Archives, Public Policy & You

Electronic Government Records

… Touch Everyone's Lives

From correspondence via email to the most complex geo-spatial database to vital statistics, electronic records touch all aspects of our lives. The volume and complexity of electronic government records and information continues to increase. All levels of government must work together to ensure that electronic records created today are available in the future to protect citizens' rights, document government, and preserve history.

1,693% growth in state and territorial e-records, 2006-2016

… Ensure Government Transparency

Government records contain public information. Government decisions and policy are being made and announced electronically. Records are key to the documentation of government policies, actions, and intent. Government data often are used at multiple levels of decision making, whether local, state, or federal. We must capture and preserve these records to be accountable to our citizens.

1,371TB of electronic government records held by state and territorial archives

… Need Immediate Attention

Electronic records require immediate attention to ensure that they are preserved and accessible. Preservation of electronic records is more complex than preservation of paper records. Sustained resources are needed to ensure the long-term management and accessibility of our nation's electronic records.

445% growth in electronic over paper records in state and territorial archives

… Need Sustained Funding

Increased investment in collaborative research is the key to finding best practices and sustainable models for the long-term preservation of electronic records. Federal grant programs from IMLS, NHPRC, and NEH play a critical role in supporting this vital research funding.

0.007% average annual amount of total budget that states / territories spend on archives

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The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) is a nonprofit membership organization of the state and territorial government archives in the fifty states, five territories, and District of Columbia. Through collaborative research, education, and advocacy, CoSA provides leadership that strengthens and supports state and territorial archives in their work to preserve and provide access to government records. CoSA facilitates networking, information sharing, and project collaboration among its member organizations to help state and territorial government archives with their responsibilities for protecting the rights and historical documents of the American people. Read more at **statearchivists.org**.

The National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) is dedicated to the improvement of federal, state, and local government records and information management and the professional development of government records administrators and archivists. Members include county, municipal, and special district governments; state agencies (state records centers, archives and libraries); federal agencies and employees; public universities; and provincial and institutional programs. Read more at **nagara.org**.

The Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC) provides a venue for information exchange among the leaders of regional archival organizations and between the regional organizations and the Society of American Archivists. RAAC fosters collaboration to streamline actions, reduce costs, and increase services to archivists around the nation in such areas as advocacy, public awareness, education, disaster planning/recovery, and grant development. Read more at **archivists.org/groups/regional-archival-associations-consortium-raac**.

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) is the oldest and largest national professional association of archivists in North America, representing more than 6,200 archivists employed by businesses, universities, governments, libraries, and historical organizations. Archivists are the professionals who collect, preserve, and make available for research historically significant documents, vital records, and other materials. Read more at **archivists.org**.