SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY PATHFINDER
American Ethnic Groups: American Indians

The San Diego Public Library is rich in materials documenting all facets of life within the American Indian community. These sources document both historical and present day aspects of American Indian life. Because these materials span all subjects, there is no one area where resources related to American Indian life are collected. Information on American Indians can be found in adult and juvenile books, magazines, newspapers, government documents, and various audiovisual materials located throughout the library.

The Catalog
Computer terminals located throughout Central Library and in each Branch Library provide access to the on-line catalog, which will help you find specific books and other materials in the library’s collection. Select the kind of search you want to do via the drop-down menu (keyword, subject, title, or author), enter your search terms, and click on the “Search” button. Here are some suggestions for subject searches:
- Indians
- Indians in Literature
- Indian Mythology
- Aztecs
- Eskimos
- Indians of North America

The Book Stacks
Although materials relating to American Indian life are spread throughout the collection, they are frequently gathered in a particular area of a larger subject. Materials are classified in History under the call numbers 970, 970.004, and 973. Other numbers of popular interest are 398 (American Indian folklore) in Social Sciences and 299.7 (American Indian religions) in Literature & Languages.

Fiction
Most fiction is not listed by subject in the library catalog. For novels and short stories about the American Indian experience, use the Fiction Subject Card Catalog in the Literature & Languages Section under the heading Indians of North America. The online database NovelList (accessible through the Catalog & Databases web page) is also a good place to search for novels that address topics in American Indian life.

Biographies
The San Diego Public Library maintains a large collection of biographies on American Indians, generally found in the History Section or Children’s Room. Use the subject search on the Catalog & Databases page to locate biographies by entering the individual’s last name first. Some biographical material on actors, athletes, and musicians may also be found in the Art, Music and Recreation Section.

Audiovisual Materials
Besides the book collection, the library maintains collections of videocassettes, audiostreams, DVDs, and CDs relating to the American Indian experience. From Catalog & Databases, enter your search terms, select the appropriate material type from the dropdown menu, and click on “Search.”

Catalog & Databases
The San Diego Public Library’s Catalog & Databases web page <http://www.sandiegolibrary.org/> offers a wide array of online reference resources to patrons who hold a valid library card. Here are just a few databases we recommend searching:
- American History Online (Facts on File). Authoritative reference to the most important individuals, events, and topics in United States history.
- Biography Resource Center (Gale). You can limit your search to Native Americans.
- Ethnic NewsWatch (ProQuest). Newspaper and magazine articles from the ethnic, minority and native press.
- Literature Resource Center (Gale). Biographies, articles, criticism, overviews, glossary, and more on writers and literature. You can limit your search to exclusively American Indian authors.
- MasterFILE Premier (EBSCOHost). An in-depth multidisciplinary database, with full-text for over 2,050 general reference publications with full text information dating as far back as 1975.

The Internet
The Internet can be a great time-saver when it comes to researching Native American history and culture, but because of its unregulated nature, it can also be a source of misinformation. The Librarians’ Index to the Internet <http://lii.org/> is a good, reliable place to start your research—all sites indexed by LII have been recommended by professional librarians. Some sites of interest:

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
NCAI serves as a forum for consensus-based policy development among its membership of over 250 tribal governments from every region of the country.
http://www.ncai.org/

American Indian Studies
This site is a collection of onsite material and links to outside resources presenting "unique artwork, photographs, video and sound recordings which accurately reflect the history, culture and richness of the Native American experience in North America." http://www.csulb.edu/projects/ais/

Native American Authors
This site features "Native North American authors with bibliographies of their published works, biographical information, and links to online resources including interviews, online texts and tribal Web sites." From the Internet Public Library.
http://www.ipl.org/div/natam/
Below is just a sampling of resources on American Indian topics available at the Central Library

**Art, Music & Recreation**

*Native America: Arts, Traditions, and Celebrations*, by Christine Mather. 1990. 704.0397/Mather

*Native American Traditions*. 1992. CD 782.42162/Music


**California Room**


*Padres and Indians: Settling San Diego County’s Frontier*, by Sandra A. Maynes. 2001. RCC 979.498/Maynes

**Children’s Room**


**Genealogy Room**


*Select Bibliography of Titles Concerning Native American Genealogy in the Genealogy Room*. 1991. RGY 929.3/San

**History & World Affairs**


*Native Americans Information Directory*. 1998. R 305.897/Native

**Literature & Languages**


**Media Center**

*Dream Catchers*. 1994. VC 745.5/Dream

*Indians of the Southwest*, produced and directed by Gray Warriner. 1995. VC 970.00497/Ancient

*Myths and Moundbuilders*, written, produced and directed by Graham Chedd. 1990. VC 970.004/Myths

*The Vanishing American*. 1999. DVD 791.4372/Vanishing

**Science & Industry**


**Social Sciences**

*Artistry in Native American Myths*, by Karl Kroeber. 1998. 398.20899/Kroeber


*Voices from Four Directions: Contemporary Translations of the Native Literatures of North America*, edited by Brian Swann. 2004. 398.20899/Voices

**Teen Space**

*Huron*, by Autumn Libal. 2004. YA 973.04975/Libal


*Myths of the Native Americans*, by Anita Dalal. 2001. YA 398.2089/Dalal