



Archivist of the  
United States

Dear Researchers,

We miss connecting with you in person and helping with your research. Researchers are important to the National Archives, and we are excited to once again begin the process of resuming research room operations as local health conditions permit.

NARA is utilizing [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) transmission levels](#) to support our goal of fully reopening research rooms as soon as we can while ensuring maximum safety for our customers and employees. County transmission levels are available on the [CDC website](#).

- At high transmission levels, a limited number of staff may volunteer to be on-site to complete certain work that must be done on-site. No research rooms will be open.
- At substantial or moderate transmission levels, staff will be on-site to complete core work and research rooms will open at a limited capacity by appointment only.
- At low transmission levels, staff will be on-site to complete all types of work, and research rooms are expected to remain open by appointment only.

Research appointments require an initial virtual consultation in advance. We will seek to have records pulled in advance of your appointment and waiting upon your arrival.

Please note, appointments may be canceled due to a change in public health conditions. Each [research room's website](#) provides its current operating status. Once a research room is open, please follow the instructions on the [facility page](#) to request an appointment. Researchers should check the specific [facility page](#) for details and updates, including operating hours, as the situation can change based on local public health conditions. The [Archives.gov/Coronavirus](#) page is the primary page where we post all communications about the pandemic.

In compliance with the [Agency Model Safety Principles](#) from the [Safer Federal Workforce Task Force](#), everyone must present an attestation that they are fully vaccinated or, if they are not fully vaccinated or do not disclose their vaccination status, must present a negative COVID-19 test result in order to access National Archives research rooms. In

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addition, face coverings must be worn at all times when research rooms are in areas of substantial transmission. Please refer to these [frequently asked questions](#) for additional information about our research room reopenings.

We look forward to welcoming you back to our research rooms. In the meantime, and while not a substitute for in-person research, many of our services remain available online:

- The [National Archives Catalog](#) contains archival descriptions of our holdings and is the online portal to 150 million pages of digitized records.
- Researchers can ask—or answer—research questions on [History Hub](#), a crowdsourced history research platform sponsored by the National Archives. Researchers can also search History Hub to see if a question has already been asked and answered.
- National Archives staff are responding to reference questions or requests for records sent to [inquire@nara.gov](mailto:inquire@nara.gov) and to specific units' email addresses.
- Members of the public can explore our online resources by visiting [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and viewing our [online exhibits](#).
- Teachers and parents can use our [educational resources](#).
- Everyone can help the whole community by volunteering in our [Citizen Archivist Missions](#).
- The [National Archives' Presidential Libraries and Museums](#) website includes online education resources, virtual programs and exhibits, and information on conducting remote research at the 14 libraries.
- Check out our popular [Record Group Explorer](#) and [Presidential Library Explorer](#) finding aids that provide visualizations of the digitized data in our Catalog and simple paths into the records.

Thanks for your patience and flexibility as we carefully reopen our facilities and begin to welcome you back to our research rooms. We look forward to having you back on-site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David S. Ferriero". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

DAVID S. FERRIERO  
Archivist of the United States