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**ONLINE RESEARCH SOURCES IN THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum was dedicated in Hyde Park, New York, in 1941. President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) had signed legislation to create the National Archives in 1934, and a few years later, he announced at a press conference that he would build a library on his family property in Hyde Park, New York, for his personal and professional papers, as well as those of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and his collections of memorabilia. The cornerstone laying ceremony for the library took place in 1939.

Initially, the museum contained a range of collections, from FDR's model ship collection to gifts for President and Mrs. Roosevelt. FDR had planned to review the papers and artifacts himself after leaving the White House to determine what would be presented to the public. After he died in office on April 12, 1945, his close advisers and library staff took over that task. By 1950, the library had processed 85 percent of the collection, and opened those materials to the public. After Eleanor Roosevelt died in 1962, her papers, totaling nearly two million pages, were added to the library collection. Nearly all of the library's holdings were open to the public by 1976.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum**

<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/>

**Archives**

The FDR Library contains an extensive and searchable online digital collection. The Library has approximately 17 million pages of documents, and many files are available online. The FRANKLIN online electronic database contains 350,000 pages of documents, 2,000 photographs, finding aids for archival collections, and more. Online searchable collections include FDR's Calendar, the Library's List of Manuscript Collections, a Finding Aids Database, Audio/Visual Collections, and the Library's Book Catalog.

Two major collections from FDR's presidential papers have been digitized fully in FRANKLIN: the Map Room Papers, and the President's Secretary's File (PSF). The database also contains several other collections, including: Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations; Presidential Press Conferences; Selected Correspondence of Eleanor Roosevelt, both during and after FDR's Presidency; Selected Documents on the Holocaust and Refugees; the FDR Library's Significant Documents Collection; and the Grace Tully Collection.

The Map Room Papers, 1941-1945, contain two series of military information and communications to and from the White House during World War II. Series 1: Messages contains messages to or from the President and his immediate family and advisors. It is subdivided into three subseries: General, President's Trips, and Special Subject Files. Series II: Military Files contains documents sent from the War or Navy Departments to the President. The full contents of most of the document boxes in the two series may be viewed online.

The PSF, 1933-1945, contains documents organized by the president's personal secretary. They include White House correspondence (incoming and outgoing), memoranda, printed material, and newspaper clippings. During FDR's presidency, the White House received approximately 3,000 letters every day. Those letters became part of the White House Central Files, which were subdivided into four categories: Alphabetical File, Official File, President's Personal File, and Confidential File.

The PSF contains the Confidential File and four other series: the Safe File, the Diplomatic Correspondence File, the Departmental Correspondence File, and the Subject file. These five series contain 174 boxes, all of which may be viewed online.

The Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations Series contains digital files from 1933-1936, as well as links to those documents in the FDR administration post-1936. The Press Conferences Series contains digital transcripts of FDR's press conferences from 1933-1945, with annual Subject Indexes available online as well. The Selected Correspondence of Eleanor Roosevelt is filed by names of people who communicated with Mrs. Roosevelt from 1933-1947. The Selected Documents Related to the Holocaust and

Refugees, 1933-1945, contains materials identified by FDR Library archivists for this series. The Significant Documents Collection contains selected files pertaining to major dates, events, and topics in the lives of FDR and Eleanor Roosevelt. The Grace Tully Collection contains electronic copies of correspondence and presidential documents, including draft correspondence, notes, and speeches, collected by FDR's personal secretaries, Grace Tully and Marguerite A. ("Missy") LeHand.

In addition to the digital files available in FRANKLIN, the FDR Library also provides other online resources, such as the president's calendar, which may be searched electronically; a series of Special Topics files on subjects such as FDR and Polio, and The New Deal in Action; and links to other online resources, such as Roosevelt Genealogy and Public Papers of FDR. A link to collections relevant to FDR's Presidency, primarily papers of public officials, journalists, and others who worked with FDR, also is available "Collections At Other Repositories -- <http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/resources/repositories.html> ).

## **Museum**

The FDR Museum contains numerous permanent exhibits, audio-visual theaters, and special interactive programs about FDR's life, times, and legacy. The permanent exhibits include a full narrative of FDR's presidency, from the New Deal through World War II, with special attention to how the President and First Lady communicated with the American public. The audio-visual galleries include recreations of FDR's famous "fireside chats" as well as the White House Map Room where the president developed his strategies in World War II. The Museum also has interactive "Confront The Issues" touch screens where visitors may explore documents, photographs, and scholarly perspectives on such controversial subjects as the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and the President's health.

The Museum web page contains detailed descriptions of collections and exhibits as well as photographs of selected items. One online exhibit, "Art of the New Deal" also is available.

## **Education**

The Library's website contains numerous educational resources for elementary, secondary, and college students, teachers, and the general public. A special webpage for students provides links to biographies, facts and figures, pictures, and FDR's calendar. A link to sample paper topics also is available. For teachers, a special webpage (available to all) provides links to curriculum guides on key topics in the FDR Presidency, such as "Franklin D. Roosevelt and World War II," "The Presidency and the Supreme Court," and " 'Our Plain Duty': FDR and America's Social Security." The website encourages students and teachers to contact the library's education specialist for more information on research, teacher development workshops, field trips, and other topics.