



The National Archives: What's In It For Me?

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The National Archives: What's In It For Me?

- What records the National Archives holds – and why
- National Archives Resources online
- Starting Research at the National Archives

The National Archives
holds historically valuable records of
the
Federal Government of the
United States of America



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives holds records from all three branches of the Federal Government

However, which records we have, and the timeline and process for access, depends on

- When the records were created
- the part of government that created them
- the legal framework that governs them

Federal Agency Records

- Covered by **Federal Records Act**
- Law instructs agencies to manage all records
- Agencies submit **Records Schedules** to NARA that list categories of records and proposals that each category should be either:
 - Temporary** - keep for a set period, then destroy
 - Permanent** - keep for a set period, then send to the Archives



Arc ID 6422494:
A sailor resets his clock using a sun dial to reflect the one-hour difference between standard time and daylight-saving time, 4/5/1987

Presidential Records



Herbert Hoover Library



Franklin D. Roosevelt Library



Harry S. Truman Library



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library



John F. Kennedy Library



Lyndon B. Johnson Library



Richard Nixon Library



Gerald R. Ford Library



Jimmy Carter Library



Ronald Reagan Library



George Bush Library



William J. Clinton Library



George W. Bush Library



Barack Obama Library

Presidential Records



Presidential Records Act (PRA) Libraries: Reagan to present

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Court Records



Sandra Day O'Connor Being Sworn in as **Supreme Court** Justice by Chief Justice Warren Burger, Her Husband John O'Connor Looks On, 9/25/1981 NAID:1696015

- **Supreme Court**
 - Transferred to the Archives voluntarily (no law)
- **Lower Federal Courts**
 - Federal Records Act
- **Judicial Branch Organizations**
 - Federal Records Act

Congressional Records



- Historical Records of the US House of Representatives and US Senate
 - Transfer and access not covered by law
 - Available under Rules for Access set by Congress
 - **NARA Center for Legislative Archives** manages records – for Congress and the public
- Legislative branch organizations
 - Covered by the Federal Records Act

NARA's Goal: Make Access Happen!

The National Archives preserves and provides access to historically significant records of the Government of the United States. We continue to accession new records from all branches of the Federal Government within constraints set by :

- Federal Records Act
- Presidential Records Act
- Donor Agreements with pre-PRA presidents
- Transfer arrangements with Supreme Court and Congress

**The National Archives:
What's In It For Me?
FREE Online Resources!**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Veterans' Service Records

Home > Veterans' Service Records

Request Military Service Records



- [Request Service Records Online](#)
- [Check the Status of a Request](#)
- [More ways to get service records](#)
- [Learn about military service records \(e.g. DD Form 214\)](#)
- [Recently separated veteran?](#)

Research Using Military Records



- [What's available online?](#)
- [Locate older \(pre-WW I\) military service records](#)
- [Using military records for genealogical research](#)
- [Other military and veterans records](#)



Replace Lost Medals and Awards

Learn how to replace lost medals and awards.



Browse WWII Photos

View a sample of our extensive collection of photographs from World War II.

News and Notices

[National Archives Opens Groundbreaking Vietnam Exhibit November 10, 2017 - March 31, 2017](#)

"Hurricane" Requests

If you live in a community that was impacted by a hurricane and need priority service to replace a Separation Document (usually DD Form 214 or equivalent), place the word "**Hurricane**" in the "Comments" section of eVetRecs or in the "Purpose" section of the Standard Form (SF) 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records.

