



# Pacific Currents

Newsletter of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa & Trust Territory of the Pacific  
Facilities and staff in San Bruno, Laguna Niguel, and Riverside, California  
[archives.gov/san-francisco](http://archives.gov/san-francisco) [archives.gov/records-mgmt](http://archives.gov/records-mgmt) [archives.gov/riverside](http://archives.gov/riverside)

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## THE MONUMENTS MEN

The soon-to-be-released motion picture *The Monuments Men* is based on the true story of the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Art, and Archives Section (MFA&A) that rescued Nazi-looted cultural items during and after World War II. Men and women from varied backgrounds, including from the National Archives, worked under sometimes perilous conditions to recover works of art and documents and restore them to their rightful owners.

One such archivist was Seymour J. Pomrenze, who in December 1945 was asked by the Archivist of the United States to go to Europe and help reorganize German archives. Early in 1946 he was put in charge of the Offenback Archival Depot (OAD) in Frankfurt, a collection point for millions of looted documents from German-owned libraries, archives, and Jewish cultural and religious items.

A major part of Pomrenze's responsibilities was

restitution. When OAD was declared a first priority for MFA&A restitution efforts, he immediately set about accomplishing that task. The first restitution was made on March 12 when 371 crates of material departed for the Netherlands on a Dutch barge. During March the depot shipped out 242,840 items. The restitution effort continued in April, with nine railroad freight cars departing for France on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and a second Dutch barge loaded with Dutch and Belgian material leaving on the 11th. Pomrenze left from the OAD at the end of April and returned to the United States on May 8. He was discharged from the Army in June.

### Killed in Action

Not all MFA&A staff stories ended happily. Walter J. Huchthausen was a young architecture professor at the University of Minnesota before joining the Army in 1942. In December 1944, he was ordered to report to the Ninth Army for duty as an MFA&A Officer. In March 1945 he crossed the Rhine with the Ninth Army and headed east. On the afternoon of April 2, Huchthausen and an assistant were caught by German machine gun fire



U.S. Generals Omar Bradley, George Patten and Dwight Eisenhower inspect Nazi-stolen artwork in a German salt mine. April 1945.

## New Records Management Training Requirements Announced for Federal Agency Records Officers

Last month NARA issued a bulletin requiring that by December 31, 2014, national agency records officers must have the NARA Certificate of Federal Records Management Training. New incumbents must possess the Certificate within one year of assuming the position of Agency Records Officer. This bulletin implements Section 2.3 of Office of Management and Budget/NARA Directive M-12-18, Managing Government Records, dated August 24, 2012.

As part of its national records management training program, NARA awards a Certificate of Federal Records Management Training to individuals who successfully complete Knowledge Area (KA) courses 2 through 6 and then pass the online examinations associated with each course. This requirement applies to all formally appointed Federal agency records officers. Agency records officers are designated by their agencies in accordance with 36 CFR 1220.34(b).

NARA encourages all agency records officers to complete the existing KA series for the Certificate. However, to assist agencies in complying with this requirement, NARA has developed a process for granting limited **exemptions** and **exceptions** to completing the existing KA series and examinations in their entirety. For more on this bulletin, including how and when exemptions and exceptions are granted, go to [NARA Bulletin 2014-03](#)

### Also in this issue:

- Records Management Training for FY14, page 4
- Records Mgmt. Webinars, page 2
- Meet FRANKLIN, the FDR Library Online, page 3
- FREE FRC Services Workshops, page 3

Continued on page 2

## Monuments Men Saved Archives from Nazi Destruction

*Continued from page 1*

while on their way to answer an urgent call from the XIX Corps G-5 Staff, in whose area an important find of art treasures had been made. His assistant escaped unharmed but Huchthausen was hit in the head and killed. Huchthausen would be buried at the United States Military Cemetery at Margraten, in the southeastern part of the Netherlands.

### Postscript on Seymour Pomrenze and the Monuments Men

During 1947 through 1949, Pomrenze worked as a consultant with the National Archives, and then in 1950 joined the Departmental Records Branch of the Army's Adjutant General's Office. During the next 26 years he worked for the Army as a records manager. Although a civilian for most his army career, he returned to active duty and deployed to Vietnam from 1970 through 1971. At retirement, he was a Colonel and Archivist of the Army.

In 2007 he received the 2007 National Humanities Award from President George W. Bush in the White House for his part in rescuing important materials, documents, Torah Scrolls and works of art and restoring them to their rightful owners. He passed away in 2011. This article is based on a series of blog posts by Gregory Bradsher, see [Monuments Men](#) .



