Presidential Materials in the National Archives Catalog

Did you know that every U. S. President since Herbert Hoover has a Presidential Library, and that these Libraries are administered by the National Archives and Records Administration? Information about much of the archival material held at the Libraries can be found in the National Archives Catalog alongside records from government agencies. Archivists at the Libraries, just like archivists at other NARA locations across the country, are busy getting all
of their collections described in the Catalog. These Catalog descriptions contain details that help users decide whether a collection might be relevant to their research, such as what or whom the material is about, how much material there is, when the material was created, collected, and/or maintained, who created it, and what format(s) are included. As materials are digitized through the various digitization programs and projects happening at the Libraries they are making these digital objects available through the Catalog as well.

Collections at the Presidential Libraries, especially those at Libraries established prior to the Presidential Records Act of 1978, often have more in common with personal papers collections found in archival repositories outside of the government than with the federal agency records you can find in the Catalog. In addition to records that document the day-to-day work of each administration (materials created by the President and others who worked in the White House), Libraries also hold donated collections containing the personal and professional files of family members, friends, and other associates of the President. Sometimes the collections are surprising; for example, the John F. Kennedy Library holds the largest collection of Ernest Hemingway materials in the world (read about how the collection ended up there).

You can learn more about the materials held at the Presidential Libraries on our website, on our Presidential Libraries FAQ page, or by performing a search in the Catalog and refining by location, as seen here:

If you have questions about how to find records from Presidential Libraries in the Catalog, send us an email at catalog@nara.gov.

New and interesting records in the Catalog

Branch of Alaskan Geology: Alaskan Aerial Survey Expedition Photographs, 1926-1979
Black and white aerial photographs of 10,000 square miles of southeast Alaska.
Surveys were taken by U.S. Navy personnel, airplanes, and equipment in cooperation with the Geological Survey.

Mount Edgecumbe Boarding School: Yearbooks, 1947-1983
Yearbooks or annuals from Mount Edgecumbe Boarding School. Journalism students, student photographers, student artists and others produced the "Taheta" yearbook for the years 1947 through 1983.

Committee on Un-American Activities: Minutes of Full Committee and Subcommittee Meetings of the Internal Security Committee During the 80th through 93rd Congresses, 1945-1976
Contains the minutes, drafts of minutes, meeting notices, committee resolutions, staff studies, reports, memoranda, testimony, roll call votes, and other documents discussed at meetings and entered into the minutes.