

Guide to Folklore Resources

[Last updated: 4/24/09]

(Also see related subject guides: Anthropology, Sociology, Popular Culture, Music, etc.)

Periodical Databases

***[MLA International Bibliography](#) - Go here first and use “Can I get this online?” to link to full-text of articles in the other databases

***For peer-reviewed articles only, use [Peer Reviewed Articles EZ](#) (which includes MLA International Bibliography)

Other recommended databases:

- [JSTOR](#)
- [Project MUSE](#)
- [SocINDEX](#)
- [America: History and Life](#)
- [Anthropology Plus](#)
- [AnthroSource](#)

Some topics in folklore may require more general databases such as:

- [Academic Search Premier](#)
- [Academic OneFile](#)
- [Web of Science](#)

Web Sites

American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/>

The American Folklife Center aims to be the national center for folklife documentation and research, and this Web site offers a virtual destination for those who cannot visit the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The website includes the Archive of Folk Culture, online presentations of multi-format collections, and other resources to facilitate folklife projects and study.

- Online Collections: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/onlinecollections.html>
- Ethnographic resources: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/other.html>
- Folklife and Fieldwork: A Layman's Introduction to Field Techniques: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/fieldwork/index.html>
- Folklife Sourcebook: A Directory of Folklife Resources in the United States <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/source/>

Center for Folklore Studies (at Ohio State University)

<http://cfs.osu.edu/default.cfm>

The Center for Folklore Studies supports the learning, teaching, research, and outreach endeavors of folklorists and students of folklore at the Ohio State University (OSU). It also maintains an archive of over 12,000 recordings and projects collected over half a century of folklore research.

City Lore

<http://www.citylore.org/>

Non-profit website dedicated to New York City's rich cultural heritage and urban folklore.

Folktexts: A library of folktales, folklore, fairy tales and mythology

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html>

An extensive collection of folk tales from around the world, many edited or translated by D.L. Ashliman, a professor of Germanic Languages and Literature. The alphabetical listing is by author, country of origin, and categories.

H-OralHist

<http://www.h-net.org/~oralhist/>

Affiliated with the Oral History Association, H-Oralhist is part of the H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online network, and provides bibliographies of oral history resources, as well as links and information on oral history collections around the world.

Smithsonian Institution Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

<http://www.folklife.si.edu/index.html>

The Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage is a research and educational unit of the Smithsonian Institution promoting the understanding and continuity of diverse, contemporary grassroots cultures in the United States and around the world. The Center produces the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Smithsonian Folkways Recordings, Smithsonian Global Sound, exhibitions, documentary films and videos, symposia, publications, and educational materials.

Snopes: Rumor has it...

<http://www.snopes.com/>

Comprehensive collection of urban legends, common fallacies, old wives tales, etc.

TAPNET: Traditional Arts Programs Net

<http://www.afsnet.org/tapnet/index.htm>

Excellent source for information about the activities of public folklore programs around the United States, provided by the American Folklore Society.

Local Resources

Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society (BECHS)

<http://www.bechs.org/>

The Library and Archives of the BECHS document the history of the City of Buffalo and the surrounding region. Collections include 20,000 books, 200,000 photographs, 2,000 manuscript collections, plus architectural plans, prints and broadsides, pamphlets and clippings on frequently researched subjects, church and cemetery records, and microfilm of Buffalo newspapers from 1811 to the present.

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library (B&ECPL)

<http://www.buffalolib.org/>

The B&ECPL includes an enormous collection of local and regional information in the Central library downtown as well as the localized branches and numerous special collections, one of which is:

- The Center for Afro-American History and Research: The largest resource center in Western New York for information on African-American history is located at Frank E. Merriweather Jr. Library. This collection includes books, microfilm and pictures with its emphasis on primary source material related to African-American history in Western New York.

BUFFALONET

<http://www.buffalonet.org/>

Website dedicated to promoting and preserving Buffalo's rich history and cultural heritage. Includes Nancy Piatkowski's excellent "Buffalo Folklore, etc." page with collected Buffalo folklore: <http://buffalolore.buffalonet.org/>

Buffaloresearch.com

<http://www.buffaloresearch.com/>

Though aimed towards genealogists, this is an excellent guide to local research. There are lists of links that include local ethnic group associations/organizations, as well as another list of sites potentially interesting to local folklorists searching "off the beaten cyberpath."

