

The difference between a State Archive and State Historical Society

By law each state funds an Archive to preserve all of the records generated by that state. Birth and death records are generated by the States beginning when each state passed a law concerning the recording of that type of document. A State Vital Statistics Office will have jurisdiction over producing and storing the records. Records are located in the capitol building or in another facility depending on the space available. As the years have passed, many States have a problem of space to house old records that come under the jurisdiction of the State Archives. These archives are financed by State funds.

The State Historical Society is another department that collects items of State history, such as Utah has a collection of items generated by the Olympics of 2002; news items, minutes of meetings, photos of events. Citizens can donate items to the Historical Society. With the technology of today, many of these agencies put their records on line at no cost to users. Utah has a burial database for every cemetery in the State.