

Hi Tina,

Here is a link to the Statistics guide that UCLA Librarians have created.

<https://guides.library.ucla.edu/data/justice#s-lg-box-3579886>

As you will see, getting historical statistics might be a challenge.

I will check with a few of the packages we have, (Social Explorer, SimplyAnalytics, PolicyMap, DataPlanet) and get back to you.

Thanks! --zoe

Zoe Borovsky, Ph.D.

Librarian for Digital Research and Scholarship

UCLA Library

Zoe Borovsky, Ph.D.

Nov 04 2021, 11:48am via System

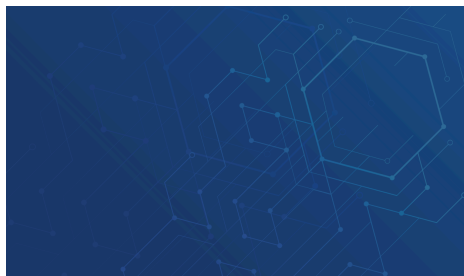
A few more suggestions; I'm happy to follow up with you on these. I have office hours on Tuesdays: <https://calendar.library.ucla.edu/appointments/zoe/virtual>

1. from Maria Jankowska

I would recommend

State of California Department of Justice <https://oag.ca.gov/crime> has general data

Also, OJP Data Archives <https://data.ojp.usdoj.gov/stories/s/tb3p-ibvt>



OJP Data Archives

data.ojp.usdoj.gov

Crime Mapping <https://www.crimemapping.com/>

2. from Zhiyuan Yao:

I found something from Google datasets that might be useful, *Data from: Interaction Between Neighborhood Change and Criminal Activity, 1950-1976: Los Angeles County*

<https://datasetsearch.research.google.com/search?query=los%20angeles%20crime%20%201950&docid=L2cvMTFsOGcyM3dtOA%3D%3D>

[This dataset is from Sheriff's Department.](#) Though the datasets are not from 1950s, if the student is interested in it, it might be helpful.

Best,

Zhiyuan Yao, Ph.D.

Name pronunciation: Jee-Wan Yao

[Data Science Center](#), UCLA Library

zyao@library.ucla.edu

[Schedule a meeting with me](#)

Dear Ms. Ly,

We will be able to identify theatres by their licenses from 1900-through 1940.

Specific crimes by type will be found in the LAPD annual reports starting in the late 1930s. If you are looking for street level information, you'll have to ask LAPD Discovery and they may or may not be able to assist.

So we may be of some use to your research. Let me know you wish to pay us a visit. Our hours are Monday through Thursday 8am to 4:30. But we are closed on Thursday next week for Veterans Day.

Sincerely,

Michael Holland

Hi, speakeasy gang!

Well, that's a most interesting topic. I assume the dates of interest would be 1920-1933 rather than beginning in 1915. Did we have speakeasies before Prohibition?

Sad to say, I have nothing to offer you. Except to note that from 1920 until 1930 were boom years for theatre building and boxoffice receipts -- perhaps to some extent BECAUSE of Prohibition. When you couldn't go to the corner bar anymore, perhaps you went to see a movie instead.

Tunnels? Well there's gossip that there was a tunnel between the Million Dollar Theatre basement and the Bradbury building. I've talked to people who say they've seen the entrance. But I've gone looking and haven't found it. Perhaps I didn't have the right keys. And it may be only a utility tunnel. Unknown.

I've seen no evidence that any theatres had speakeasies in their basements. But many theatres are in multi-use buildings where basements are subdivided with some parts used by the theatre, others by the retail tenants in the building. And sometimes there was access from one part of the basement to another.

The State Theatre had a big cafeteria in the basement but I haven't heard of any back rooms there that were devoted to selling alcohol.

Maybe the newspapers ran stories of liquor busts downtown? Might be worth a search.

So -- it a;; sounds interesting. Please let me know what tidbits you dig up.

Cheers! A toast to speakeasies!

-- Bill Counter

<https://losangelestheatres.blogspot.com>

_____ Hi, speakeasy fans --

How's the research going? I haven't heard back from any of you.

Well, several of us had a tour and discussion last week about speakeasies with David, a maintenance guy who has been at the Million Dollar/Grand Central Market complex for 10 years. There evidently was one. The speakeasy had no known connection to the Million Dollar Theatre but was in a part of the basement of the building that was associated with the office building, at the time called the Edison Building.

His story:

A speakeasy called **The Catacombs** was in the north side of the office building basement, along 3rd St. The entrance was a stairway, mostly surviving, that was constructed in a shallow space that had been a newsstand just east of the stairs coming down from the theatre's balcony. An opening date isn't known but it appears that the stairs were added sometime after the building's opening -- the building opened in the year before Prohibition. There's not really anything remaining in the basement other than a bit of wallpaper, several plain looking rooms and the remains of plumbing for several restrooms added for the venue.

