

Gaming Research Tip Sheet

.....quick start for studies, reports and papers

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Tip Sheet #27: Gaming Library Collections

Few but famous. Libraries that specialize in collecting and cataloging gaming and gambling materials are rare.

When only Nevada permitted gaming, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas began acquiring gaming materials as part of its role in preserving the history of the southern part of the state. Its outstanding collection continues today.

Other notable libraries are the Library of Congress and the Popular Culture Library at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. The latter is covered in a separate tips sheet on Gaming as Popular Culture.

UNLV. The [UNLV Libraries Special Collections Department](#) is a leading repository of gaming materials, gaming advertising, artifacts and memorabilia. It contains books, magazines, journals, reports, gaming collectibles and more.

Materials cannot be checked out or requested on interlibrary loan (document delivery). The serious researcher will want to travel to this collection. Phone ahead for hours and services available (702-895-2234); or FAX 702-895-2253).

Within Special Collections is the [Gaming Research Studies Center](#) (702-895-2242) where special assistance and access to materials can be gained.

The Center maintains an excellent web site that describes the features of this

section and offers extensive links to gaming information on the Internet. It offers a virtual museum online where rotating exhibits let you see interesting items without visiting.

Library of Congress. This is the nation's premier library that collects information on every subject imaginable from the U.S. and abroad. The [Library of Congress](#) houses the U.S. copyright Office and thus receives every item on which copyright registration is applied for.

This Library gets things before publication release dates by the publisher. You may see a book dated in a year that hasn't arrived yet, so this is the place to find the latest.

Searching library catalogs. Modern catalogs are OPACs, or Online Public Access Catalogs that can be searched by computer anywhere in the world.

You will want to search these special gaming library catalogs whether you plan to visit them or not. Here are a few things you can find:

- authors, titles, descriptions, dates, publishers
- new items added to the collection
- official subject headings to retrieve more materials
- links to electronic sources (databases, e-journals, and e-books you can read immediately
- books on order but not yet received
- tables of contents in selected books

---government documents and multi-media materials.

Subject searching. Don't rely on common terms for catalog subject searching. These subjects are taken from an official list, the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LC). Gaming is not the term to use, but Gambling, instead. Save "gaming" for a keyword search.

Gambling may be too broad, so the LC lets you add subdivisions:

- Gambling—History—Nevada
- Gambling—Law & Legislation
- Gambling—China—17th Century
- Gambling—Periodicals---Databases
- Gambling—Fiction

You can also choose narrower topics, including proper names:

- MGM Mirage
- Casinos
- Lotteries
- Las Vegas---Economic Aspects
- Compulsive Gambling---Treatment
- Casino Management—Periodicals

Browsing by call number. After locating a book you like you can click on the call number to find similar books with similar call numbers.

Games of chance are usually classed under call numbers ranging from GV 1301 to GV 1311. Gambling crimes and offenses may be found from HV 6708 to HV 6722.

Gaming legal materials begin with K, with additional letters for various jurisdictions. For example, *Michigan Gaming Law: Legal Resource Book* has the call number: KFM 4585/T74/1999.

Suggested topics for research.

- annotated bibliography of books on gambling after World War II
- content analysis of modern novels on gambling

- credibility of books on gambling techniques
- commentary on various translations and editions of Dostoyevsky's "*The Gambler*"
- identification of government hearings on Federal gambling law

For more information.

Casino Gaming in the United States: A Research Guide. Mirkovich, T. R., & Cowgill, A. A., 1996.