Seymour Pomrenze with President Bush while receiving a National Humanities Award with other veterans of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section.

## Records Management Training Webinars Series for FY2014

Get the New Year started right with training! All you need is an internet-connected computer and a phone to connect to the toll-free audio conference portion of the course. You can participate from your office, your conference room or from home. Register once to enroll in four 90 minute sessions. The cost includes all four sessions.

To register, go to: [NARA Learn Website](#)

If you have questions, please contact us at:  
[nara.recordsmanagement@nara.gov](mailto:nara.recordsmanagement@nara.gov) .

### Basic Records Operations

(\$150 per connection)

This course describes what to file, how to file it, and how to remove files no longer needed for current business. It covers the variety of activities, including practical how-to's, related to Federal records. The webinar format allows participants to build their skills during the 90 minute sessions. Directed assignments help participants to apply these skills to their own workplace during the course. The target audience for this course is records liaisons, secretaries, files custodians, and others who maintain records as part of their jobs.

#### Dates offered:

- ▶ March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2014 (Mondays) , 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Pacific
- ▶ April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2014 (Thursdays), 7:00 – 8:30 a.m., Pacific
- ▶ August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2014 (Wednesdays), 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., Pacific
- ▶ September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2014 (Mondays), 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Pacific

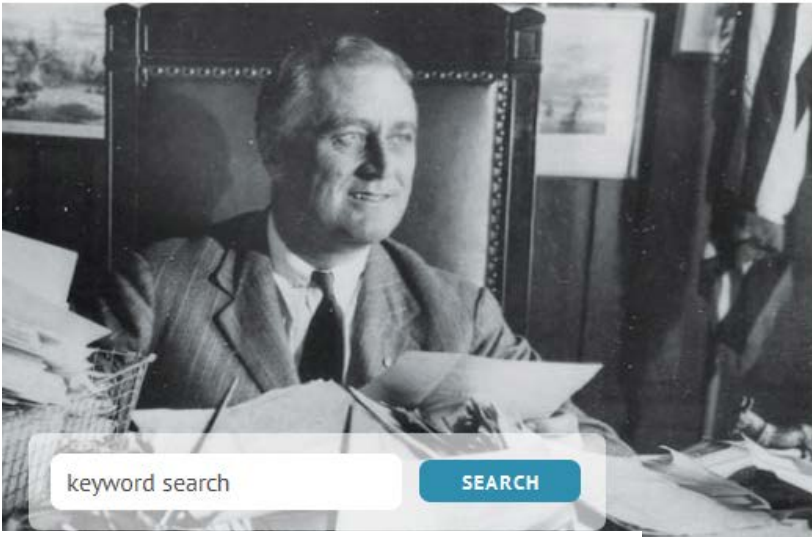
### Vital Business Information

(\$150 per connection)

This course provides the knowledge and skills required to identify, protect, and make readily available the vital records needed to support the resumption of critical business functions after a disaster, and to establish and administer a vital records program. The webinar format will allow for participants to build their skills during four 90 minute sessions. We will use directed assignments to allow participants to apply these skills to their own workplace during the course. The goal is for participants to have a Vital Records Plan completed by the end of the course. This course targets Federal employees and/or contractors with records responsibilities, COOP managers, line managers and staff, and information technology.

#### Dates offered:

- ▶ February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2014 (Wednesdays), 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., Pacific
- ▶ June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2014 (Tuesdays), 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Pacific
- ▶ September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2014 (Thursdays), 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m., Pacific



### Fully Digitized Collections or Series

- FDR's Map Room Papers
- FDR's President's Secretary's File (PSF)
- Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations
- Presidential Press Conferences
- Eleanor Roosevelt Selected Correspondence: 1933-45
- Eleanor Roosevelt Selected Correspondence: 1945-47
- Selected Documents on the Holocaust and Refugees
- The FDR Library Significant Documents Collection
- The Grace Tully Collection

## Meet FRANKLIN: Making access happen through digitization

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum recently launched a new virtual research room and online digital repository, making 350,000 documents and 2,000 public domain photographs available online. Users can search by keyword, browse through photograph galleries and document lists, and, for the first time, open entire folders of archival documents online. This is a level of discovery that, until now, was only possible in-person. And the Library plans to add even more digitized content in the months and years to come.

Documents include Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's New Deal and wartime correspondence with world leaders, government administrators, and regular Americans. Photographs include public domain images of the Roosevelts throughout their respective lifetimes, as well as subject areas like the Great Depression, New Deal, and World War II.

