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### Review of the website City Directories of the United States of America

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[Internet Resource]

**City directories of the United States of America**

URL: <http://www.uscitydirectories.com/>

Operated by the profit-seeking Genealogy Research Associates (GRA), this site aspires to be a central portal for researchers to locate city directories owned by US libraries and archives, but holdings are included so far for only 17 repositories, including the LDS Family History Library, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives—the New York Public Library is omitted. Users navigate the site either by selecting a state from a pull-down menu or clicking on a map, then choosing a locality. There are no cross-references, and there seem to have been no attempts to establish authoritative headings for localities; e.g., for New York State there are entries for cities as well as counties, and separate listings for New York City, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island, all boroughs of New York City. The site solicits volunteers to enter holdings of local repositories but does not indicate how the submitted information is verified. Other genealogical sites (e.g., *Cyndi's List.com* <<http://www.cyndislist.com/>>) provide links to the small number of city directories available free—a number so low, one assumes GRA also hopes to be employed locating and photocopying entries. GRA neglects to mention that some libraries have full-text access to city directories through Gale's Primary Source Media microfilm collection. A brief bibliography of materials includes a few online articles about using city directories in genealogical research. The site should be revisited in the future as the holdings of more repositories are entered. **Summing Up:** Optional. General readers; professionals.—*J. A. Drobnicki, York College, CUNY*