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**ONLINE RESEARCH SOURCES IN THE RICHARD M. NIXON  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

The Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library and Museum is located in Yorba Linda, California, which is President Nixon's birthplace. The Library contains Presidential Materials that are the property of the National Archives, as well as pre- and post-Presidential materials that belong to the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation. The Nixon Library administers these materials owned by the Foundation.

Custody of the Nixon papers has a complicated history. After Nixon's resignation in 1974, Congress passed the Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservations Act (PRMPA) to ensure that the former president would not be able to destroy any of his presidential papers. The law stated that the papers would remain government property, and must be kept within fifty miles of Washington, D.C. Nixon filed a lawsuit contending that the records were his property, but the Supreme Court upheld PRMPA in 1977. In the following decades, the National Archives opened many Nixon presidential materials, including Watergate-related tapes and transcripts, to the public, while others were returned to Nixon because they were deemed private or politically unrelated to his presidency.

In 2004, Congress amended PRMPA to permit Nixon's archives to move outside Washington, which ultimately resulted in the Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation transferring control of its Yorba Linda facility to the federal government. The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum became part of the National Archives and Records Administration in 2007, and the Nixon presidential materials were moved there, to be housed along with the pre- and post-presidential collections owned by the Nixon Foundation. Additionally a collection of documents from Nixon's vice-presidential years, which he had donated to the federal government early in his presidency, became part of the Library's holdings after having been stored in a National Archives facility for more than three decades.

The Nixon Library website includes a detailed biography of Nixon's life and political career, as well as a timeline. It has a Virtual Library page that contains documents, information on White House tapes, and online exhibits. The main page additionally provides links to information on conducting research at the library, library exhibits, and educational resources for teachers and children.

Nixon Presidential Library & Museum

<http://www.nixonlibrary.gov/index.php>

## RESEARCH

The Nixon Library has a detailed Guide to Holdings available online for its archival collections as well as a list of its collections by subject. The guide contains descriptions of each collection as well as a summary explanation of the litigation over their ownership. The textual files, which include both presidential and non-presidential materials, total some 46 million pages, and the finding aids for the collections are available online. The most commonly used collections are the National Security Files, the White House Central Files, and the White House Special Files.

Also available for research are the White House Tapes, a collection of more than 2,700 hours of conversations from February 1971 through July 1973 that Nixon secretly taped in several locations (including the Oval Office and his office in the Old Executive Office building). Audiotapes of selected conversations are available online, as are finding aids and transcripts for some tapes, and a detailed explanation of the history of these tapes, the release schedule, and the archival processing functions.

In addition to the tapes, the Nixon Library's audio-visual materials include more than 350,000 White House photographs, video collections, and audio collections that are not part of the White House tapes. Finding aids for some materials are available online.

The Library's holdings also include more than 150 oral histories with people who worked in the Nixon administration or played an important part in American politics during Nixon's presidency. The oral histories are listed alphabetically and also categorized by subject, such as "National Security

Council,” “Antiwar Movement,” etc. Some oral histories have finding aids, transcripts, and/or video available online.

The Virtual Library on the Nixon Library’s website includes nearly 50 million document pages, more than 300,000 photographs, more than 1,000 motion pictures and videos, and the White House tapes. The webpage provides links to new document releases as well as the document collections and White House tapes that are available online. Online document collections include the Presidential Daily Diary, National Security Memoranda, the Pentagon Papers, Public Papers of the President, President Nixon’s Grand Jury Testimony, and more. Online exhibits also are available on a few topics, such as “When Nixon Met Elvis,” “The Watergate Files” at the Gerald R. Ford Museum, and “Memoirs v. Tapes: President Nixon and the December [1972] Bombings.”

## EXHIBITS

The Nixon Museum contains the president’s birthplace and presidential helicopter as well as exhibitions. The house in which Nixon was born is on the Museum property, and the Library and Museum are on land that used to be a citrus ranch run by Nixon’s parents. The 1.5 story house is open for docent-accompanied tours, and contains Nixon family artifacts as well as other contemporaneous items.

Army One is the president’s helicopter and was used by Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford. Nixon used the helicopter on more than 180 trips, including overseas visits, and he also used it on the day he resigned from the presidency, August 9, 1974, to travel from the White House to Andrews Air Force Base, where he took Air Force One to his private home in San Clemente, California. The helicopter was used for the White House until 1976 and then later was used for Secret Service training. It was restored and installed at the museum in 2006. Visitors may step on board the helicopter to view the interior.

Museum exhibits include video footage, permanent galleries, and special exhibits. Video footage includes campaign films, news coverage, and historically significant presidential speeches. The permanent galleries include a replica of the Lincoln sitting room from Nixon’s White House residence, a space exploration exhibit, the 1967 Lincoln Continental limousine used by

Presidents Johnson, Nixon, and Ford, and a reconstruction of Nixon's post-presidential office in New Jersey. Special exhibits examine such topics as Richard Nixon Centennial, and descriptions of current and past exhibits are available online.

## EDUCATION

Resources for teachers include lesson plans about Foreign Policy, Domestic Policy, and First Lady Pat Nixon. The page also includes links to library and museum resources that may be useful for research. Resources for kids include texts of famous speeches such as the "Silent Majority" speech on November 3, 1969, and the "Moon Landing" speech on July 20, 1969. Links to quick facts and basic bibliographical sources on Nixon also are included.