The primary focus of PA Photos & Documents is to make Pennsylvania historical and cultural collections readily available to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

PA Photos & Documents is a statewide digital collections repository. The service enables the search and retrieval by a worldwide audience of digitized collections created and stored by libraries and other organizations throughout Pennsylvania.

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries is working to encourage collaborative partnerships among the state’s libraries, museums, historical societies, and other cultural and educational institutions using digital technologies.

Information at a Glance

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Ready to Participate?

Participation is already available to those Pennsylvania libraries and educational and cultural institutions that participate in Access Pennsylvania/POWER Library.

An institution that wishes to participate in PA Photos & Documents but is not a participant in Access Pennsylvania/POWER Library may collaborate with a participating library or join on its own for a small annual fee.

Information about participating is available on the POWER Library portal at: www.powerlibrary.org/librarians/pa-photos-and-documents/participation

This project is made possible in part by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services and through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Library Access funds administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

Hosted by HSCLC.
What does POWER Library provide to a participating institution?

- The ability to add an unlimited number of collections
- An archive of images
- Data stored in a secure server facility
- Copies of the data for the institution
- 24/7 availability of data
- A locally branded homepage for each collection
- Discovery of collections across the USA and beyond in the Digital Public Library of America
- Keyword searching of one or more collections

175+ Unique Collections Across PA

PA Photos and Documents includes collections from libraries of all types and cultural and educational institutions.

2 Million Images and Growing!

To view the collections: www.powerlibrary.org/collections

Add your photographs, postcards, yearbooks, manuscripts, oral histories, documents, and more...

Scan PA Project:
- The Scan PA Project works to preserve Pennsylvania history and culture by providing equipment and training to District Library Centers and library system headquarters to support the digitization of materials held in libraries and by the residents of the communities they serve.
- Scan PA Project collections are included in PA Photos and Documents and are eligible for harvesting by PA Digital and DPLA.
- Don’t have equipment? Don’t have a digital storage repository? Scan PA might be your solution!
- Interested? Please contact HSLC Support at support@hslc.org for more information.

What are a participating institution’s responsibilities?

- Digitize, add, and maintain high-quality materials
- Assign locally-selected subject keywords to materials

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