# Hofstra University Peter S. Kalikow Center for the Study of the American Presidency Dr. Meena Bose, Director Spring 2014

# ONLINE RESEARCH SOURCES IN THE WILLIAM J. CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The William Jefferson Clinton Presidential Library and Museum opened to the public in November 2004. The Library's holdings include approximately 80 million items from the two-term presidency, from notes and letters to memos and more. The Museum has approximately 75,000 artifacts and almost two million photographs.

The Library website includes brief biographies of President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. For scholars, the website contains several pages of interest, including Research, Museum, Education, and News.

The William J. Clinton Presidential Library & Museum <a href="http://www.clintonlibrary.gov/">http://www.clintonlibrary.gov/</a>

#### RESEARCH

The Research section of the Clinton Library website contains links to Finding Aids, a Digital Library, Audio Visual collections, Photo Galleries, a Video Gallery, the Public Papers of President Clinton, Archived Clinton Administration Websites, and an Archived White House Virtual Library. A link to information about submission of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests also is provided.

The Finding Aid Descriptions page provides detailed descriptions of every collection as well as a link to each finding aid. Finding aids provide box and folder numbers as well as folder titles. An online index for finding aids is organized alphabetically by title and/or subject.

The Digital Library contains several collections, including daily schedules for the President and First Lady, nomination papers, the Domestic Policy Council's files, and selected speeches and writings of President Clinton. The digitized files are PDFs and are organized chronologically or by subject. For example, President Clinton's daily scheduled are listed by year and month, while the Domestic Policy Council files are listed by staffers' names.

Also included in the Digital Library are links to Declassified Records, Clinton Administration Histories, Presidential Decision Directives & Presidential Review Directives, an Elena Kagan Collection (Supreme Court Justice Kagan worked in the Clinton White House), a Sonya Sotomayer Collection (Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor was nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit by President Clinton), Selected Clinton Speeches and Writings, and more.

The Audio Visual Collections contain more than two million photographs, 12,400 videos, and 5,900 audio cassettes from the Clinton presidency. Audio visual finding aids are available online (each research collection finding aid includes a link to Photo Contact Sheets), as are Photo Galleries and a Video Gallery. Topics in the Photo Galleries include Official Portraits, Foreign Leaders, Oval Office, 1996 Campaign, Bill Signings, 1992 Campaign, Family, and more. The Video Gallery contains digital copies of selected White House Television Office video recordings, such as the 1993 Presidential Inauguration and the 1994 State of the Union Address. Photos also are available on the Clinton Library's Flickr page, and videos also are available on the Library's YouTube page.

Archival material from the Clinton administration on the Library website includes a link to the Public Papers of President Clinton. Archived versions of the first websites created by the Clinton administration – five different versions from 1993-2001 – are available online as well. The Research page also includes a link to a White House Virtual Library, which includes White House documents, executive orders, press briefings, and radio addresses. These materials originally appeared on Clinton administration websites and are organized chronologically by year.

## **MUSEUM**

The Museum page includes a link to descriptions of the permanent exhibits, which include The Inauguration, The Cabinet Room, Restoring the Economy, Putting People First, and more. Each description includes a brief summary of the exhibit as well as sample images. Of the more than 100,000 items given to President Clinton during his White House years from American citizens,

foreigners, and heads of state, only a small sample are on display in the Museum. Consequently, the Museum has a "From Inside Our Vaults" page, which regularly rotates images of objects that are not on display.

The Museum page includes links to three special features – Featured Artifact, Featured Document, and Featured Photo – which are updated regularly. Also provided is a link to C-SPAN's website "Presidential Libraries: History Uncovered," which highlights selected material from each presidential library.

### **EDUCATION**

For educators, the Library provides online lesson plans and reference information for elementary, middle school, and high-school students. Sample topics include "The Little Rock Nine and the Congressional Gold Medal" lesson plan, biographies of President and Mrs. Clinton, and links to the Photo and Video Galleries discussed above. A list of President Clinton's favorite books and other suggested readings is provided for students as well.

#### **NEWS**

The News page identifies current topics of interest for Clinton researchers. Examples include special exhibits such as "Presidential Pets: A Friend in the White House" and "Spies, Traitors, and Saboteurs: Fear and Freedom in America." News releases about declassification of documents, such as the release in October 2013 of more than 300 documents pertaining to the Clinton administration's policy making on the Bosnian War from 1992-1995, also are provided.