

## **Archiving on the Hill: Preparing the Archival Papers of Senator Jim Bunning (R-KY)**

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**Abstract:** Unlike records of the President or Congressional committees, the personal papers produced by US senators and their offices are the property of the senator. Although there are a growing number of archivists working in the offices of current senators as permanent staff, many senators find that the most crucial time for archiving comes just prior to retirement. Through our work with the collection of Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning, we aim to demonstrate the task that stands before archivists of retiring senators and some of our solutions. Organizing senate office collections involves a delicate balance of archiving and records management.

Senator Bunning has been a member of Congress for 23 years, 12 in the House of Representatives and 11 in the Senate. Prior to his involvement in politics, he had a successful career as a baseball pitcher, playing for the Detroit Tigers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Philadelphia Phillies, and Los Angeles Dodgers. In 1996, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. His senatorial collection reflects all of these points in his long career.

As preparation for the transfer of the collection to Northern Kentucky University, the archival team processed over 300 boxes of speeches, legislative research, office memos, press clippings, videos, colleague and constituent letters, and lobbying materials housed at the National Archives Federal Records Center. In addition, we cataloged over 2000 pieces of memorabilia. All the forms used to organize the materials were created by archival interns working in the office.

### **About the authors:**

*Dina Mazina* is an MLS student focusing in Archives and Records Management at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies. She will graduate in December of 2010. She has been interning at Senator Bunning's office since January of 2010 and supervises the archiving project.

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