

Resources Available Through the Virginia Beach Public Library



Links current as of April 2024.

Access

Some resources can be used from outside the library, others are only accessible while on-site.

You will need a VBPL card number and pin to log onto a computer at the library. Library cards are free for Virginia and Currituck County, NC residents. Cards for non-residents are available with a fee. For more information and to apply for a card, visit: libraries.virginia-beach.gov/library-account/apply-for-a-library-account

If you don't have a pin or need it reset, as a librarian.

Virginia Beach Public Library (VBPL) Locations

For resources available through an on-site computer only, any VBPL location may be used except the Joint Use Library. The Central Library branch has a large local history and genealogy collection, as well as the physical archive.

Meyera E. Oberndorf (MEO) Central Library
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

For all VBPL locations and hours: libraries.virginia-beach.gov/visit/location-hours

VBPL Website

Main page link: libraries.virginia-beach.gov

Direct links are provided below, to navigate to the resources from the main page:

1. Click on *Research & Learn* in the menu bar.
2. Select *Edgar T. Brown Local History Archive* or *Resources & Databases*.

The *Resources & Databases* page has all available resources listed alphabetically. You can narrow the list by using the dropdown menu and choosing the *Local History and Genealogy* category. Note that not all of the resources listed below appear through this process, and Ancestry is noted above the list.

Log onto a Computer at the Library

1. At the lock screen, enter your library card number and pin.
2. Click the arrow or hit Enter to log on. A notice will appear that you can use the computer for 120 minutes.
3. Open a web browser. A catalog search page will open. To get to the library home page, click the VB Public Library logo at the top left. Directions below begin at the given link or homepage.

Source information

Don't forget to capture the source information. Some places, such as Ancestry and FamilySearch, provide citations you can copy but others do not.

An easy way to create a source citation on a personal computer is to add the *Record Seek* extension to your browser. See recordseek.com for more information.

TIP: When you click the extension button, there are options to create a source for FamilySearch or Ancestry. If you don't want to attach the source there you can simply pick one in order to copy the citation without actually attaching it to either site.

Virginia Beach Public Library digital and physical collections

- **Local History and Genealogical Collection (LHGN)**

The LHGN reference collection can be found on the second floor of the MEO Central Library. It includes books, microform, digital resources, and periodicals. These items are listed in the general library catalog.

- The catalog is accessible off-site without account log-in.
vbpl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default

See *To search the VBPL catalog* below for instruction.

- **Edgar T. Brown Local History Archive**

Located at the MEO Central Library. Many items are available digitally or on microfilm. Make an appointment to view originals by emailing archives@vbgov.com or call (757) 385-0150. Note the collection number(s) and box(es) you wish to view.

- Numerous links, all are accessible off-site without account log-in.
- ✧ Digital Archive. Postcards, photographs, local maps, family papers, yearbooks, and more. Available online. cdm16450.contentdm.oclc.org/digital
- ✧ VBPL items at Internet Archive. 1200+ items, available online. NOTE: A few items found here were searched for in the digital archive and were not found. This repository appears to be separate and should not be overlooked. archive.org/details/virginiabeachpubliclibrary
- ✧ Physical Archive catalog. Available for viewing at the MEO Central Library with a submitted request. virginiabeacharchive.lyrasistechnology.org
- ✧ VBPL catalog. Items available at VBPL branches and/or digitally. Most genealogical related items will be reference materials found on the second floor of the MEO Central Library. vbpl.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/default

To search the Digital Archives:

1. Access the Digital Archives with the above link, or from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Edgar T. Brown Local History Archive*.
 - c. At the top of the *Digital Archives* tab, click the *Digital Archives* link under *Digital Archives*.
2. Use the search box at the top right or click on a category on the page.
3. Narrow the results with the options at the left.
NOTE: Using the search box after choosing a category removes the category filter. i.e., if you open the

Maps category and then search for *Oceana*, the displayed results will be from all categories. It can be narrowed to “maps” at left.

To search the VBPL Internet Archive:

1. Access the VBPL Internet Archive with the above link, or from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Edgar T. Brown Local History Archive*.
 - c. At the bottom of the *Digital Archives* tab, click the *digital book collections* link under *Internet Archive*.
2. Use the menu at left to narrow and browse results or enter a term into the search bar.
NOTE: Searching after narrowing results removes the qualifier and searches the entire collection.

To search the Physical Archives catalog:

1. Access the Physical Archives catalog with the above link, or from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Edgar T. Brown Local History Archive*.
 - c. Click on the *Physical Archives* tab under *Special Collections and Archival Holdings*.
 - d. Click the *archives catalog* link under *Edgar T. Brown Local History Archives (ETBA)*.
2. Enter a search term and any category options wanted.
3. To request to see an item, email archives@vbgov.com with the item’s name and location. If you are at the central library, you can ask at the information desk upstairs if it is possible to see it that day or to set up an appointment.

