You too can be a Citizen Archivist!

Getting the most out of the National Archives Catalog

Suzanne Isaacs and Meredith Doviak

The National Archives offers many opportunities to participate in our online Catalog through citizen archivist projects such as tagging, transcription, and citizen scanning in our Innovation Hub. These projects help make content in our Catalog more discoverable to researchers. We’ll talk about how you can contribute to these projects, how these contributions can help you and other users locate records online, and how citizen scanning can benefit your research. We’ll also discuss genealogy resources available in the National Archives Catalog and how the Catalog can help you jumpstart and refine your genealogical research.

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair
Meredith Doviak
Meredith Doviak works to manage, build and grow the community of users surrounding records and information in our Catalog. She joined the National Archives in 2009, first working in the Social Media Branch in the Office of Innovation. Meredith was also involved in the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) project to create free and open access to the nation’s cultural and scientific record. Meredith holds a Master of Library Science Degree with a focus on Archival Administration from the University of Maryland, and a Bachelor of Arts from Gettysburg College.

Suzanne Isaacs
Suzanne Isaacs works to manage, build and grow the community of users surrounding records and information in our Catalog. In previous positions with the National Archives, she has worked in the Cartographic Section, Special Media Division, National Archives Experience, and the Office of Innovation. Before coming to us, she has also been an Open Society Archives Western Fellow in Budapest, Hungary; and an assistant curator at the Library of American Broadcasting at the University of Maryland. She holds a B.A. in American History and an M.L.S in Archives from the University of Maryland.
You Too Can Be A Citizen Archivist!

Getting the most out of the National Archives Catalog

Meredith Doviak and Suzanne Isaacs
Community Managers
National Archives Catalog
Hi! We’re the Community Managers

★ We’re first in line to help customers engage with the Catalog.

★ We work to create an environment that encourages communication and participation with the records in our catalog.

★ We get records and information out to users.

★ We also take information in; developing a feedback loop of awareness and engagement to expand the audience for our holdings.

Meredith Doviak & Suzanne Isaacs
Why are We Transcribing and Tagging?

• Make Access Happen – Expand access through higher quality information

• Connect with Customers – Use engagement to develop a community with anyone interested in our records
One Day...

All of our records will be online.
You can help make it happen.

You can become a citizen archivist — just click one of the options below to get started. You can also make suggestions or volunteer in person.

www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/
Transcription

Transcription Missions

Cuba
- In honor of President Obama’s historic visit to Cuba, help us transcribe historical records of US/Cuba relations.

Photographs of U.S. and Foreign Naval Vessels, 1883 - 1972
- Please help us by transcribing information about each vessel that is printed on the photographs.

National Forest Photographs
- We need your help transcribing the typed captions on these images. This easy transcription will help make these images more available for searching.

Innovation Hub
- These are Compiled Military Service Records, Pension Files, and Bounty. Land files scanned by Citizen Archivists at the Innovation Hub in Washington, DC. Help transcribe records.

Letters from George Washington
- Help transcribe records from President George Washington.

Don’t Leave Us Hanging!
- Help complete these records that have not been fully transcribed.

Featured Records

Please help us work on these records. We will work to refresh this list as records are transcribed.

- Journal of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon. Transcribe this record.
- Angelini Zenobio’s Application for Permission to Depart from the United States. Transcribe this record.
- Text of Khrushchev Message to Kennedy, 10/27/1962. Transcribe this record.
- Response to and Inquiry Letter from Mrs. Helen Odlie Regarding the Legality of Saluting the Flag. Transcribe this record.
- Manual for Army Cooks, 9/19/1879. Transcribe this record.

www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/transcribe/missions.html
Tagging Missions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Documerica Photographs</th>
<th>Maps</th>
<th>Football</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tag photographs of the program sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency to document subjects of environmental concern in America during the 1970s.</td>
<td>Tag details and features in these maps of the US states, the Panama Canal Zone, WWI trenches in France, US Civil War battles and more.</td>
<td>Add tags to these photographs of football games, players, coaches and fans (military, civilian and Presidents).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese Relocation - Minidoka</th>
<th>Snow</th>
<th>World War II Posters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Add tags to photographs of the Minidoka Relocation Center where Japanese-Americans were interned from 1942-45.</td>
<td>January snowstorms have us thinking about snow and blizzards. Tag records about winter storms and their aftermath.</td>
<td>These posters were used to promote the war effort, help us tag images in the posters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter from George Washington to Henry Lee

Philadelphia, July 21, 1793

Sirs,

Would have had the honor of receiving your letter of this day since I have not heard from my sister in England. In my last, I mentioned the Lady Washington and an account of a journey to the West Indies. Since then, I have heard nothing from her. She is supposed to have returned to the City [Philadelphia] some days ago. I have been informed that she and Mr. Hamilton are about to take a trip to Mount Vernon. I am sure you will be interested in this news.

