

America's Best Publicly Available Bank Archives

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Methodology: I searched title "bank," limited to archival sources, in WorldCat and ArchiveGrid, which retrieved over 800 entries. I then culled them down to the most significant collections.

What Is Missing: Private collections, bank archives, and any other materials not catalogued in either of the above databases.
Bank collections that do not contain the word "bank" in their titles for whatever reason.
Numerous small collections containing miscellany or uninteresting items.
Collections encompassing only the post-World War I period.
Full credit to some larger but thinly documented collections.

Weights:

Point scores are the simple sum of the following:

Longevity

- 1 for collections longer than 50 years
- 2 for collections longer than 100 years

Size

- 1 for small collections > 5 linear feet (50 volumes)
- 2 for medium-sized collections = > 20 linear feet (> 200 volumes)
- 3 for large collections > 50 linear feet (500 volumes)
- 4 for very large collections > 100 linear feet (> 1,000 volumes)

Scope

- 1 for every major type of record represented in the collection:
 - balance sheets/state of the bank
 - bank note records
 - correspondence/letter books
 - day books
 - depositors' books
 - directors' or stockholders' meetings minutes
 - discount/loan records
 - experimental record books
 - founding documents (by-laws, charters, subscription books)
 - general ledgers
 - journals
 - miscellaneous records: photos, scrapbooks, etc.
 - regulatory reports or records
 - special account books (bad debt lists, scratch books, signature books, tellers' settlements and tallies, etc.)
 - stock certificates, ledgers, or transfer books
 - subsidiaries or other banks records

