

---

# Guide to Further Reading and Research

---

**T**he National Archives has not been the subject of much historical investigation over the past fifty years. Nevertheless, there are a variety of specialized primary and secondary sources that can be recommended to the reader and researcher interested in the agency and its work. The place to begin is Frank B. Evans' "The National Archives and Records Service and Its Research Resources—A Select Bibliography" published in the Fall 1971 issue of *Prologue*. A second valuable bibliography can be found in Donald R. McCoy's *The National Archives: America's Ministry of Documents, 1934–1968* (Chapel Hill, 1978).

The volume of unpublished primary sources on the Archives is enormous. In the Records of the National Archives and Records Administration (Record Group 64) alone there are over 750 cubic feet of material. In addition, researchers will find important Archives documentation in the Records of the Office of Management and Budget (RG 51), Records of the Commission of Fine Arts (RG 66), Records of the Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch (RG 264), Records of the General Services Administration (RG 269), and other National Archives collections.

The personal papers of a number of individuals also include important information on the development of the National Archives. Researchers will want to consult the papers of Wayne Grover and Ernst Posner held by the Archives as well as the papers of Solon J. Buck, J. Franklin Jameson, and Waldo G. Leland in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. Two other personal papers collections of note are the R.D.W. Connor Papers in the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina and the Theodore R. Schellenberg Papers at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Printed primary sources on the Archives are also plentiful. Foremost among these are the *Annual Reports of the Archivist of the United States* (1936–1950) and the annual *Report of the Administrator of General Services to Congress* (1950 to date). These reports provide an annual assessment of the work of the agency by the Archivist of the United States. In addition to annual reports, the Archives has published numerous bulletins, staff information papers, technical reports, and finding aids that describe Archives procedures and holdings. Finally, Archives staff members regularly participate in the annual meetings of the Society of American Archivists and other professional associations. Their presentations at these meetings have often been published in *The American Archivist* and other journals. The Evans bibliography includes citations to these papers.

The historiography of archival institutions and procedures is relatively slight given the wealth of primary sources. Of greatest value to the general reader are three studies: H. G. Jones, *The Records of A Nation: Their Management, Preservation, and Use* (New York, 1969); Donald R. McCoy, *The National Archives: America's Ministry of Documents, 1934–1968* (Chapel Hill, 1978); and Victor Gondos, *J. Franklin Jameson and the Birth of the National Archives* (Philadelphia, 1981). Jones' book was an effort to place the Archives in a historical setting while arguing that the effectiveness of the agency was being diminished by its subservience to the General Services Administration. McCoy recounts and evaluates the major steps and controversies in the development of the Archives as a government agency. The Gondos volume traces Jameson's effort to obtain proper housing for the invaluable records of the U.S. government. All three volumes continue to be useful in guiding research on the Archives. □