George Washington

Mount Vernon
Philadelphia July 21, 1793

(Private)

Dear Sir,

I should have thanked you at an earlier period for your obliging letter of the 14th. Alt, or had it not come to my hands a day or two only before I set out for Mount Vernon; and at a time when I was much hurried, and indeed very much perplexed with the disputed memorials and what not with which the government were secrerated by one or other of the respuent representatives of the powers at war. And because since my return to this city...
Philadelphia July 21, 1793

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**National Archives Identifier:** 2132484  
**Local Identifier:** 51244  
**Creator(s):** Department of Agriculture. Forest Service. Region 9 (Eastern Region). 1965- (Most Recent)  
Department of Agriculture. Division of Forestry. 1881-7/1/1901 (Predecessor)  
**From:** Series: Historic Photographs, ca. 1880 - ca. 1970  
Record Group 95: Records of the Forest Service, 1870 - 2008

**Level of Description:** Item  
**Type(s) of Archival Materials:** Photographs and other Graphic Materials  
**This item was produced or created:** 3/1906  
**The creator compiled or maintained the series between:** ca. 1880 - ca. 1970  
**Access Restriction(s):** Unrestricted  
**Use Restriction(s):** Unrestricted  
**Subjects Represented in the Archival Material(s):** Chippewa National Forest (Minn.)  
Logging  
Timber management

**Original caption:** T144, R29, Cass County, Minn. Combination snow plow and rut cutter for keeping roads in repair being hauled behind sled train load of logs. Joseph Bisbon, contractor, operating the levers in the foreground. Note the steam from the log hauler showing over.
Celebrities in the Archives!

Did you know the National Archives Catalog features many images of celebrities and other well-known people?

Our records document citizen's interactions with the federal government, including USO appearances, military records, immigration records, visits with the Presidents, and more. Celebrities you'll find in our Catalog include movie stars, musicians, authors, and athletes, often before they were famous!

How many of these well-known people can you identify?

Take our quiz!
History Hub

A support community managed by the National Archives for researchers, citizen historians, archival professionals, and open government advocates
WELCOME
This group is a place for transcribers to meet each other, share tips/strategies, find new challenges, and get support for your work.

ASK TRANSCRIBERS YOUR QUESTION
Type your question
Ask it

RECENT CONTENT
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4 weeks ago

Help Transcribe War Dept Records, 1784-1800 by Keith Donohue
6 months ago

Do you transcribe with music playing or silence? by Noah Wolfe
6 months ago

POPULAR CONTENT
How To Log Into the National Archives Catalog to Transcribe Documents

Help Transcribe African American History Records

How to volunteer to transcribe? by Rozelle Trizuto
4 weeks ago

How should you transcribe a draft?

How can we access the OCR text that is "behind the scenes" of the digital objects?

JOIN THE DISCUSSION
How to volunteer to transcribe?
How should you transcribe a draft?
How can we access the OCR text that is "behind the scenes" of the digital objects?
The Innovation Hub: Citizen Scanning Project

Researchers may use our scanners for FREE

Asking researchers to commit to scan at least file unit worth of materials

Researchers can take home a copy of the JPEGs and we will add a copy of the images to the catalog

Researchers get credit in the catalog

New way of thinking and connecting to the records

Unfortunately, the Hub is only located in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC (Archives I) right now
Citizen Scanning Project - How Can this Benefit You?

Great for finding family history and information

Scanners are easy to use AND no need to bring your own equipment

Immediately take home a copy of the images

Help others find their history with images added online

This is a great new way to Make Access Happen
Innovation Hub: What Have We Done?

Since July 2015 (when we opened) through July 2016:

- Pages Scanned: 69,276
- Files Scanned: 3,073
- Over 270 Individual Citizen Scanners

Photograph from William E. Strong's CMSR; Scanned in Innovation Hub. NAID: 20014029
Contact us!

Suzanne Isaacs: suzanne.isaacs@nara.gov

Meredith Doviak: meredith.doviak@nara.gov
Presenters didn’t get to your question?

You may email us at inquire@nara.gov