

How to Find Court Reports and Related Materials

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New York City Courts. The City Hall Library maintains a collection of *Annual Reports* from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for various municipal courts that existed before the formation of the Unified Court System in 1962. These include the Children's Court, Magistrates' Court, Court of Special Sessions and Criminal Court among others. Holdings range from the 1890's to 1950's. Reports usually contain statistics on classification of offenses, disposition of cases, pleadings, defendants and names of judges/magistrates.

Unified Court System. The City Hall Library does not keep annual reports of the courts comprising the current city and state Unified Court System. However, there are other sources that may prove useful. The Chief Administrator of the Courts of New York State has issued an *Annual Report* since 1978. Statistics on the different courts are available along with explanation of the court structure, activities and accomplishments of the prior year and legislative and rule revisions. Holdings cover 1978 to 2004. New York City Criminal Justice Agency and New York County Lawyers' Association have published reports on subjects such as the NYC housing court, processing of domestic violence cases in the criminal court system and other topics.

Court Records. Materials such as hearing and trial transcripts, indictment papers, case files, docket books, etc. can

be located in a variety of places. The Municipal Archives maintains a collection of different court records from 1684 to 1966. These include New York County Court of General Sessions, Minutes from 1684 to 1920 and indictment files from 1790 to 1838 for NY County. To learn more, go to <http://www.nyc.gov/html/records>. The New York County Clerk's Office, Division of Old Records, keeps an Archives of court records from 1674 to the mid-twentieth century. Examples are Court of Chancery: 1691 to 1947 and Supreme Court: 1848-1940. Old Records can be reached at (646) 386-5395. This office does not currently have a website. The New York State Unified Court System website is located at www.nycourts.gov. Information on how to obtain court records, locate court offices and other questions can be found by clicking on the link "**Topics A-Z.**"