Research the Erie Canal at the Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County
The Central Library of Rochester & Monroe County sits just at the spot where the Erie Canal made a sweeping turn onto the aqueduct crossing the Genesee River. Starting with the Reynolds Library, much of which is still in the collection, the library has acquired books and other items tracing the development of the Canal in New York State and the Rochester area.

This list includes materials from the collection of the Central Library that may be used to research the Erie Canal and its place in history. Many of the items are copies of the official documents that trace the planning, building and regulation of the canal. Other publications provide information on the canal as it has changed to become one of New York’s recreational assets.

Most of the materials on the list are for reference use and must be used in the Local History Division of the Central Library. However, items with an * in the call number can be borrowed and some are available at town and city branch libraries in the Monroe County Library System.

Key to locations:

ART: Arts, Music and Recreation Division,
2nd floor Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building

BUS: Business and Social Sciences Division,
4th floor Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building

HIS: Science, History and Travel Division,
3rd floor Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building

LH: Local History and Genealogy Division,
2nd floor Rundel Memorial Building

LIT: Literature and Media Division,
1st floor Rundel Memorial Building

SCI: Science, History and Travel Division,
3rd floor Bausch & Lomb Public Library Building

Note: The entries follow the punctuation, capitalization, and spelling of the library’s catalog.
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HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ERIE CANAL (continued)


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Shaw, Ronald E. Erie water west; a history of the Erie Canal, 1792-1854. [Lexington, KY], University of Kentucky Press, [1966]


Waggoner, Madeline Sadler. The long haul west; the great canal era, 1817-1850. New York, NY, Putnam [1958]

Walker, Barbara K. The Erie Canal, gateway to empire. Boston, MA, Heath, [1963]


Wolfe, Andrew D. Bushnell’s Basin, hamlet on the Erie Canal: a words-and-pictures story of a tiny community created by the canal and born again in the 20th century. [Fishers, NY, Butternut Press], 1987 (for use in library only)

Wright, Elizur. Myron Holley; and what he did for liberty and true religion. Boston, MA, Printed for the author, 1882 (for use in library only)
### VIDEO RECORDINGS

All video recordings may be borrowed from the Literature and Media Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Producer/Producer Details</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>386.4809</td>
<td>An excellent and practical video guide to using New York State’s canals. Manlius, NY, Media Artists Inc., c2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>974.789</td>
<td>End of the Line: Rochester’s subway / Animatus Studio presents; produced by Fredrick Armstrong; directed by James P. Harte &amp; Fredrick Armstrong; written &amp; edited by James P. Harte. [Rochester, NY], Animatus Studio, c2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>917.4704</td>
<td>Erie Canal. Parts 1, 2, &amp; 3: Albany to Buffalo / Boat Show Video. Manlius, NY, Media Artists, c2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>974.7009</td>
<td>Hudson River and the Erie Canal: America’s historic waters / Scott Craig Productions. Fort Wayne, IN, Bamana Corp., 1991</td>
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<td>784.4974</td>
<td>Minstrels of the empire state: Buffalo to Troy, songs of the Erie Canal. Brockport, NY, Bravo Productions, 1986</td>
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<td>386.4809</td>
<td>Modern marvels: Erie Canal / producer, Tim Evans; created by Bruce Nash. [S.I.]: New York, NY, A &amp; E Television Networks; Distributed in the U.S. by New Video Group, c2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>974.7</td>
<td>New York / produced and directed by JWN Productions, LLC. Wynnewood, PA, Schlessinger Media, c2004</td>
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<td>917.4789</td>
<td>Rochester, New York: the Erie Canal, a Great Lake and a river runs through it / produced by Zephyr Marketing in association with Greater Rochester Visitors Association Inc. [Rochester, NY], The Association, c1999</td>
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<td>386.48</td>
<td>Tapping the forgotten asset: a canaller’s eye view of the New York State Canal System. [S.I.], Mid-Lakes Navigation Co., [198-?]</td>
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A number of documents and other resources from the library’s collection can be viewed directly from the Monroe County Library System web site:

http://www.libraryweb.org

The Rochester Images database contains thousands of historical and contemporary images of the Rochester area. Included in the database are sites and scenes of the Erie Canal. Search the database with the words “Erie Canal” to find images on various aspects of the canal and its history.

To view digitized document or other online resources:
Click on the Local History tab; then select Digital Collections (the first option) for a list of full-text items or you can search the online Library Catalog with keywords and limit the material type to E-Resource.

In addition to the titles listed below, the Central Library’s digitizing program will continue to make other rare and historical items available online.

Barnes, Joseph W. “Two aqueducts – the imprint of the canal.” Rochester History: Volume 37, No. 3, 1975

Canal and the river (online pathfinder). Rochester, NY, Rochester Public Library, 2001


Erie Canal (online Pathfinder). Rochester, NY Rochester Public Library, 2001


Haines, Charles G. Considerations on the great western canal, from the Hudson to Lake Erie: with a view of its expense, advantages, and progress re-published by order of the New-York Corresponding Association, for the Promotion of Internal Improvements. Brooklyn, NY, Spooner & Worthington printers, 1818

McKelvey, Blake. “Planning and building the canal”—“The canal and the boom town”—“The canal and the Flower City”—“Rochester outgrows the canal: 1855-1920.” Rochester History, Volume 11, Nos. 3 & 4. [Rochester, NY, Rochester Public Library], 1949


Marsh, H. M. (Horace Pierce). Rochester and its early canal days; reminiscences of the author, while engaged on the New York State Water-ways, the Erie, Genesee Valley, Black River, and other lateral canals. [Rochester, NY, Democrat and Chronicle print], 1914

New York (State). Canal Board. Canal laws, rates of toll, regulations, and names of the principle places, with their distances from each other on the New-York State Canals, as established by the Canal Board and in force on said canals, June, 1841. [New York, Canal Board], 1841

New York (State). Canal Commissioners. The official reports of the Canal Commissioners of the state of New York, and the acts of the Legislature respecting navigable communications between the great western and northern lakes and the Atlantic ocean, with perspicuous maps and profiles. New York, NY, T.W. Mercein, printers, 1817


New York (State). Commissioners on Internal Navigation. Report of the commissioners appointed by joint resolutions of the honorable Senate and Assembly of the state of New York, the 13th & 15th March, 1810, to explore the route of an inland navigation from Hudson’s River to Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. Albany, NY, printed by S. Southwick, 1811

New York (State). Engineer’s and Surveyor’s Office. Souvenir of the New York State waterways association, fifth annual convention, Rochester, N.Y. October 1-2, 1914; views of the New York State barge canal. [Albany, NY, Lyon, printer], 1914?

Tour around Rochester on the Erie Canal from 1850 to the present (online pathfinder). Rochester, NY, Rochester Public Library, 2001

Turner, O. (Orsamus). Pioneer history of the Holland purchase of western New York embracing some account of the ancient remains. . . and a history of pioneer settlement under the auspices of the Holland Company. Including reminiscences of the War of 1812; the origin, progress and completion of the Erie Canal, etc., Buffalo, NY Jewett, Thomas, 1849