Buffalo State College Archives

<http://www.buffalostate.edu/library/archives/>

*Please call (878-6308 or 878-6304) or [email](mailto:) to make an appointment to use material in archives
Collections in Archives that may be relevant include:

- Microfilm of *Buffalo Courier-Express* newspaper and its predecessors, 1828-1982
- Buffalo History Reference Cards (selective index to *Buffalo Courier-Express*, ~1880-1955)
- Newspaper clipping files from *Buffalo Courier-Express* newspaper, ~1955-1982
- Monroe Fordham Regional History Collection – with inventories/finding aids: <http://monroefordham.org/>
- The Niagara Frontier Folklore Archives – consists of thousands of folklore fieldwork projects conducted by BSC students for Professor Lydia Fish's folklore courses. *(Note: these are not yet accessible, but they will be eventually!)

Neto Hatinakwe Onkwehowe

<http://www.netobuffalo.org/>

Native American arts and cultural non-for profit organization formed in 1992 in Buffalo promoting Native American arts, education, cultural programs and initiatives.

Some other places one might go for local information:

- town halls
- town/city/village historical societies
- local libraries
- local ethnic associations (websites or offices)
- ethnic churches (or other places of worship)
- local and ethnic newspapers/newsletters

Professional Organizations/Associations

American Folklore Society (AFS)

<http://www.afsnet.org/>

The AFS was founded in 1888 by a collective of humanities scholars, museum anthropologists, and private citizens – including author Mark Twain and US President Rutherford B. Hayes, and is the American hub of the diverse field of folklore. There is a listing for contacts and websites of local folk arts around New York state: <http://www.afsnet.org/tapnet/local.htm#NY>

Association for Cultural Equity (ACE)

<http://www.culturalequity.org/index.jsp>

ACE was founded in 1983 by Alan Lomax as a center for the exploration and preservation of the world's expressive traditions. Cultural equity, defined by ACE as the right of every culture to express and develop its distinctive heritage, is achieved by collecting, archiving, repatriating, and revitalizing the full range and diversity of the expressive traditions of the world's people — stories, music, dance, cooking, costume.

- Search photos, sound & video recordings, radio programs, discussions, interviews and lectures in the Multimedia Research Center:

http://www.culturalequity.org/rc/ce_rc_index.jsp

The Folklore Society (United Kingdom) (FLS)

<http://www.folklore-society.com/>

FLS is a learned society devoted to the study of traditional culture in all its forms. It was founded in London in 1878 and was one of the first organizations established in the world for the study of folklore. Provides a comprehensive list of Internet links: <http://www.folklore-society.com/links/>

International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF)

<http://www.siefhome.org/>

SIEF is an international scholarly organization founded in 1964 to facilitate cooperation among scholars working within European ethnology and folklore studies.

International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR)

<http://www.ut.ee/isfnr/>

The International Society for Folk Narrative Research is a scientific society whose objectives are to develop scholarly work in the field of folk narrative research and to stimulate contacts and the exchange of views among its members.

New York Folklore Society (NYFS)

<http://www.nyfolklore.org/>

NYFS is the leading resource for folklore and folklife in New York and disseminating research and information throughout the state. See their web resources that include an excellent bibliography of books related to New York folklore:

<http://www.nyfolklore.org/resource/resource.html>

Oral History Association (OHA)

<http://www.oralhistory.org>

OHA, established in 1966, seeks to bring together all persons interested in oral history as a way of collecting and interpreting human memories to foster knowledge and human dignity. The OHA also provides guidelines and evaluation standards for conducting oral history interviews.

Society of Ethnomusicology (SEM)

<http://webdb.iu.edu/sem/scripts/home.cfm>

The SEM was founded in 1955 to promote the research, study, and performance of music in all historical periods and cultural contexts. Provides an excellent listing of resources and links:

<http://webdb.iu.edu/sem/scripts/resources/resources.cfm>

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