

# Connecting Presidential Collections



A grant project sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to make presidential collections more accessible.



SAA Research Forum 2012  
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# Connecting Presidential Collections

We are creating a web portal that aggregates metadata from partner organizations and allows federated searches across collections.

Why am I here at SAA talking to you today?

- Archivists work with presidential materials
- Archivists work at presidential sites and libraries
- Spreading the word
- Hoping our project might be applicable to other fields/collections



# Miller Center at UVA

## History. Policy. Impact.

The Miller Center is a nonpartisan research institute that seeks to expand understanding of the presidency, policy, and political history. Based at the University of Virginia, the Miller Center is committed to work grounded in rigorous scholarship and advanced through civil discourse.



# American President

American President is a general reference website on all the U.S. presidents. It is made up of a variety of components—including essays, a speech archive, and photo gallery.



## American President: A Reference Resource



### About the Miller Center

The Miller Center is a nonpartisan institute that seeks to expand understanding of the presidency, policy, and political history, providing critical insights for the nation's governance challenges.

### Presidential Speech Archive

Presidents have turned to rhetoric throughout U.S. history to persuade, to justify, and to inspire. Although Presidents have been making public speeches since the founding of the United States, much has changed about the content and delivery. Read, listen, and watch presidential speeches from George Washington to Barack Obama in the Presidential Speech Archive.



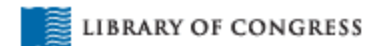
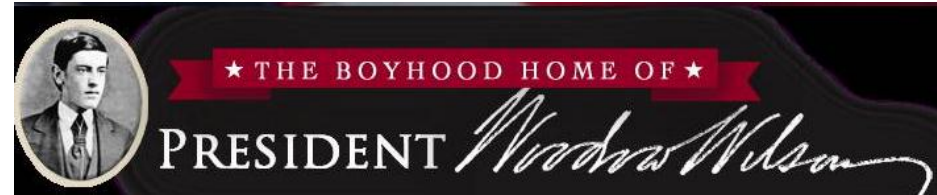
### Presidential Recordings Program

The Miller Center is home to the secret White House recordings, from President Franklin Roosevelt through President Richard Nixon. The Presidential Recordings Program is dedicated to making presidential recordings



# Diverse & Dispersed Presidential Materials

1. Presidential materials encompass a wide range of items.
2. Some presidents have multiple sites.
3. Some presidents have papers on hard-to-access formats (such as microfilm).
4. Many historical events or topics stretch across presidents.



**Woodrow Wilson papers, 1786-1957**



*There is no central resource for presidential materials.*



# Presidential Sites and Libraries Conference

In 2010, the Miller Center co-hosted the Presidential Sites and Libraries Conference.

In a survey of 54 organizations, all affirmed that they wanted to:

- Increase visitation to their websites
- Learn more about possible collaboration



# Connecting Presidential Collections

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## IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant

Three main components of the IMLS grant:

- Hold a Summit Meeting
- Create a beta product
- Spread the word and share the experience



# Mission Statement

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To create a resource that aggregates metadata for presidential materials so they are more accessible.





# Organizing Principles

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- Help users find what they are looking for more easily—asset discovery and user access
- Overcome boundaries that cause isolation for presidential materials and confusion for users
- Allow users to find what they are looking for with greater accuracy



# Partner Organizations

- Massachusetts Historical Society, home to the Adams papers
- Presidential Oral History Project, Miller Center
- Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Ohio
- The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, Texas
- Theodore Roosevelt Center, North Dakota
- Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library, Virginia



THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT DEALEY PLAZA



# Beta Project

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- Aggregating metadata from partner organizations
- Dublin Core will be the metadata schema
- Solr will power the index for search
- Blacklight will be the discovery interface for users

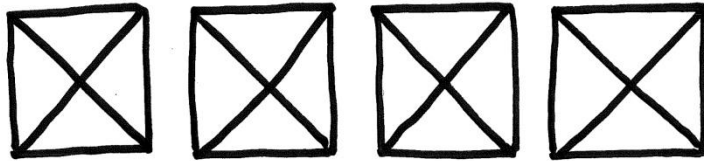


# Connecting Presidential Collections

mission statement ~~~~~  
~~~~~ more →

Advanced | Browse

## Featured Items



## Browse the Collection

By Presidential Administration

By Timeline

By ~~~~~

Keywords

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

Type

☐ ~~~~~ ☐ ~~~~~ ☐ ~~~~~  
☐ ~~~~~ ☐ ~~~~~ ☐ ~~~~~

Partner Organization

## Partners

We have @@ partners.

- ☒ ~~~~~
- ☒ ~~~~~
- ☒ ~~~~~
- ☒ ~~~~~

full list →

## Popular Items

- ☒ ~~~~~
- ☒ ~~~~~
- ☒ ~~~~~

Terms of Use

Citation Styles

API

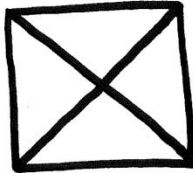


# Search Results



Sort by: **date**

Advanced Options

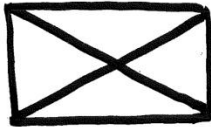


Title

Description

Partner Organization

[www.externalURL.com/item](http://www.externalURL.com/item)



Title

Description

Partner Organization

[www.externalURL.com/item2](http://www.externalURL.com/item2)

Title

Description

Partner Organization

[www.externalURL.com/item3](http://www.externalURL.com/item3)

## Browse the Collection

By Administration

By Timeline

By

Keywords

Type

☐ ☐   
☐ ☐   
☐ ☐

Partner Org.

## Featured Items



# Next Steps

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- Maintain project blog:

<http://presidentialconnections.wordpress.com/>

- Import data into Solr
- Create user interface in Blacklight
- Draft documentation for partners and users
- Consider future funding options
- Consider future partner organizations



# Questions Still to Address

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- How to meet the needs of different audiences?
- How to deal with metadata inconsistencies?
- How to handle wide range of technological capabilities of partners?
- How to handle various types of digitized materials—digital objects, finding aids, catalogs?
- How to address large amount of materials that are not digitized?

THANK YOU