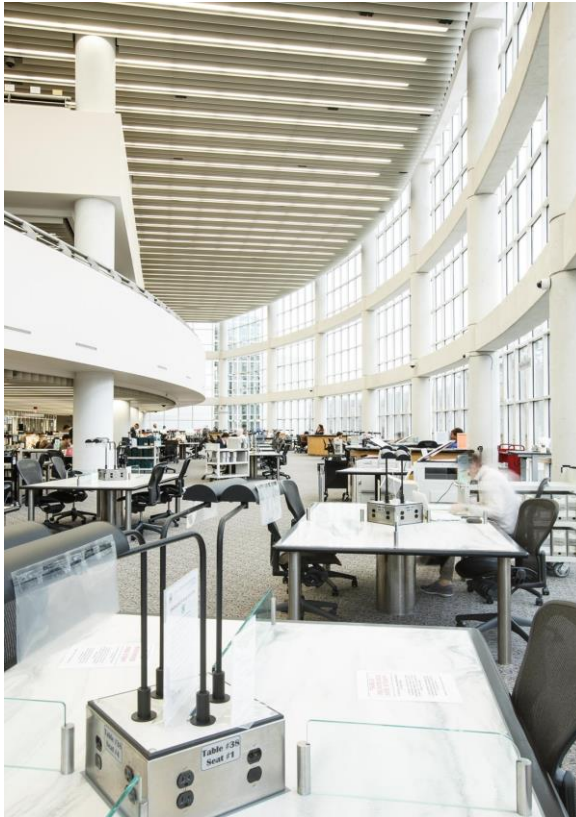
Fax your request to our Customer Service Team at [314-801-0927](tel:314-801-0927).

(NOTE: This fax number is only for special requests, such as Hurricane Harvey or Hurricane Irma).

[Need Help?](#)

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Access to NARA's Holdings



Research room at Archives II,
College Park, MD

Archival records are described in the **National Archives Catalog** at the series level

- Some records are digital and available online linked from catalog record
- To see **most** records, you need to visit
- Older records and many 20th-century records are unrestricted



Search Archives.gov Search

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VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

VISIT US

AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

The National Archives Catalog

Home > Research Our Records > The National Archives Catalog

National Archives Catalog

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- [About National Archives Catalog](#)
- [Using the National Archives Catalog](#)
- [Search Tips](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Lifecycle Data Requirements Guide](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

The National Archives Catalog

Search the National Archives Catalog and other National Archives resources at once for information about our records.

Please note: The National Archives Catalog will be undergoing maintenance from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2017, and may be unavailable during this time. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Search the National Archives Catalog

Enter Keywords

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Most Requested

- [Declaration of Independence](#)
- [The Constitution](#)
- [The Bill of Rights](#)
- [World War II Photos](#)
- [Census Records](#)

We're excited to announce that in the National Archives Catalog you can now:

- Enjoy the updated [homepage](#) featuring background images from Catalog records
- Add your comments on digitized records, descriptions, and authority records
- Find what you need with a more intuitive [advanced search](#)
- Efficiently browse search results with better "Next Page" link placement
- Track your [citizen archivist](#) contributions with updated user account pages
- Add data from scanned records to your developer toolbox with increased [API](#) functionality

We Want to Hear from You!

Let us know what you think – what you like and what you don't! Discover a glitch? Let us know!

Contact us at catalog@nara.gov for comments, suggestions, and problems you may experience while using the catalog.

https://www.archives.gov/research/catalog

roosevelt toga



Advanced Search

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Record Hierarchy

Collection FDR-Photos:
Franklin D. Roosevelt Library
Photographs, 1870 - 2004

Series:
Photographs of Franklin D.
Roosevelt, 1882 - 1945

Item:
President Franklin D.
Roosevelt's Toga Party
Birthday Celebration,
Washington, DC,
1/30/1934

Tag

birthday

cake

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

palm trees

Enter new tags...

Add

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Add a comment...

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President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Toga Party Birthday Celebration, Washington, DC



View/Add Contributions

<< < Image 1 of 1 > >>



1

Secure | https://aad.archives.gov/aad/

Apps Fwd: Announcing a N ICN

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THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES ARCHIVES.GOV

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Access to Archival Databases (AAD)

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Browse by Category [Show All Series >>](#)

<p>Genealogy/ Personal History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casualties Civilians Military Personnel Passenger Lists Prisoners of War <p>Indexes to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographs Textual Records 	<p>Private Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses Foundations Labor Unions Securities <p>Places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries States Counties Cities/Towns Zip Codes 	<p>Wars/ International Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil War World War II Korean War Vietnam War Cold War Diplomatic Records <p>Government Spending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts Grants and Assistance 	<p>Time Spans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1800 - 1900 1900 - 1940 1940 - 1955 1955 - 1965 1965 - 1975 1975 - 1985 1985 - 1995 1995 - present <p>Browse by Subjects >></p>
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What's New? [show more What's New >>](#)

Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT)
 This series contains data from the Social Security Administration's Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT). The Death Files contain nearly 50 million records of individuals with a social security number with a verified death or who would have been over 110 years old by December 31, 2007. The records include information such as name, social security number, birth date, and death date.