The Roosevelt Library, located in Hyde Park, New York, is one of thirteen Presidential Libraries throughout the nation that are part of the National Archives. You can access FRANKLIN through the Library's website at [www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu).

## FREE TRAINING: USING FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER SERVICES

These free full-day Federal Records Center Program workshops teach you:

- ▶ About our Archives and Records Center Information System (ARCIS)
- ▶ How to transfer records to your Federal Records Center
- ▶ How to make a request for reference services using our on-line Reference Services
- ▶ About our digital-imaging services

### When

February 13, 2014

March 12, 2014

July 31, 2014

August 20, 2014

### Where

Ventura, CA

Perris, CA

Flagstaff, AZ

Perris, CA

### Information and

### Registration

Diane Jones (951)  
956-2064

[diane.jones@nara.gov](mailto:diane.jones@nara.gov)

# Records Management Training, Fiscal Year 2014

To register go to [archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/](http://archives.gov/records-mgmt/training/) or email our training registrar at [laguna.workshops@nara.gov](mailto:laguna.workshops@nara.gov)  
For more information on our workshops, go to <http://nara.learn.com/recordsmanagement-training>

## By Course Name:

**Basic Records Operations** February 12, 2014, Ventura;  
July 31, 2014, Flagstaff

**Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (Knowledge Area 2) February 4-5, 2014,  
Las Vegas; March 4-2014, Honolulu; March 25-2014, Sacramento;  
April 29-30, 2014, Denver; August 19-20, San Diego

**Records Schedule Implementation** (Knowledge Area 4) March 10-11, 2014, Honolulu; February 24-25, 2014, Las Vegas; May 12-13, 2014, Denver; August 4-5, 2014, Sacramento; September 15-16, 2014, San Diego

**Records Management Program Development** (Knowledge Area 6)  
February 28, 2014, Las Vegas; March 14, 2014, Honolulu;  
May 16, 2014, Denver; August 7, 2014, Sacramento;  
September 19, 2014, San Diego

**Records Management Overview** (Knowledge Area 1)  
February 3, 2014, Las Vegas; March 3, 2014, Honolulu; March 24, 2014, Sacramento; April 28, 2014, Denver; August 18, 2014, San Diego

**Records Scheduling** (Knowledge Area 3)  
February 6-7, 2014, Las Vegas; March 6-7, 2014, Honolulu;  
March 27-28, 2014, Sacramento; May 1-2, 2014, Denver;  
August 21-22, 2014, San Diego

**Asset and Risk Management** (Knowledge Area 5)  
May 14-15, 2014, Denver; March 12-13, 2014, Honolulu;  
February 26-27, 2014, Las Vegas; August 5-6, 2014, Sacramento; September 17-18, 2014, San Diego

**Using Federal Records Center Services** (Free)  
(in sequence with **Basic Records Operations**)  
February 13, 2014, Ventura; July 30, 2014, Flagstaff

## By Location:

### Denver, Colorado

**Records Management Overview** (KA1), April 28, 2014; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2), April 29-30, 2014; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), May 1-2, 2014; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), May 12-13, 2014; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5), May 14-15, 2014; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), May 16, 2014

### Honolulu, Hawaii

**Records Management Overview** (KA1), March 3, 2014; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2), March 4, 2014; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), March 6, 2014; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), March 10, 2014; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5), March 12, 2014; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), March 14, 2014

### Sacramento, California

**Records Management Overview** (KA1), March 24, 2014; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2), March 25, 2014; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), March 27, 2014; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), August 4-5, 2014; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5), August 6-7, 2014; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), August 8, 2014

### Ventura, California

**Basic Records Operations**, February 12, 2014; **Using Federal Records Center Services** (Free), February 13, 2014

### Flagstaff, Arizona

**Basic Records Operations**, July 31, 2014; **Using Federal Records Center Services** (Free), July 30, 2014

### Las Vegas, Nevada

**Records Management Overview** (KA1), February 3, 2014; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2), February 4, 2014; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), February 6, 2014; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), February 24, 2014; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5), February 26, 2014; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), February 28, 2014

### San Diego, California

**Records Management Overview** (KA1), August 18, 2014; **Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information** (KA2), August 19-20, 2014; **Records Scheduling** (KA3), August 21-22, 2014; **Records Schedule Implementation** (KA4), September 15, 2014; **Asset and Risk Management** (KA5), September 17, 2014; **Records Management Program Development** (KA6), September 19, 2014