



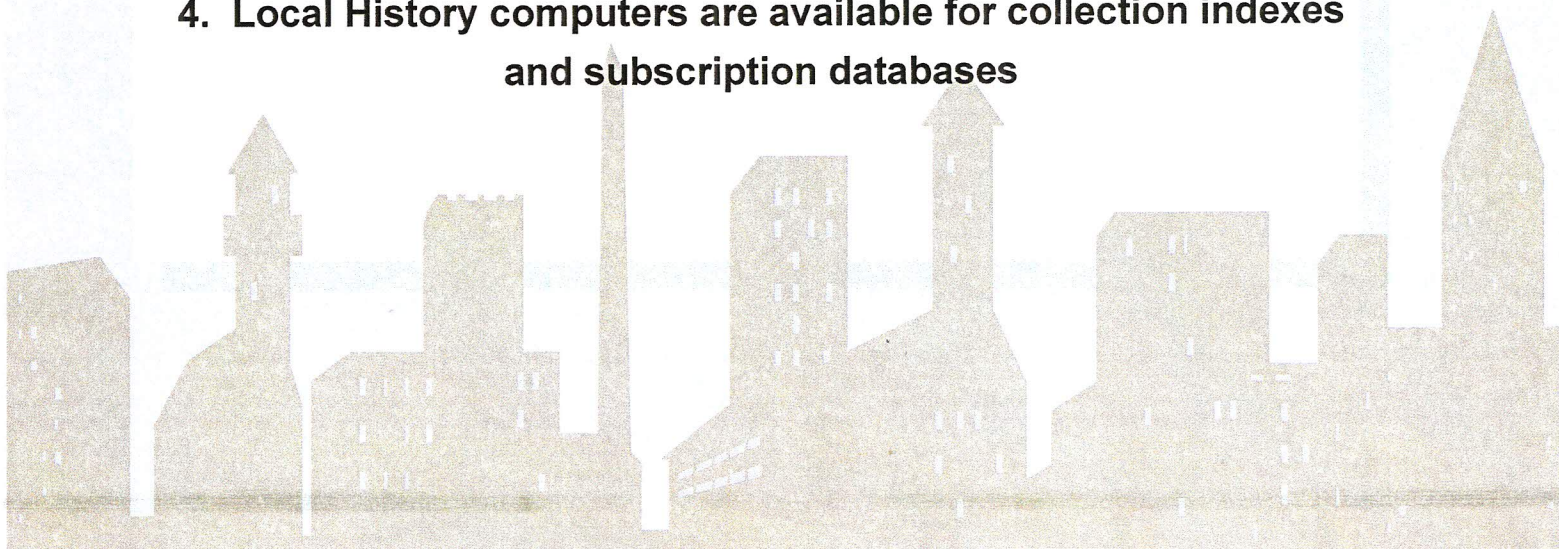
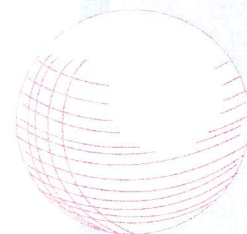
# First Search Tips

## Before Your Visit...

1. Prepare your notes in "quick reference" format such as family group sheets or create a research "to-do" list
2. Consult online catalogs & indexes to the collection
3. Familiarize yourself with the scope of the collection by reading through Collection Overview pamphlet & collection descriptions

## When You Arrive...

1. Use the Local History Master Index (LHMI) as a "Quick Search" for your family names or topic of research
2. Consult family & local history vertical files (indexed in Surname Listings notebook & LHMI)
3. Seek assistance by briefly stating your research objective
4. Local History computers are available for collection indexes and subscription databases



# Southwest Michigan Obituary Index

This obituary index is a work in progress and contains over 116,000 entries dating from Southwest Michigan's earliest history through the year 2008. Obituaries included pertain to residents of the Michigan counties of Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo and Van Buren. They have been taken from a variety of resources including newspapers, published biographies, funeral records, etc. The index includes the first and last name of the decedent, the issue date of the newspaper, a code representing the source, and a page number. The page number corresponds to the hard copy of the obituary. This page number is needed to order copies. The source code table is as follows:

HP - Herald-Palladium, Benton Harbor  
CL - Courier-Leader, Paw Paw  
BCR - Berrien County Record, Buchanan  
MN - Marcellus News, Marcellus  
ACN - Allegan County News, Allegan  
CE - Commercial Express, Saugatuck  
NBT - New Buffalo Times, New Buffalo  
SBT - South Bend Tribune, South Bend, Indiana  
KG - Kalamazoo Gazette, Kalamazoo  
DR - Decatur Republican, Decatur  
TCR - Tri-City Record, Watervliet  
NDS - Niles Daily Star, Niles  
UE - Union Enterprise, Plainwell  
DDN - Dowagiac Daily News, Dowagiac  
SHT - South Haven Tribune, South Haven  
CV - Cassopolis Vigilant, Cassopolis  
FC - Funeral Home Card  
BA - Bangor Advance, Bangor  
HDS - Hartford Day Spring, Hartford  
BL - Bloomingdale Leader, Bloomingdale  
EA - Edwardsburg Argus, Edwardsburg  
GN - Gobles News, Gobles  
LL - Lawton Leader, Lawton  
LT - Lawrence Times, Lawrence  
MPC - Michigan Pioneer Collection  
SE - Schoolcraft Express, Schoolcraft  
SMU - Southwest Michigan University, Dowagiac  
Surname Card - Private submission  
WMU - Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo

**To search the index and to order copies visit:  
<http://www.vbrgs.org/ObituaryIndex.html>**



