Prestatehood Legal Materials
A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia

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This database is derived from the AALL's Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award-winning 2005 sourcebook, Prestatehood Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Research Guide, Including New York City and the District of Columbia, which is edited by Michael Chiorazzi and Marguerite Most and is held in more than 350 libraries. It provides brief overviews of state histories from colonization to statehood and identifies a wide range of both readily available and hard-to-find materials from each state, and the database provides links to more than 1,500 full-text documents. This is an invaluable and comprehensive tool for researchers. Unprecedented in its coverage of territorial government, this database holds resources that reveal the underlying legal principles that helped shape the United States. Research how foreign countries controlled the laws of these territories and how the states eventually broke away to govern themselves. Examine the legal issues with Native Americans, inter-state and the Mexican and Canadian borders, and the development of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government.

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