



# Pacific Currents

A Regional Newsletter

National Archives and Records Administration - Pacific Region

San Bruno, Laguna Niguel, and Riverside, California

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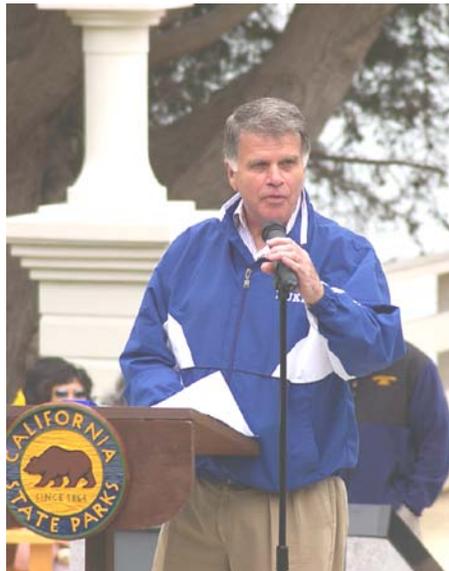
## U.S. Archivist Ferriero Speaks at Angel Island Centennial

On July 31, Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero visited Angel Island in San Francisco Bay to mark the 100th anniversary of the Angel Island Immigration Station.

Surrounded by views of the Bay, Mr. Ferriero spoke to an estimated 1,200 participants who journeyed by ferry from the mainland to be part of a bittersweet centennial commemoration titled, "Reflections/Renewal: A Tribute to Angel Island Immigrants."

Angel Island processed more than 175,000 Chinese immigrants from 1910-1940. Most stayed two to six weeks; some were kept there for longer, up to two years. Angel Island served as the main gatekeeper for Asian immigrants to America as Ellis Island in New York City harbor did for European immigrants. However, unlike Ellis Island, where most immigrants were screened for medical reasons and released within a matter of hours, the purpose of the Immigration Station at Angel Island was to exclude most Chinese immigrants.

Angel Island became a California State Park in 1954 and features guided tours of the Immigration Station's preserved buildings and



Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero

artifacts, including hand-carved poetry on some of the detention facility walls. Angel Island has a long history beyond its use as an immigration processing station. Three thousand years ago the island was a fishing and hunting site for Coastal Miwok Indians. It was later a haven for Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala, a cattle ranch, and a U.S. Army post. During World War II, Japanese and German Prisoners of War were held on the island.

The National Archives at San Francisco (San Bruno) has for 20 years partnered with the Angel Island Immigration Station

## NARA Reports on Web 2.0 Use by Federal Agencies

Have government agencies embraced new social media? The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) shares the answer in its new study: *A Report on Federal Web 2.0 Use and Record Value*. The report is online at

<http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/resources/web2.0-use.pdf>

The report explores how Federal agencies are using web 2.0 tools to create and share information. Tools examined include internal and external blogs, wikis, social networking, and other collaborative web-based technologies.

Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero, a blogger and Tweeter himself, stressed the importance of such virtual outreach: "Social media and other web 2.0 tools are key aspects in furthering transparency and open government and through this study NARA provides a foundation for understanding and addressing the records management challenges these tools present."

During this review, several characteristics were identified as affecting the record value of this information, including:

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## Archivist visits Angel Island

Foundation (organizer of this Centennial event) and the Asian community. National Archives employees from San Bruno were heavily involved in all aspects of the event, including preparation and dramatization of the living-history script, selecting items for the permanent exhibit, staffing of our NARA booth on that day, and photographic documentation of the commemoration.

Actors in 1910s period costumes performed a “living history” Angel Island Interrogation Table script drawn from the Chinese Exclusion-era Federal immigration files preserved at the National Archives at San Bruno. This drama drew interest in the new permanent exhibit there, featuring facsimiles of a number of National Archives documents. Video recordings of Mr. Ferriero's speech and the living history Interrogation Drama are available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny30LjCy3-U>.

The centennial celebration included a book signing for *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*, a new book by Erika Lee and Judy Yung, who carried out much of their research at the National Archives.

Mr. Ferriero brought welcome news about the imminent transfer of the additional Alien Registration (“A Files”) to the National Archives at San Bruno by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. These “A Files” will supplement our heavily used collections, available for historical and genealogical research, which include nearly 200,000 Federal investigative case files for Chinese and other Asian immigrants detained and investigated at Angel Island during the Chinese Exclusion Acts era.

## San Bruno Fire Update

Our friends, neighbors, and employees continue to mourn the loss of community members in the catastrophic natural gas pipeline fire of September 9. Although none of our NARA employees was directly impacted, volunteers, friends, acquaintances and their families were.

The fire was a mile and a half from our facility and there was no impact on the records stored here. Our building and stack areas are protected by perimeter and interior alarm systems and a robust fire suppression system.

Our thoughts are with the families of those who lost loved ones and property in this tragic incident as well as those still recovering from serious injuries.

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## NARA Web 2.0 Study

- Extensive duplication of information
- The ability to record increasing aspects of process
- Syndication of content to reach new audiences
- Additional structure and context
- Perceptions of the authoritativeness and longevity of content

Six Federal agencies were assessed on their use of and policies regarding web 2.0 tools. Representatives from an additional 19 Federal agencies participated in a focus group session.

The study concludes that depending on function and use, records created should continue to be appraised based on business, evidential, informational, and contextual values.

Study recommendations include clarifying the statutory definition of a Federal record, addressing transfer requirements for permanent web 2.0 records into NARA's holdings, mitigating public expectations of content longevity, and integrating records management into agency social media policy.

For further information and discussion about the report, see NARA's National Records Management Program Blog, *Records Express* at

<http://blogs.archives.gov/records-express/>.

### FRC Digital Capture Program

The Riverside FRC's Digital Imaging Staff produces digital copies of temporary records to make customer agency operations more efficient. For more information, contact

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## So What Else is New?

### DocsTeach, a New Online Tool for Teachers

Just in time for the start of a new school year, the National Archives announces the launch of [www.DocsTeach.org](http://www.DocsTeach.org), a new online tool for teaching with documents.

"DocsTeach.org is a significant and welcome addition to our popular education programs," said Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero. "It will engage teachers and students in new ways and stir their interest in history through the use of original documents in the National Archives. It is also consistent with our goals to make as much of our holdings available to the public as easily as possible."

### NARA Issues Guidelines on Cloud Computing

New guidance for Federal Agencies on records management and cloud computing issued last month builds on the NARA FAQs about Cloud Computing posted earlier on [Archives.gov](http://Archives.gov).

The Bulletin includes a general contracting clause for Federal agencies to use when procuring cloud computing solutions and negotiating contracts with service providers. This clause can be modified to fit the planned type of service and the agency's specific records management needs.

For more information on this cloud computing guidance, see NARA's National Records Management Program's blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/records-express/>.

## Riverside Open House a Hit: 125 in Attendance



Visitors to NARA's Riverside facility tour the archival bay at our Open House, September 15, 2010. In attendance were congressional staffers, federal employees, genealogists, historians, educators, archivists, and librarians.



**FREE!**

### Records Transfer, Reference and Digital Capture Workshop

Tuesday, November 30, 2010

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Riverside Federal  
Records Center  
Perris, CA

To register, contact Susie Bielawski at (951) 956-2060 or email [susie.bielawski@nara.gov](mailto:susie.bielawski@nara.gov).