Directions for access Sanborn maps on the Louisville Free Public Library Website, www.LFPL.org

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1. You first must have a library card and a password. If you do not have a library card, you’ll have to go to your nearest branch library to get one. If you do not have a password, follow the directions listed below.

2. Note: the library does have classes on how to use the Sanborn maps. To find out when the next Sanborn map class will happen, click on “Events & Exhibits”, then click on ‘Search’ on the menu bar, then on next page, enter the ‘Date Range’ (Note: enter a range of 6 months), then enter Keyword ‘Sanborn’, then click on category ‘Computer Classes’ then hit your enter key. Hopefully a Sanborn class will be listed within the 6 month span you searched. If not, search a 12 month date range.

If you do not have a password, click on “Contact Us”; then on the next page click on “My Account”. Then in the ‘User Name or Bar Code’ enter the thirteen (13) number that is on the back of your library card, directly under the bar code, and then click on ‘Forgot Password’. A generic password will be emailed to you. You can then change it to one that you create yourself.

On the LFPL.org homepage, click on “Research Tools”
On the next page, click on "History & Geography"
On the next page, scroll down and click on “Digital Sanborn Maps”
On the next page, enter your thirteen digit Barcode Number that is on the back of your library card, just under the barcode. Then enter your password, and click ‘Login’.

If you do not have a password, follow the directions on the first page of these directions.
You are now on the Sanborn Maps homepage.

Next, click on ‘Browse and Explore’
On next page, click on ‘Select a State’.
Then, click on ‘Kentucky’
On next page, click on ‘Select a City’.

Note: Sanborn maps for most Kentucky cities are available.

For ‘Louisville’, scroll down the list and click on ‘Louisville—Jefferson County’
On next page, click on ‘Select a Date’.

Note: There are several Sanborn maps to choose from
Now, things get a bit more complicated and you’ll need to ‘click’ around to learn more about which Sanborn maps you wish to use. For instance, if you click on ‘1928—1941’, this page appears. Then, if you click on ‘Volume’, a list of maps appears and you can select which map you want to access.
As an example, if you click on “Vol 2 West, 1941”, this page appears. Then, if you click on the ‘Index Sheet 0”, this page will direct you to which sheet contains the area which you are seeking.
Once you click on ‘Index Sheet 0”, then click on the Index, and you can zoom zoom in / out via the roller ball on your mouse. You can then easily read the Index, and then start interpreting which area and sheet contains the info you are seeking. You’ll have to experiment a bit to get used to this process. Note: click on the ‘Back’ Arrow on the menu to exit from the zoomed Index sheet’.
One more thing: these Sanborn maps are in black & white—not color! To interpret the graphics on the maps, click on ‘Maps Legend’
This ‘Sanborn Map Legend’ will then appear. It is a PDF. You can download it in order to zoom in / out of it in order to read the text, or use your computers zoom in / out feature to enlarge it to read.