The National Genealogical Society Book Loan Collection (NGS Collection) features more than 28,000 books dedicated to family history research, including over 10,000 published family histories. Originally housed at NGS headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, the 98-year-old collection was relocated to St. Louis County Library in St. Louis, Missouri in 2001. Although access was once limited to NGS membership, the NGS Collection is now accessible to everyone through interlibrary loan service (ILL) or by visiting History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. Such access to published family histories is unparalleled in the genealogical community.

Using the Collection via interlibrary loan services

ILL allows one library to borrow items from another. Not every library participates in ILL, so contact your local library to see if the service is available. If it does participate, books in the NGS Collection can be obtained by the following procedure:

1. Search the St. Louis County Library Online catalog at www.slcl.org.
2. Any item with a call number that does not begin with the letter R can be requested through ILL. A limit of two books at a time per borrower applies.
3. Submit an ILL request to your local library.

More information about obtaining NGS Collection books from St. Louis County Library is on the web at www.slcl.org/genealogy-and-local-history/services.

Using the collection at St. Louis County Library

The NGS collection is open to the public and available to all researchers visiting History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. Items in the NGS Collection can be identified by a blue dot on the spine. Researchers with a valid St. Louis County Library card can check out NGS Collections on site. Two books may be checked out at one time.

The NGS Collection makes up only a portion of the materials available from History & Genealogy at St. Louis County Library. In addition to the NGS Collection, the library offers many other sources and an expert staff who are available to aid you in your research. More information about the library and its genealogical holdings is available at www.slcl.org/genealogy.

In addition to providing onsite support, library staff will perform lookups in indexed sources or when given exact citations, staff will scan and email results at no cost to researchers. Please
limit your requests to three lookups per email. Photocopies are limited to 30 pages for books or one article from a journal. For more information or to submit a request, contact the library at genealogy@slcl.org.

Donating Books to the Collection

Authors, publishers, compilers, or translators wanting to place their genealogical publications in a permanent, circulating collection are welcome to donate their work to the NGS Collection. Send donations to the address below. Please remember to include your address so an acknowledgement can be sent.