It's now filled in but there was a tunnel connecting the Edison Building basement with the Bradbury building. Although the basement is about 20' deep, the tunnel went down deeper. All that remains is a roughly filled-in hole in the floor slab near the line of the Broadway facade above and about 30' south of 3rd St. The basement continues under the sidewalk perhaps as far as the curb but the hole isn't that far east. The hole is below the building itself, not under the sidewalk. The word from David is that it was a shallow tunnel -- you went down a few steps from basement level and you had to sort of hunch down to clear your head as you went through.

David also noted that there had been a second tunnel. This one from the basement of the Grand Central Market, crossing under Broadway to an exit south of the Bradbury Building. Presumably it came up in the basement of the building at 314 S. Broadway, one that at one time was the home of the Central Theatre, as well as other tenants. No idea which end of the tunnel had the speakeasy.

<https://losangelestheatres.blogspot.com/2019/01/central-theatre.html>



A detail from a 1919 Huntington Library photo.

<https://losangelestheatres.blogspot.com/2018/02/million-dollar-vintage-exterior-views.html> The Catacombs entrance was in that bay opposite the guy standing there by the sign pole, half way along the building. On the plans that recess is labeled "concession" and no stairs show. It was a newsstand at one time.



A photo I took in 2018. The location of the stairs to the space used as The Catacombs is that light beige area near that 2nd parked car, now with a sloping tile roof and a door marked "Caution: No floor inside" or some such thing. Actually the stairs are inside. It should be labeled "Stairs to nowhere." You can go down about two flights and then the stairs end -- the lower section was removed, evidently during the building's renovation in the 1990s.

<https://losangelestheatres.blogspot.com/2018/02/million-dollar-vintage-exterior-views.html>

That's the news.

-- Bill Counter

Hi Jessika,

Speakeasies are poorly documented, by their nature. I am not aware of any theaters that functioned in this way.

You can try newspaper reporting and court cases. And we have blogged and produced videos about the King Edward basement, which you can find on our website and YouTube channel.

Good luck with your research!

best regards,

Kim

Esotouric

<http://www.esotouric.com>

HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

Dear Jessika,

A cursory search of our collections did not reveal much. Have you searched newspaper databases? They may be your best bet. For example, a quick search in the historical Los Angeles Times (ProQuest Newspapers) turned up articles that had addresses (but not theatres):

"SPEAKEASY BARTENDER SENTENCED: FORTY DAYS IN JAIL GIVEN ONE OF PAIR TAKEN IN RAID ON RITZY WILSHIRE PLACE." Los Angeles Times (1923-1995), Sep 05, 1931, p. 1. ProQuest. Web. 14 Oct. 2021.

"LIQUOR SEIZED IN HOLLYWOOD: 'SLIM' GORDON AND TRIO HELD AFTER SPEAKEASY RAID RICH EQUIPMENT CONFISCATED BY FEDERAL OFFICERS ENTRANCE MADE BY AVOIDING WARNING SIGNALS." Los Angeles Times (1923-1995), Sep 24, 1932, p. 1. ProQuest. Web. 14 Oct. 2021.

"CHILDREN FOUND SIPPING LIQUOR: MORE THAN DOZEN GIRLS AND BOYS FIGURE IN RAID ASSERTED SPEAKEASY OWNER ARRESTED BY VICE SQUAD YOUNGSTERS SENT TO HOMES; MUCH BEER SEIZED." Los Angeles Times (1923-1995), Jul 26, 1931, p. 21. ProQuest. Web. 14 Oct. 2021.

The Los Angeles Conservancy used to host a historic theater walking tour in DTLA. You might send them an inquiry to see if they have any information about possible speakeasies in the buildings.

<https://www.laconservancy.org/>

I know I did not provide any firm leads but hope the information was helpful.

Kind regards,

Anne BlecksmithH

Hi, speakeasy gang!

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L.A. CITY RECORDS:

Dear Ms. Wang,

I don't there's that much information out there since speaks wouldn't be showing up on a government document like a permit.

But our license registry would list pre-existing liquor licenses prior to 1920. There won't be anything after that. Theatres would be listed by year which would give you a number of theatres, their addresses and that's about it.

Drawings, artwork and the like wouldn't be kept here and I'm not sure who would know. but if you can find the KCET LostLA episode on Prohibition Tunnels, there will be a credit for archival sources you can pursue.

Sincerely

Michael Holland

Hello Ms. Wang,

I don't think we have an easy way for you to research speakeasies. Speakeasies were by their nature secretive and don't tend to be listed in the City's records. If you want to research this through the history of specific properties you could track the ownership of the property through the County Registrar or the building permits issued for a property through the City's Department of Building and Safety. But chances are if they were digging a secret tunnel they probably didn't obtain a building permit and if they had to list the building use on the property records they probably didn't say speakeasy.

You might be better off looking at published sources than at the City Archives. The newspapers of the era might give information on police raids or detectives may have written novels or memoirs.

If you have a specific lead to City records that you wish to pursue I may be able to refer you to the right agency but I don't know of any particular set of records that would specifically address speakeasies.

I wish I had more to offer but please feel free to get back in touch if you have further questions.

Todd
