

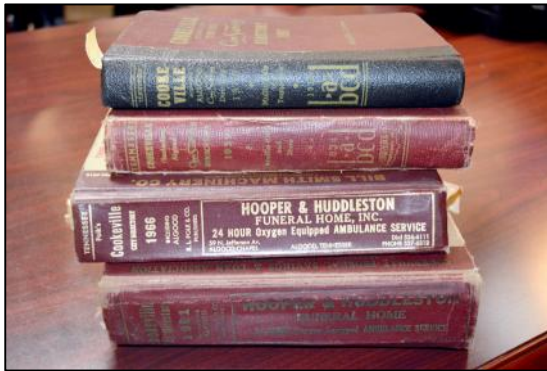
## OLD PHONE DIRECTORIES USED AS RESEARCH TOOLS

By Paige Stange

In the time of cell phones, it's sometimes difficult to find an old phone book.

But those at the Putnam County Archives say old phone books and city directories are essential tools for historical researchers.

Glenn Jones, archivist, and Carol Bradford, assistant archivist, both agree while there are many sources they use while conducting historical research, it is of utmost importance to



be as accurate as possible. One method of accuracy is using information that was printed during the specific time period they are researching.

(Pictured a stock of old city directories at the Putnam County Archives).

"We use several sources to do the stories. When we do stories about past businesses in the cities and counties, one of our most

important reference books is older phone books and city directories," Jones said.

Bradford said these books provide insight about location of older businesses and neighboring businesses.

"People come into the archives and want to know where a certain business was. Many times the business we are looking for had several locations over the years. If we had a phone book for every year, we could pinpoint where and what year the business relocated," Bradford said.

Donate old city directories and phone books to the Putnam County Archives at 121B S. Dixie Ave. in Cookeville.

\*Read more about the history of Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>