Central Foreign Policy Files
 We have added the 1979 fully releasable permanent electronic telegram records and withdrawal card records and the 1979 fully releasable permanent P-Reel Index records and withdrawal card records of this series to AAD, for an additional 531,525 new records. The series, popularly known as the "State Department Cables" or the "State Department Telegrams," consists of telegrams between the Department of State and Foreign Service posts.

AAD Highlights [show more Highlights >>](#)

Irving Berlin
 composed "God Bless America" and immigrated to America from Russia with his family when he was 5 years old. See his passenger record.

Apollo-Soyuz Test Project
 was a joint U.S.-Soviet space flight in July 1975. See a record relating to the success of the project in the Central Foreign Policy Files.

Most Popular

- [Records of Prime Contracts Awarded by the Military Services and Agencies](#)
- [Records on Trading of Securities by Corporate Insiders](#)
- [Records About Grants, Insurance, Loans, Subsidies and Other Economic Assistance Awarded by Federal Agencies](#)
- [World War II Army Enlistment Records](#)
- [Data Files Relating to the Immigration of Germans to the United States](#)
- [Central Foreign Policy Files](#)

Access to Archival Databases

https://aad.archives.gov/aad/



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[Veterans Service Records](#)

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A support community for citizen archivists, researchers, and archival professionals.

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<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist>



DOCS*Teach*

The online tool for teaching with documents, from the National Archives




Bring History to Life

Help students form a connection to the past.

 **Explore**
Primary Source Documents

 **Discover**
Activities You Can Teach With

 **Create**
Fun & Engaging Activities

avascript:void(0)

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

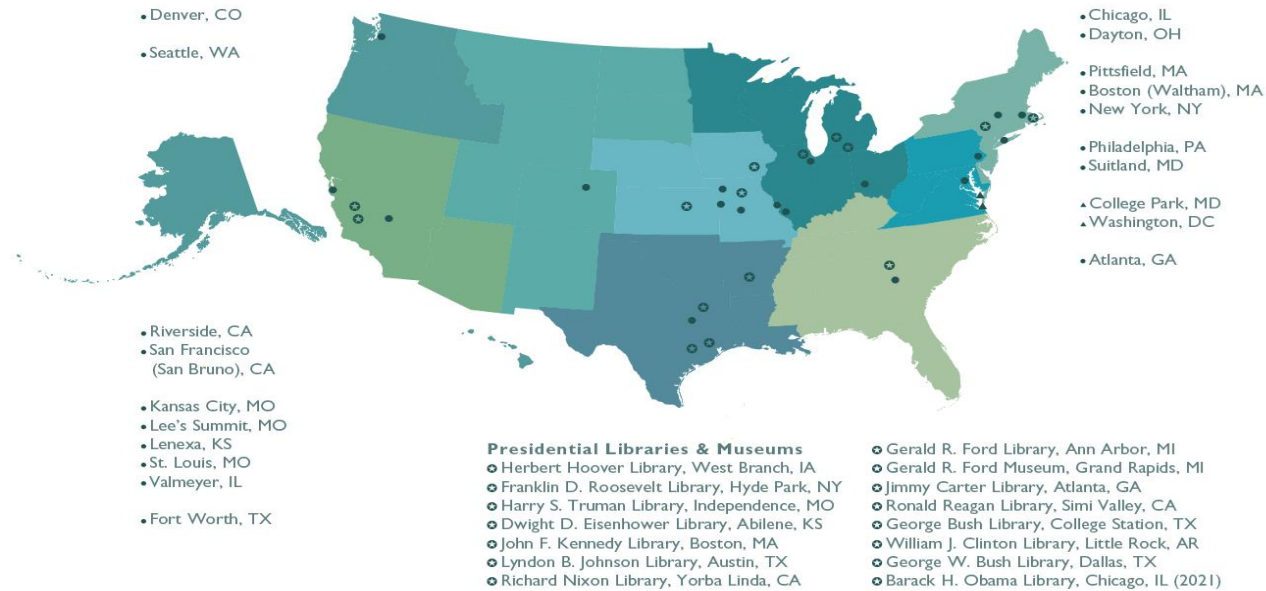
The National Archives: What's In It For Me?

