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## COUNTY AND REGIONAL HISTORIES & ATLASES: ILLINOIS

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State and especially local history gives students a chance to understand the people, places and things around them with which they're already familiar. Originally compiled and produced by publishers and subscriptions agents for area residents and patrons, the original histories are difficult-to-find materials. Included in this collection on Illinois are fifteen cities and regions in 361 titles. These titles comprise tables and lists of vital statistics, military service records, municipal and county officers, chronologies, portraits of individuals and views of urban and rural life not found anywhere else. The atlases provide additional information on land use and settlement patterns and scarce early town and city plans.

**Date Range:** 1852-1921

**Content:** 172,991 images

**Source Library:** various Illinois libraries

### **Detailed Description:**

State and especially local history gives students a chance to understand the people, places and things around them with which they're already familiar. They know the place names and relative geography when talking about small, seemingly-insignificant battles; they realize that the name of the local community college pays homage to a person whose marked impact on the region has been remembered for several generations. This everyday connection to history, something one has more trouble fostering when talking about distant places and unfamiliar names long dead, is important to the intellectual and moral development of our students.

From a curricular standpoint, the study of state and local history provides transferable skills and frames of reference that will apply to the further study and appreciation of history. One simply cannot fully appreciate the place in which one is without being able to compare it to the place in which one has been. That appreciation is history in action.

Among the more important sources for American state and local histories are the county and regional histories and atlases published during the last quarter of the 19th century and during the early years of the 20th century. These histories offer easy access to an increasingly

scarce and previously expensive source of information on the social, political and economic development of an area.

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Based on materials at various libraries and research centers, County and Regional Histories and Atlases comprise eight states: California, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

*Publisher's Note:* This collection comprises, in its entirety, the Primary Source Media microfilm collection entitled *County and Regional Histories and Atlases (Illinois subset)*.