The Texas Almanac Online is an electronic version of the Texas Almanac 2000 - 2001. This database provides you valuable information about the history, culture, political climate, and geography of the state of Texas.

The primary focus of the Texas Almanac Online is to provide you with a single place to begin the research process. Search results are displayed alphabetically by title with an option to sort by relevancy, allowing you to focus on the information. It is also possible to sort results by record type simply by clicking on the “Record Type” label on the results screen (clicking on “Record Title” restores the alphabetical sort).

Several search paths have been designed to facilitate the research process. With a dataset as vast as that in the Texas Almanac Online, search paths geared toward specific interests are essential to assist you in locating desired information. While the default search is a full-text search across the entire database, the following search paths offer you various approaches to discovering information:
Search Paths:

- **Search by Chapter:** You may select one or multiple chapters from a list of chapters. Search is executed against that Chapter's text, image descriptions, maps, and tables.
- **Browse by Chapter:** Once you select a chapter, you can browse the contents of that chapter.
- **Search by Photos:** Search is executed against all text data associated with photos.
- **Search by Map:** Search is executed against all text data associated with maps.
- **Search by Tables:** Search is conducted against all tables and content within the tables for the database.
- **Search by Essay:** Search is conducted against all text data in the chapter essays.
- **Keyword Search:** Search chapter titles, section headings, and description fields for all, some, or one data type (essay, photo, map, or table).
- **Full-Text Search:** Same search as keyword search, but also includes text portions of essays and tables.

**Search by Chapter:**
Texas Almanac Online offers a list of chapters to help you conduct research by topics. Once a search term is keyed into the entry box, you may select one or multiple chapters. The search is executed against that chapter or several chapter's text, photo descriptions, maps, and tables.

A results list will display the titles and sources of all document types (essays, photos, maps, or tables) associated with that search term, sorted alphabetically, from which to choose. An option to sort by relevancy is also available. You can type in a search term in the text box and search for that term within a chapter or chapters by also selecting one or more chapters from the listbox. Tip: choose **none selected** for full text or keyword searches across the entire database.

A search for “tornadoes” with the Weather Chapter selected from the browse list resulted in the following results list.
The document type Photo for F5 Tornado (Weather) was selected for this document to be displayed.

After each search, a results list will display the titles and sources associated with that search term and source type, sorted alphabetically, from which to choose. An option to sort by relevancy is also available.

**Browse by Chapter:**
Select a chapter or chapters from the pull-down menu. Once you have selected the chapter(s), click on the search button.

**Search by Photos:**
You can search for photos by keying a search term into the entry box and selecting photos in the Document types to search box. A search will be executed against all text data associated with photos. The following search was conducted for photos only in the chapter, “Culture and the Arts.”
Your search, (Chapter = "Culture and the Arts"), returned the following results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Linked Title</th>
<th>Record Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dus Heydy (Culture and the Arts)</td>
<td>Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Japanese Garden (Culture and the Arts)</td>
<td>Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kolaches (Culture and the Arts)</td>
<td>Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Polka Festival (Culture and the Arts)</td>
<td>Photo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rolando Hinojos-Smith (Culture and the Arts)</td>
<td>Photo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Dallas Morning News**

Copyright © 1998 by The Dallas Morning News
All rights reserved.

---

**Polka Festival**

The 1998 National Polka Festival in Emmis.
(Dallas Morning News file photo.)

Chapter: Culture and the Arts

Search by Maps:
You can search for maps by keying a search term into the entry box and selecting maps in the Document types to search box. A search will be executed against all text data associated with maps. The following search for term “Dallas” returned three maps.

Selecting the Dallas County (County Profiles D-G) displayed the following map:
Search by Tables:
You can search for tables by keying a search term into the entry box and selecting tables in the Document types to search box. A search will be executed against all text data associated with tables. A search for the term “rainfall” returned one table for viewing.

Search by Essay:
Users can search for essays by keying a search term into the entry box and selecting essays in the Document types to search box. A search will be executed against all text data associated with essays. A search on “lottery” returned three essay documents.
Keyword Search:
The Keyword Search feature enables you to search the entire database for the presence of any word or words within chapter titles, section, headings, and descriptor fields for all, some, or one data type (Essay, Photo, Map, or Table.) The search for “libraries” returned the following list of documents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Record Title</th>
<th>Record Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>List of Principal Libraries [Culture and the Arts]</td>
<td>Table</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public Libraries [Culture and the Arts]</td>
<td>Document</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full-Text Search:
The Full-Text Search is the same search as Keyword Search, but also includes text portions of essays, photos, maps, and tables.

Navigating Results Lists:
In a Search by Chapter, Browse by Chapter, Keyword Search, and Full-Text Search, the results list will display a combined list of document types (essays, photos, maps, and tables) that contain a match of the search.

For a Search by Photos, Search by Maps, Search by Tables, or Search by Essays, the results list will only display a list of the document type that was chosen.

