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**ONLINE RESEARCH SOURCES IN THE RONALD REAGAN
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM**

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum began construction in 1988 and opened to the public in 1991. The archives contain almost 63.6 million document pages from the Reagan presidency, more than 1.6 million photographs, 20,500 hours of video tapes, and 25,500 hours of audio recordings. In addition to presidential records, the Library also is the repository for personal papers collections from Reagan's eight years as governor of California. The Museum contains more than 62,000 gifts and artifacts. The Library also has some 16,000 book volumes as well as 58,000 serials and related materials.

The library website includes a "Quick Reference" section with detailed biographies of President Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan that discuss their pre-presidential lives as well as their time in the White House, and President Reagan's post-presidential years. A biography of the Reagan administration includes links to several lists, such as a chronology of the Reagan presidency, key administration officials, the White House staff, entertainers at the White House, trips to Camp David and to Reagan's California ranch, Rancho Del Cielo, and more.

For scholars, the website contains several pages of interest, including Research Holdings, Museum, and Education. Also provided is a link to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, which shares space with the Library.

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum
<http://www.reaganlibrary.gov/>

RESEARCH

The Holdings section of the Reagan Library website contains pages on Research, Reference, Audiovisual, Textual, Photos, and Speeches. Pages often are cross-referenced in multiple locations on the website to facilitate access to major topics, such as Speeches and Photographs.

The Presidential Records are separated into three main collections: the White House Office of Records Management (WHORM) Alphabetical File; the WHORM Subject File, and the White House Staff and Office Files. A brief description and full finding aid for each collection is available online. Each collection is divided into multiple smaller collections, which are categorized by individuals, White House Offices, or topics. Collections include Presidential Handwriting Files, Speechwriting, Coordination Office, National Security Council, and much more. Each finding aid identifies in bold material that is available for research use, but the actual archival material is not available online. The Library also has a Bulk Mail Collection, which does not have any online information.

In addition to Reagan's Presidential Papers, the Library is the repository for Reagan's gubernatorial papers. The Governor's Papers, 1967-1975, includes such series as The 1966 Campaign, Governor's Office, Audiotape Collection, and more. Descriptions and finding aids are available online. Selected speech texts and statements from Reagan's gubernatorial years also are available online.

The Library also contains personal paper collections donated by individuals who have some connection to President and Nancy Reagan's careers. Included in this material as well are papers from Reagan's 1976 and 1980 presidential campaigns, Nancy Reagan's Papers, and Reagan's Pre- and Post-Presidential Papers.

The Library additionally is the repository for selected federal records from the Reagan years. These records include the 1981 and 1985 Inaugural Records as well as records from commissions, task forces, and boards that were active during the Reagan administration. Finding aids for these records are not available online, as they are being updated.

The *Public Papers of the President* for the Reagan presidency are available on the Library website and may be searched by keyword or by date, with the papers organized chronologically by month and year. A list of major speeches, both pre-presidential and presidential, is provided, with links to selected online video and audio recordings on the University of Virginia's Miller Center website. A special list of selected speeches from Reagan's gubernatorial years is available as well, with links to full text.

The Audiovisual Collection contains several compilations from the Reagan years, including more than 1.5 million photographs from the White House Photographic Office. More than 1,400 images are available to view online. Descriptive inventories of the photographs are available online and are organized by year. A separate link to the photographs available online is provided on the Research page. On the photographs page, the images are categorized into more than 40 Photo Galleries, with such topics as The Reagans, Cabinet, 1980 Election Campaign, 1984 Election Campaign, Summits with Mikhail Gorbachev, Entertainment at the White House, and more.

The Library also has a collection of nearly 7,000 videotapes created by the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) of President Reagan's appearances on television networks. A general online descriptive inventory is available as well as a special detailed inventory of the WHCA's Nightly News Summary. Additional records from the WHCA include nearly 10,000 audiotapes of Reagan's speeches, press briefings, and other public remarks. Inventory files for the President, First Lady, and Staff are available online.

Nearly 500 recordings of President and Mrs. Reagan's public service announcements and other messages, taped by the White House Office of Media Relations, are available for research at the library, with a descriptive inventory provided online. Additionally, the White House Office of Records Management conducted exit interviews, with selected files transcribed and available for research. A descriptive inventory is provided online.

The Library also is the repository for donated audiovisual collections, including a collection of photographs of President and Mrs. Reagan at their California ranch, and television episodes and commercials from General Electric Theater, 1954-57. A small oral history collection of videotaped interviews conducted at the Library with Reagan administration officials is open for research, with a descriptive inventory available online.

EXHIBITS

The Reagan Museum contains several permanent exhibits about the Reagans, including “The Oval Office,” “Governor of California,” “The First Lady,” “The Berlin Wall,” and “Camp David.” Each exhibit has a brief description online, and selected images may be viewed as well. A page of previous exhibits, with brief descriptions and selected images, also is available, as is a page on current exhibits. A link to a museum blog is provided as well.

EDUCATION

The Education page of the Reagan Library contains several pages of interest to educators, including Curriculum, Museum Curriculum, and Workshops. The Primary Source-Based Curriculum topics include “The Great Communicator Files” and “Picturing the Presidency.” Each curriculum includes primary documents and images, all of which may be downloaded from the website.

The Museum Curriculum Guides include student activities such as word searches and worksheets about the Oval Office, Air Force One, and other topics. The workshops page includes brief descriptions of special activities with students, with some materials available online. The Library also has a page of Additional Resources, with links to the National Archives and other websites about the American presidency and American politics.