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**ONLINE RESEARCH SOURCES IN THE GERALD R. FORD
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum began construction in 1979 and opened to the public in 1981. The Library's holdings include 25 million document pages, 450,000 photographs, 3,000 hours of audio files, and 4,500 hours of video files. The papers focus on the years of the Ford presidency, 1974-1977, primarily the papers of the president and his White House staff. Also available for research are Ford's pre- and post-presidential papers as well as the papers of Betty Ford. Former government officials, scholars of period, and private individuals also have donated their papers.

The library website includes biographies of President and Mrs. Ford in text and video formats, as well as photographs, timelines, and bibliographies. The main website also includes a link to descriptions of White House pets in the Ford presidency. For scholars, the website contains several pages of interest, including Research, Exhibits, Digital Collections, and Education Center.

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum
<http://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/>

RESEARCH

The Research section of the Ford Library website contains information on textual collections, audio-visual materials, oral histories, and artifacts. A separate section on digital collections also is available on the website.

The textual collections include descriptions of each collection of documents as well as finding aids. The collections are listed alphabetically by individuals' last names, and selected subject guides also are available for such major topics in the Ford presidency as economic policy, energy policy, Richard Nixon Presidency, Vietnam War, Women's Rights/Issues in the 1970s, and 1976 Presidential Campaign. The subject guides identify collections relevant to the

subject. Collections also are grouped under the major categories of National Security Adviser's Files, White House Central Files, and White House Office.

The audiovisual collection's finding aids may be searched online. Key collections include the White House Photographic Office Photographs, White House Communications Agency Audiotapes, 1974-77, White House Communications Agency Videotapes of Public Affairs, News, and Other Television Broadcasts, 1973-77, Naval Photographic Center Film of Presidential Events, and records from President Ford's 1976 election committee. Each collection includes an online description and detailed finding aid. Some files, such as photographs, may be searched and viewed online.

The oral history collection contains interviews conducted by the Library as well as interviews conducted by journalists, scholars, and others and donated to the Library. Some donated oral history collections have finding aids with lists of interviewees. Descriptions of the Library's oral histories and donated collections are available online, but not interview transcripts or recordings.

The Library has digitized many presidential collections, including Ford's Daily Diary, a Presidential Handwriting File, Richard Cheney Files (Cheney served as Ford's chief of staff), Ron Nessen Papers (Nessen served as Ford's press secretary), and selected Foreign Affairs and National Security, and Domestic Affairs and Politics, files. Other digitized collections include papers from Gerald and Betty Ford's Early Lives, Ford's Congressional and Vice Presidential Years, and Ford's Post-White House Years.

Each topic on the Digital Collections page is organized into three categories with associated links: Systematic Digitization of files, Exhibits/Selected Items, and Selected External Sources. Online searching is available for all Ford Library digital collections and indexes for White House photographs (including the full text of documents), but not documents from external sources.

EXHIBITS

The Ford Museum contains permanent, special, and online exhibits. Permanent exhibits that focus on Ford include "Young Jerry Ford," "Constitution in Crisis," "At Work in the Oval Office," "Leadership in

Diplomacy,” and “Cabinet Room.” The Museum also has a gallery about the 1970s, “Gerald Ford’s America.” Brief descriptions are available online, and the “Constitution in Crisis” section has a special online exhibit about the Watergate crisis, titled “The Watergate Files.” This exhibit includes a detailed description of the Watergate trial as well as a timeline and information on key figures. It also contains images, documents, and selected film reels.

Other online exhibits address topics pertinent to the Ford era or the American presidency more generally. Examples include “The American Soldier,” “Betty Ford – An Extraordinary Life,” “Cold War,” and “Opening an Empire: U.S. Relations With China.” Detailed descriptions and images are available for most online exhibits.

EDUCATION

The Library’s educational resources include both onsite and online research projects. Links to resources at each of the presidential libraries are provided. For the Ford presidency, online research projects include “The 1976 Presidential Campaign,” “Cabinet Meetings,” “End of the Vietnam War,” “Helsinki Accords,” “Visit to Mao’s China,” and “White House State Dinners.” Each project includes a detailed timeline and selected documents.

Links to other resources also are provided – for example, “The 1976 Presidential Campaign” includes links to “Campaign Photographs” and “Ford Daily Diary.” Key digitized collections are identified, including “Memoranda of Conversations, 1973-77,” “National Security Council Meeting Minutes, 1974-77,” and “Kissinger Reports on USSR, China, and the Middle East, 1974-76.” A list of suggested topics for on-site researchers also is available, with categories including “International Relations/National Security,” “Executive Powers and White House Operations,” and “Domestic Policy.”