# Using DP.LA for Family History Research

Are you a DP.LA user? If not, you should. I find it to be "better than Google" for finding digitized resources owned by libraries, archives, and other similar institutions. In essence, it is like having online card catalogues from hundreds of institutions that I can search for digitized collections and items all at once.

Here are the partners with the largest collections available to be searched in DP.LA:

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|---|---|
| Artstor (108,681 Items) | Library of Congress (4,463 Items) |
| Big Sky Country Digital Network (17,660 Items) | Michigan Service Hub (1,202,297 Items) |
| Biodiversity Heritage Library (302,041 Items) | Minnesota Digital Library (867,600 Items) |
| California Digital Library (2,036,189 Items) | Mountain West Digital Library (1,308,120 Items) |
| Community Webs (8,416 Items) | National Archives and Records Administration (18,677,226 Items) |
| Connecticut Digital Archive (120,909 Items) | NJ/DE Digital Collective (274,307 Items) |
| David Rumsey (139,247 Items) | North Carolina Digital Heritage Center (765,785 Items) |
| Digital Commonwealth (1,361,815 Items) | Northwest Digital Heritage (1,176,674 Items) |
| Digital Library of Georgia (1,107,589 Items) | Ohio Digital Network (424,794 Items) |
| Digital Library of Tennessee (214,075 Items) | OKHub (850,349 Items) |
| Digital Maine (63,492 Items) | Orbis Cascade Alliance (7,598 Items) |
| Digital Maryland (133,855 Items) | PA Digital (757,560 Items) |
| Digital Virginias (73,614 Items) | Plains to Peaks Collective (1,408,973 Items) |
| District Digital (57,753 Items) | Recollection Wisconsin (744,477 Items) |
| Empire State Digital Network (443,200 Items) | Smithsonian Institution (7,702,485 Items) |
| Harvard Library (121,946 Items) | South Carolina Digital Library (323,293 Items) |
| HathiTrust (3,033,985 Items) | Sunshine State Digital Network (351,870 Items) |
| Heartland Hub (799,899 Items) | Texas Digital Library (140,038 Items) |
| Illinois Digital Heritage Hub (567,015 Items) | The New York Public Library (985,416 Items) |
| Indiana Memory (669,130 Items) | The Portal to Texas History (2,221,070 Items) |
| Internet Archive (739,702 Items) | United States Government Publishing Office (GPO) (307,854 Items) |
| J. Paul Getty Trust (99,618 Items) | Vermont Green Mountain Digital Archive (91,573 Items) |
| Kentucky Digital Library (141,608 Items) | |

If you are interested in family history research, check out these categories (or choose your own):

- **Family photographs**
- **Family Bibles**
- **Correspondence, from the Civil War for example.**
- **Local maps**
- **Yearbooks**
- **Military records including photographs and service records**
- **Oral histories**
- **Family History and Genealogy books**

From DP.LA: "To find even more historical materials to help develop context, **browse by topic**. As you discover useful materials, create lists of items to come back to later without having to repeat your search."

Searching DP.LA is easy. I use the standard search tools that I use in Google searching. You can narrow the results by selecting on the left hand side of the results page one or more of the following: Type, Subject, Date, Location, Language, Collection, Contributing Institution, or Partner. One technique that I often use is to search broadly, and then enter a minus sign (-) in front of a keyword, eliminate results from specific states, or specific collections.

There are many more collections available, many from hundreds of local public libraries.