

# Guide to Chicago and its Suburbs City Directories

Northwestern University Library

**About this guide:** This document summarizes the holdings of city directories at Northwestern University Libraries. The guide is ordered alphabetically by city name, then chronologically. Access options and notes are listed below each volume.

## Chicago

- [General directory and business advertiser of the city of Chicago for the year 1844 : with a historical sketch and statistics extending from 1837 to 1844](#) by J.W. Norris. Chicago : T. F. Bohan, [1837 – 1844; published 1903]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in McCormick Library of Special Collections
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
- [General directory and business advertiser of the city of Chicago, for the year 1844; together with a historical sketch and statistical account to the present time.](#) Chicago, Ellis and Fergus, Printers. [1844; 1933 reprint]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in [Pritzker Legal Research Center](#)
      - Closed stacks – [visitors](#) currently restricted to current Northwestern students, faculty, and staff. Non-law members of the NU community have access to the library Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.
  - **Online copy**
    - In [Hathi Trust](#)
- [Chicago then and now, a pictorial history of the city's development and a reprint of the first city directory published in Chicago in 1844 by J. W. Norris ...](#) compiled and written by Ernest Butt. Chicago, Aurora, Finch & McCullouch. [1844; published in 1933]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located off site in Oak Grove Library Center. Request to be delivered to Main library.
  - **Online copy**
    - In [Hathi Trust](#)
- [Danenhower's Chicago city directory for 1851.](#) Chicago, W. W. Danenhower. [1851]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in McCormick Library of Special Collections
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit

- [\*Udall & Hopkins' Chicago city directory for 1852 & '53 : comprising an alphabetical directory of the city, a map of the city, census of the city, a list of city, state and U.S. officers, notices of the various societies, associations and institutions, military and fire departments, etc.\*](#) Chicago : Udall & Hopkins. [1852-1853]
  - **Online copy**
    - This is available online through a subscription database. A guest user would need to visit the Northwestern Libraries to get access to it. Read more about guest users and online access [here](#).
  
- [\*Hall & Smith's Chicago city directory for 1853-'54 : containing a full alphabetical list of citizens, with their places of business, &c., all the state, county & city officers : also a full list of the hotels, railroad & steamboat routes and other information valuable to citizens and strangers.\*](#) Chicago : R. Fergus, book & job printer, 2nd annual ed. [1853]
  - **Online copy**
    - This is available online through a subscription database. A guest user would need to visit the Northwestern Libraries to get access to it. Read more about guest users and online access [here](#).
  
- [\*Hall & Smith's Chicago city directory\*](#) [1853 – 1854]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in McCormick Library of Special Collections
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  
- [\*Hall & Co's Chicago city directory.\*](#) Chicago. [1854 – 1855]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in McCormick Library of Special Collections
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  
- [\*Edwards' annual directory ... of Chicago.\*](#) Chicago, R. Edwards. [1857 - 1858; 1870 - 1871]
  - **Hard copies**
    - Vol. 4 [1864] and vol. 13 [1870] located in McCormick Library of Special Collections
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit located in McCormick Library of Special Collections.
  - **Online copies**
    - Vol. 12 [1869 – 1870] and vol. 14 [1871] located [in Hathi Trust](#)
  
- [\*Udall & Hopkins' Chicago city directory.\*](#) D.B. Cooke & Co's city directory. [1859 – 1860]
  - **Online copy**
    - This is available online through a subscription database. A guest user would need to visit the Northwestern Libraries to get access to it. Read more about guest users and online access [here](#).
  
- [\*The Lakeside annual directory of the city of Chicago.\*](#) Chicago Ill. : Williams, Donnelley & Co. [1874 –1917]

- **Hard copies**
    - [Microfilm](#): 1874/75 -1905 and 1907-1917
      - Request at Main library circulation desk.
    - 1874/75 – 1889;1893-1895; 1899; 1904; 1908-1917 in Main Library
      - [Stacks Large Section; Large 917.73 C53l \(3<sup>rd</sup> floor, east tower\)](#)
  - **Online copy**
    - In [Hathi Trust](#): 1874/75; 1875/76; 1887; 1896; 1906; 1911
- [Chicago, the great central market : brief story of the second largest city in the United States, showing its phenomenal growth in one crowded century, with emphasis upon its position as a center of commerce, industry, recreation and culture](#) edited by The Chicago Association of Commerce for the Chicago city directory and supplement. [1923]
    - **Hard copy**
      - Located off site in Oak Grove Library Center. Request to be delivered to Main library.
      - Only for users with Northwestern Libraries with borrowing privileges. Learn more about [borrowing privileges here](#).
    - **Online copy**
      - In [Hathi Trust](#)
  - [Polk's Chicago city directory](#). Chicago, Ill. : R.L. Polk [1928/1929]
    - **Hard copy**
      - Location: Main Library Stacks, Large Section ; Large 917.73 C53h (3<sup>rd</sup> floor, east tower)
    - **Online copy**
      - <http://chsmmedia.org/househistory/polk/Menus/index.htm>

## Evanston, Wilmette, and the North Shore

- [Higgs & McNally's Evanston directory for ...](#) Evanston, Illinois : Higgs & McNally [1879]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in Northwestern University Archives, 55/00/22 [1895 - 1899,1901 – 1905]
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
- [Evanston directory \(Chicago, Ill.\)](#) Chicago : R.R. Donnelley & Sons. [1880 – 1881]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in Northwestern University Archives, 55/00/22 [1895 - 1899,1901 – 1905]
      - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
    - Also located in Special Collections, Falley AM Serial E92

- In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
    - Items stored off-site; requires at least 2 business days for retrieval
  - **Online copy**
    - Available in the [Internet Archive](#)
- [The Evanston, Rogers Park and Wilmette directory](#). Evanston Press Company. [1892]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in Northwestern University Archives; 55/00/22
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  - **Online copy**
    - Available in the [Internet Archive](#)
- [Evanston and Wilmette directory \(1893\)](#) Chicago : J.C. Winship & Co. [1893-1894]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in Northwestern University Archives, 55/00/22
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  - **Online copy**
    - Available in the [Internet Archive](#)
- [Evanston directory \(Evanston, Ill.\)](#) Evanston Press Co. Chicago : R.R. Donnelley & Sons. [1895-1905]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in Northwestern University Archives; 55/00/22 [1895 - 1899, 1901 – 1905]
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  - **Online copy**
    - Available in the [Internet Archive](#)
- [Bumstead's Evanston city and North Shore directory](#). Chicago : Bumstead & Co.; [1909-1920]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in Northwestern University Archives, 55/00/22
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  - **Online copy**
    - [Full Text Available in Hathi Trust](#)
    - Available in the [Internet Archive](#)
- [R.L. Polk & Co.'s Evanston city and North Shore directory](#). Chicago, Ill. : R.L. Polk & Co.; [1922-1939]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Vol. 6 [1922/1923], vol. 8 [1927/1928] - vol. 14 [1939]

- Located in Northwestern University Archives; 55/00/22
  - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  
- [Polk's Evanston \(Cook County, Ill.\) city directory](#). Detroit, Mich. : R. L. Polk & Co.; [1948; 1962]
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in Northwestern University Archives; 55/00/22
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit
  
- [Rand, McNally & Co.'s Chicago railway directory and street guide number guide : accurately locating any given number on any street or avenue, also giving a complete list of all street car lines...](#)Chicago : Rand, McNally [1898].
  - **Hard copy**
    - Located in McCormick Library of Special Collections
    - In-library use only – [visit here](#) to learn about planning a visit