chronological Guidelines: No restrictions.

C. Geographical Guidelines: Illinois, with some attention to the Old Northwest and the Midwest generally.

D. Treatment of Subject: Treatment ranges from scholarly to popular writings and textbooks. The focus of the collection is on studies and sources relevant to Illinois history, except for contemporaneous materials collected by such libraries as the Commerce, Education and Social Sciences, and Map and Geography Libraries.

E. Types of Materials: Standard statement.

F. Date of Publication: Standard statement. In addition, special efforts are made to acquire original editions of classics in the field.

G. Place of Publication: No restrictions.

## III. COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY BY SUBJECT SUBDIVISIONS WITH QUALIFICATIONS, LEVELS OF COLLECTING INTENSITY, AND ASSIGNMENTS.

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>ES</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>DL</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>
History of Illinois	4	4	4	ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY/history