Results lists contain the title of the document, document type, and source. Results lists are arranged alphabetically by title; however, an option to sort by relevancy is also available. Click on the title of the document to be taken to the appropriate essay, photo, map, or table. You can also mark documents for printing or e-mailing all document types.
Sidebar Buttons:
The following Sidebar Buttons appear on relevant pages, offering the opportunity to navigate to other pages on the Texas Almanac Online.

- About Texas Almanac—general description of Texas Almanac Online
- E-mail Data Home—allows you to e-mail the retrieved document to yourself as an HTML document or as plain text
- Help—takes you to the help documentation
- Comments—opens an e-mail window wherein you can type questions, problems, and/or suggestions and send them to *The Dallas Morning News* for review
- Format for Printing—formats an individual document for printing based on your browser

Navigating Documents:
Click on a document type in the results list to display it. Many documents have Table of Contents sections that make it easy to jump directly to the information you want.

Mark List:
The Texas Almanac Online allows you to mark documents that you find especially helpful or interesting in order to create a personalized citation list. Documents may be selected from a results list by checking the box to the left of the citation, or while viewing a document by clicking on the Add to Mark List button on the sidebar. (When marking documents in the results list, you must click on Update Mark List before proceeding to another screen to save your selections.) After selecting one or more documents, you may view your citation list by clicking on the View Mark List button on the sidebar. To remove a document from your mark list, simply deselect the box to the left of the citation, or click on the Remove from Mark List sidebar button while in the document.
Strategies:

- The more search terms you add, the more precise your search results will be.
  e.g. war (results=198)
       war soldier (results=98)
       war soldier confederate (results=19)
       war soldier confederate prisoner (results =3)

- Be specific. If you want information about the Sundance Film Festival enter all those terms in your search rather than just the word film.

- Find an exact phrase with the help of the W operator. The W operator finds essays containing the specified words in the specific order within the number of words you indicate
  e.g. Peking w2 opera
  This search will find the word Peking within 2 words of opera, but opera must follow Peking. This narrows your results from hundreds of matches to a few dozen matches, assuming the phrase that you typed is not too common.

- Check your spelling.

Punctuation:

- **Ampersand**—An ampersand (&) is NOT recognized by the search engine and should not be included in your search.
  e.g. AP (not A&P)

- **Capitalization**—Capitalization does not affect your search since the search engine is not case sensitive. That means that a search on Bill Clinton and bill clinton will return the same results.

- **Apostrophe**—Apostrophes (’) are considered part of the term. If you are searching for a word or phrase that normally contains an apostrophe, include the apostrophe.

- **Hyphen**—If a hyphen (-) is considered to be part of the search terms and used between them, the search engine will recognize it in your search.
  e.g. dry-clean

Truncation:

- **The asterisk (*)**—standing for any number of characters
  e.g. athlet*
  This will return results with words like athlete, athletes, athletic and athletics. Note: you must have at least two characters proceeding the asterisk (To* Morrison not T* Morrison).

- **The question mark (?)**—used to replace exactly one character within a word
  e.g. athl?te
  The question mark is good for those times when you are not sure about spelling. In this example, the results list will include essays with the word athlete in the text.

- **The exclamation point (!)**—stands for one or no characters
  e.g. athlete!
  This will return results with either the word athlete or athletes included.

**You cannot use the asterisk (*) or the question mark (?) in date fields.**
**Boolean Search Operators:**
Boolean operators used in Biography Resource Center are applied in the order in which they appear.

- **AND**—both terms must appear in the essay  
  e.g. Einstein AND relativity  
  This search will find essays that include both Einstein and relativity somewhere in the essay but not necessarily together.

- **OR**—broadens the search because only one of the terms must appear in the essay  
  e.g. Einstein OR relativity  
  This search will find essays that include either Einstein or relativity, but not necessarily both. OR can be used to find plural or other word endings, like actors or actor or acting. OR can also be used with searches involving synonyms, like author or writer.

- **NOT**—the term following not will not be found in the essay  
  e.g. Einstein NOT relativity  
  This search will find essays that include Einstein but do not include the word relativity.

- **Parentheses**—The operators described above each operate on either simple terms (words or phrases) or a more complex query delimited by parentheses ( ). Parentheses allow you to construct very powerful queries. For example:  
  "pulp fiction" AND ((detective AND crime) OR hard-boiled)  
  ("cowboy" OR ("gold rush" AND california)) AND (1849 OR nineteenth century)  
  Boolean operators are applied in the order in which they appear. Therefore, the following searches are equivalent:  
  apples AND bananas OR oranges  
  (apples AND bananas) OR oranges

**Proximity Operators:**
- **The W operator**—finds essays containing the specified words in the specific order within the number of words you indicate  
  e.g. Peking w2 opera  
  This search will find the word Peking within 2 words of opera, but opera must follow Peking.

- **The N operator**—locates essays containing the words you specify within the number of words you indicate, but the words can be in ANY order  
  e.g. electronic n2 book  
  This search will find the word electronic within 2 words of book in any direction.

**Order Print Version:**  
Information for ordering the print version is located at the bottom of the About Texas Almanac Online section.