To search the VBPL catalog:

1. Access the VBPL catalog with the above link, or from the home page:
 - a. Click on *Books & More*, then *Search the Catalog* - or -
 - b. From the archive main page
 - I. Click the *Physical Archives* tab under *Special Collections and Archival Holdings*
 - II. Click *VBPL's online catalog link* under *Edgar T. Brown Local History Archives (ETBA)*.
2. Enter a search term in the search box, hit *Search* to display results.
NOTE: Use the drop-down menu at the far left of the search box to limit results if needed.
3. Click on a result to show the location information.
The description will show if the item is reference only or availability status, the library branch it is at, and call number.

- **Archive-it**

Preserves websites that showcase the community, including events, businesses, government, and news stations. Found as its own listing and as part of the Edgar T. Brown Local History Archive.

- Accessible off-site without account log-in. archive-it.org/organizations/2019

To search Archive-it:

1. Access Archive-it with the above link or from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Edgar T. Brown Local History Archive*.
 - c. In the middle of the *Digital Archives* tab, click the *Archive-it* link.
NOTE: Skip the basic search bar below the green title bar, the results are limited.
2. If *Advanced Search* isn’t visible to the left of the results area, click on the *Search Page Text* tab.
3. Enter search terms such as *genealogy*, a surname, or a place name.
Change the *Results per host* to *Unlimited* before clicking the search button.
4. If you get too many results, use the options at left to help narrow the search parameters.

Digital Resources

- **Ancestry.com**

Ancestry Library Edition can be accessed while logged into a library computer. Search for records, public trees, and other resources. Download items or email them to yourself. Instructions below are for a basic search only. Also try browsing and/or searching the catalog for record sets, place or subject information, and more. And, look at sourced public trees for things such as records you may not have found, pictures, and stories. Be careful of unsourced trees or any that only reference other trees.

- Available on-site only, with sign-in to a library computer.

To search Ancestry for records: (See tips below the steps too.)

1. Access Ancestry:
 - a. From the home page, select *Research and Learn*
 - b. Then *Resources & Databases*.
 - c. The *Ancestry.com* link is the first listed.
2. Enter your persons' information in the search box.
Start broad (i.e., first and last names), add more information to narrow search results.
3. Use the category listings to the left to narrow the displayed results.
4. Click on a record to view it. Note:
 - a. The indexed information will be displayed under the heading *Detail*.
 - b. If available, a preview of the image will appear to the left.
 - c. View the source information by clicking *Source* (to the right of the heading *Detail*).

--- See step 5 to save an image, step 6 to email the source to yourself. ----

5. Click on the image to view. To save the image:
 - a. Click *Save* in the upper right corner to expand the dropdown menu.
 - b. To email it to yourself, choose *Send image home*
 - i. Enter your email address twice in the pop-up window
 - ii. Click *Send email*
 - c. To download the image to a flash drive, choose *Save to this computer*
 - i. If not already done place the flash drive into the computer port
 - ii. Navigate to the flash drive in the pop-up window
 - iii. Enter the name of the file as desired
 - iv. Click *Save*
 - d. Repeat step b or c for each image you want to save.
6. Email the source to yourself:

NOTE: This will give you the indexed and source information, NOT the image.

 - a. If needed, exit the image view by clicking on the "X" at the upper left to return to the record view.
 - b. Click the green *Send document* button under *Send Your File Home!*
 - c. Enter your email address twice in the pop-up window
 - d. Click *Send email*

TIP: If the source information isn't included on the images you download, capture this into a text document for later reference or also email yourself the record. The source information is included in the email.

TIP: If an image is available, ALWAYS view the original document.
Do not rely on indexed information as it may be incomplete or incorrect.

TIP: If it is part of a series, view the images before and after your record, they may be tied to the record you opened. Likewise, you may need to scroll through many earlier pages to find the record group title page, i.e., on a ship manifest.

- **FamilySearch Affiliate**

As an affiliate, the VBPL branches provide computer access to Family Search Center Resources. Search as you would anywhere else. Items restricted to viewing at a Family History Center will be able to be accessible.
NOTE: A free account is required.

- Available on-site, on a library computer or a personal computer device to the library wi-fi.
familysearch.org

To do a basic search on FamilySearch for records:

1. Access FamilySearch with the link above or by entering familysearch.org in your browser.
2. Click on *Search* in the menu bar and then *Records* in the drop-down menu.
3. Enter in as little or as much information in the *Search Historical Records* area – hit enter or *Search*.
4. Narrow results as needed by altering your search terms to the right or using the filters above the results.
5. Click on a result to view a preview to the right.
6. Click *View Record* to open the indexed record view. From this page you can attach the record to the family tree, save/print the record, and share/copy the link.
7. If available, click on the image preview to see the original document. From this view you can attach the record to the family tree and download the image.

- **HeritageQuest**

City Directories, different censuses and census map guides, Freedman's Bank records, and more.
NOTE: The Freedman's Bank is different than the Freedman's Bureau.

- Accessible off-site with account log-in. heritagequestonline.com/barcode?aid=57617

To search HeritageQuest:

1. Access HeritageQuest with the above link or, from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Resources & Databases*.
 - c. Click on *H* in the alphabet shortcuts.
 - d. Then *HeritageQuest*.
2. Enter your library card number, click *connect*. (Not needed at a library computer.)
3. Choose one of the databases to search at the top or bottom of the page or click *Begin Searching* to view all available databases.
4. Depending on which database is chosen, a subsequent selection may be needed.
5. Once a search box appears, enter as little or as much information as you wish, click *Search*.

