



Senior Agency Official for Records Management 2023 Annual Report

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requires Senior Agency Officials for Records Management (SAORM) to provide an annual report demonstrating how agencies are handling important records management initiatives as identified by NARA.

NARA uses the reports to determine the overall progress of the federal government in managing its records and the transition away from paper to digital formats, and to identify best practices and model solutions within federal agencies.

On June 28, 2019, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and NARA issued a memorandum, *Transition to Electronic Records* ([M-19-21](#)), to ensure that all federal records are created, retained, and managed in electronic formats. M-19-21 gave agencies until the end of December 2022 to comply with several specific deadlines.

On December 23, 2022, OMB and NARA issued a new memorandum, *Update to Transition to Electronic Records* ([M-23-07](#)) reinforcing the goals in M-19-21 and extending the 2022 deadlines to June 30, 2024.

Additionally, on January 1, 2021, Congress enacted the Preservation of Electronic Messages and Other Records Act, amending 44 U.S.C. Chapter 29, that requires the electronic capture, management, and preservation of such electronic records in accordance with the records disposition requirements of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 33.

This year's SAORM report provides an opportunity for agencies to report on plans and progress towards electronic recordkeeping and preservation under these requirements, as well as other important records management initiatives.

The reporting period begins on January 8, 2024, and reports are due back to NARA no later than March 8, 2024.

NARA plans to post your 2023 SAORM report on the NARA website upon receipt. Please ensure that your agency's report is a publicly releasable version. This action is in the interest of transparency in government and to promote collaboration and communication among agencies. NARA intends to list any non-responding agencies in a summary report on our website.

Instructions for Reporting:

- This template covers records management program developments, including those related to the transition to electronic recordkeeping as required by M-19-21 and M-23-07.
- Please be brief and precise in your answers. Limit answers to each question to no more than 500 words.
- Please complete the questions/items below and send the report to rmsselfassessment@nara.gov. Include the words “SAORM 2023 Annual Report - [Agency Name]” in the subject line of the email.
- If you are responsible for records management in multiple agencies, components, or bureaus, please determine how you will submit reports to NARA. While NARA prefers a comprehensive report, you may submit separate reports for each component.

NARA may follow up with agencies to obtain additional information and/or documentation related to responses provided in the template.

As in previous years, we will be validating selected questions and responses from agencies. Your agency may be selected at random to provide additional documentation and/or take part in interviews to discuss your records management program activities.

Provide the following information (required):

- 1. What agencies, bureaus, components, or offices are covered by this report and your position as SAORM, and which will be reporting separately?**

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

- 2. Will your agency meet the goal to manage, preserve and transfer all permanent records in an electronic format with appropriate metadata by June 30, 2024? (M-19-21, 1.2 and M-23-07, 1.1 and 1.2)**

Yes

No

Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)

NGA is currently utilizing digitization capabilities to comply with NARA digitization guidance for analog paper records. NGA has experienced delays in the digitization of

films and other media types unique to NGA, to appropriately assign metadata to permanent records. NGA has submitted a request to NARA to authorize NGA to use unique electronic data types for the transfer of records to NARA. No exception will be requested.

3. Will your agency meet the goal to manage and preserve all temporary records in an electronic format by June 30, 2024? (M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3)

- Yes
 No
 Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)

NGA continues utilizing some digitization capabilities that implement digitization process where these capabilities minimize costs and resources while maximizing digitization of existing analog records. All current and new temporary records are in electronic format. Legacy temporary records will be digitized in accordance with M-23-07,1.3.

4. Will your agency meet the requirements of M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3 to close agency-operated records storage facilities by June 30, 2024? (Choose all that apply)

- Yes
 No
 Not applicable, my agency does not have agency-operated records storage facilities
 Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)

NGA's storage area does not meet size or threshold as Records storage facility IAW M-19-21.

5. Will your agency meet the requirements of M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3 and transfer inactive records to a NARA Federal Records Center (FRC) or commercial storage facilities by June 30, 2024? (Choose all that apply)

- Yes, we will transfer to the FRC
 Yes, we will transfer to commercial storage facilities
 No

Not applicable, all records are in electronic format

If 'No,' why not? (Please include if you will be submitting an exception request and/or details of specific challenges in meeting the goal.)

6. Does your agency have a Data Management Strategy that includes records management principles? (<https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/resources/cdo-rm-assessment-report.pdf>)

Yes

No

Please explain your response.

NGA's Data Management Strategy is aligned to the DoD Records Automation Strategy in which IT will be utilized to minimize user burden through the use of metadata, business processes, and machine learning. In addition, integrating RM into NGA's design, development, enhancement, and implementation of electronic information systems to include cloud-based.

7. In your role as SAORM, do you meet with your Agency Records Officer(s) to discuss the agency records management program's goals?

Yes

No

Not applicable, my agency does not currently have a designated Agency Records Officer

Please explain your response. (If 'Yes,' please include how often, a description of topics, and outcomes of these meetings. If 'No,' please explain why not.)

In an effort to measure the achievement and progress towards the records management program goals, periodic meetings and discussions on NGA digitization efforts, the agency's records control schedule, and resource needs are discussed with the Agency Records Officer (ARO) to ensure program progress is consistently on target towards achieving compliance with OMB guidance.

8. Has your agency incorporated NARA's digitization standards into your Information Resource Management (IRM) Strategic Plan? (44 U.S.C. 3506(b)(2) and OMB Circular A-130)

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- Yes
 No
 Not applicable, my agency is not currently digitizing records

Please explain your response. (If 'Yes,' what steps have been taken? If 'No,' why not?)

NGA continues to expand its digitization program in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 3506(b)(2) and OMB A-130 by utilizing digitization capabilities that implement digitization processes where these capabilities minimize costs and resources while maximizing digitization of existing analog records. The digitization program continues to be expanded to meet A-130 compliance.

9. Does your agency have a social media strategy that includes capturing and maintaining records in accordance with records management statutes and regulations?

- Yes
 No

Please explain your response.

NGA's Office of Corporate Communications manages the agency's social media and has incorporated the records management processes and guidance in accordance with their Office File Plan.

10. Is there specific policy or guidance you need from NARA to support the strategic direction of your records management program?

- Yes
 No

Please explain your response and include any comments on existing, pending, and future topics.

NARA has, and continues to provide sufficient support as it relates to the strategic direction of the NGA records management program.