Online Public Access

The way it used to work is we had three systems that you needed to look in to find any of the records that you were interested in. Hi, I'm Pam Wright at the National Archives in Washington, DC. You are looking at a new search and display for the research section of archives-dot-gov. People have asked us for a Google-like search which I think this really provides. There are around ten billion records at the National Archives and we're gonna show you one.

November 10, 1943. Dear Mr. President, I really don't know how to write a letter to the President of United States but I'll try to do my best. The point is I'd like to be mascot of the Marines. I'm twelve years old. Your friend and also a Democrat, L. J. Weil.

This is a Zeutschel book scanner, or document scanner device. We're trying to impart a certain quality level and likeness so that most people when they're seeing something online they will get the sense and experience that they actually can interact with the document.

Let's show you how easy it is to find L.J. Weil's letter to the President. The new page is really very simple. Type in "marine mascots," and I press the enter button. And there it is. And down here is the response from the Marine Corps.

Dear Weil, we hope that when you reach the required age for enlistment in the Marine Corps you will avail yourself of the opportunity of becoming a real Marine.

Photos, to moving images. The "We Can Do It" poster, that famous poster. In the new system you can type in "we can do it" and it pops up right at the top.

You can see which file unit it belongs to, which series and which record group. Just tons of additional information, for the first time all in one place.

Take a look at it, send us your comments. We want to know what works best for you.

http://www.archives.gov/research/search/index.html