Newspapers

- **America's News** (part of Newsbank)

A collection of news sources with links to HeritageHub, USA Source Locator Map, Virginian Pilot, USA, and America's News Magazines. Instructions below are to search from the homepage. HeritageHub and the Virginian Pilot are also detailed in this document; explore the other links to discover more.

- Accessible off-site with account log-in; VBCPS student accounts inside the library only.

<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/easy-search?p=AMNEWS>

To search from the *America's News* homepage:

1. Access *America's News* with the above link or, from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Resources & Databases*.
 - c. Then *America's News*.
2. Enter your library card number, click *Login*. (Not needed at a library computer.)
3. Enter a name or search term in the box, click *Search*.
4. Use the filters to the left to narrow the results.
5. Click on a result - among the options are to copy a citation, and email, print, or download the record.

NOTE: The general search includes results from the Virginian Pilot database and at least some from HeritageHub.

- **Heritage Hub** (part of Newsbank; Formerly America's Obituaries and Death Notices)

A collection of newspaper obituaries and death notices from 1704 to today.

Search by name, date, or keyword. Heritage Hub is part of NewsBank (below).

- Accessible off-site with account log-in; VBCPS student accounts inside the library only.

infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/user/librarycard/VirginiaBeach?destination=easy-search%3Fp%3DHUB

To search Heritage Hub:

1. Access Heritage Hub with the above link or, from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Resources & Databases*.
 - c. Click on *H* in the alphabet shortcuts
 - d. Then *Heritage Hub*.
2. Enter your library card number, click *Login*. (Not needed at a library computer.)
3. Enter as little or as much information in the search boxes as you wish, click *Search*.
4. Adjust the search parameters in the search boxes above or through the filters at left.

- **Virginian-Pilot Newspaper** (part of Newsbank)

View scanned images of issues from 1865-1990 and 2018-current as well as the text of issues from 1990-current.

- Accessible off-site with account log-in.

[infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/browse-](https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/browse-multi?p=AMNEWS&t=favorite%3A146D908D%21Virginian%2BPilot%2BHistorical%2Band%2BCurrent&action=browse)

[multi?p=AMNEWS&t=favorite%3A146D908D%21Virginian%2BPilot%2BHistorical%2Band%2BCurrent&action=browse](https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/browse-multi?p=AMNEWS&t=favorite%3A146D908D%21Virginian%2BPilot%2BHistorical%2Band%2BCurrent&action=browse)

To use the Basic Search:

1. Access the *Virginian-Pilot* with the above link or, from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Resources & Databases*.
 - c. Click on *V* in the alphabet shortcuts.
 - d. Then *Virginian-Pilot*.

2. Enter your library card number, click *Login*. (Not needed at a library computer.)
3. Select a specific title to search or,
4. Use the search bar. Enter a name or search term in the box, click *Search*.

- **Norfolk Journal and Guide (Proquest)**

Easy access to coverage of regional politics, society, and events from 1916-1917 and 1921-2003.

- Accessible off-site with account log-in.

proquest.com/barcode?accountid=57617&groupid=1030341

To use the Basic Search:

1. Access HeritageQuest with the above link or, from the home page:
 - a. Select *Research and Learn*.
 - b. Then *Resources & Databases*.
 - c. Click on *N* in the alphabet shortcuts.
 - d. Then *Norfolk Journal and Guide*.
2. Enter your library card number, click *Login*. (Not needed at a library computer.)
3. The default searches the following:
 - Coronavirus Research Database
 - Norfolk Journal and Guide (1916 - 2010)
 - Publicly Available Content Database.
 To change, click *Change Databases*.
4. Deselect any you do not wish to use, click *Use Selected Databases* to return to the Basic Search screen.
5. To reduce the sources searched
 - a. click *All source types*
 - b. select the sources you want to search
 - c. click *Apply*.
6. Enter your terms in the search bar and click the magnifying glass.
(If you select a suggested option from the generated list as you type, the search will automatically occur.)
7. Use the menu at left to narrow your results.

Citation note:

There is a prebuilt citation to the right of the search results, click on the quotation marks to copy the reference from a popup window.

Source options:

1. Email the citation and source to yourself by clicking the envelope button to the right of the result. Select what you would like to send from the dropdown menu at top before entering in your information.
2. When you open the result, options in the upper right include a pdf download, copy the citation or URL, printing, saving to the cloud and more. Choose an option and follow the steps needed to save the source.

Reading Apps

The following can be used to read genealogy magazines (and more) on your computer, tablet, or phone. All require log in with your library card account information. Open the apps through the links below or from the main page, select *Research and Learn*, then *Resources & Databases*. Use the alpha links to find the app.

- **Hoopla** - <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>
- **Libby** - <https://libbyapp.com/library/vbpl>
- **Magzter** - <https://library.magzter.com/login>