Getting Starting with Archives Research



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

NARA Locations



<https://www.archives.gov/locations>

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Records



Free at National Archives
Facilities

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Do you need to visit us in person?

- We perform limited research for the public. Please read more about our [Services for Off-site Researchers](#) and our [Research Support Services](#).
- This reference paper on [Getting Started](#) provides information on the process for requesting records for use in the Research Room and the steps necessary to locate the information needed to prepare a pull slip
- If you can identify the records precisely enough to order copies, you may [order copies of some record types online](#), or you may [order copies](#) through us or approved vendors.
- If you require extensive research assistance, we offer you the following [lists of researchers who are available for hire](#).
(Note: Researchers for hire are not National Archives employees. [Learn more...](#))

Contact us before you visit – write or call ahead

- **Find addresses, phone numbers, hours and directions to our locations nationwide.**
Our research rooms are open to the public. Each of our locations holds different groups of records. To make the most efficient use of your time, please write, telephone, or [e-mail](#) us in advance to make sure that the documents or the microfilm you want to see are at the location you plan to visit.

You should first try to determine where the records are by:

Research at NARA

[Getting Started](#)
[Locate a NARA facility near you](#)
[Obtaining your Researcher Card](#)
[Rules for Using the Research Room](#)
[Two Steps Every Researcher Should Take](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/start/plan-visit-0>



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<https://www.archives.gov/education>

Research Visit FAQs

How can I make my visit more successful?

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) reference staff is committed to giving researchers the best possible assistance. The following questions and answers are provided to help researchers have a good on-site experience and take full advantage of their limited time at the National Archives.

Do I need to contact the Archives before I arrive?

Writing or calling in advance is not required; however, we **strongly encourage** researchers to write to the National Archives before making a research visit. Please send the same reference inquiry to only one address to avoid confusion and duplication of work. Making contact before arrival can help prepare researchers for what they will find and help smooth the process when they arrive.

Researchers should make contact far enough in advance to allow the NARA reference staff sufficient time to respond. A good rule of thumb is to write a minimum of 4 weeks before you plan to arrive. This allows time for the staff to log-in requests, to conduct necessary background work, and to prepare and send a response.

If researchers have complex questions that require an in depth consultation or an ongoing exchange, they should write even sooner. Please note, however, that NARA staff cannot undertake research for you. The staff assists researchers with their work by providing information about the records, but it does not undertake substantive research for researchers.

Do some records need more advanced notice to be available?

especially necessary if a researcher is interested in:

National News

- [New Accessions and Openings](#)
- [More...](#)

NHPRC Launches Founders Online



Search through 120,000 documents from

America's Founders at <http://founders.archives.gov>

When You Arrive

- [Get your Research Card](#)
- [Help Protect the Records](#)

Rules

- [What's Allowed in the Research Rooms](#)
- [Regulations for using the National Archives](#)
- [Research by Minors](#)
- [Security Requirements](#)

What to Expect When You Research at the National Archives

This video addresses procedures and security measures at the National Archives in Washington, DC,

<http://www.archives.gov/research/start/research-visit-faqs.html>

Please contact us about your research early on!

Washington DC Area facilities:

- Archives I: 19th Century and genealogy: archives1reference@nara.gov
- Archives II: largely 20th Century: archives2reference@nara.gov
- Cartographic and Architectural Records: carto@nara.gov
- Motion picture, sound, and video: mopix@nara.gov
- Still photography: stillpix@nara.gov
- Electronic Records: cer@nara.gov

Nationwide, or not sure who to contact? inquire@nara.gov



Questions?

meg.phillips@nara.gov

301-837-3111

For more info, see:

www.archives.gov

Reporters Raising Their Hands to Ask Questions at President Gerald R. Ford's First Press Conference, 8/28/1974. NAID 12082612