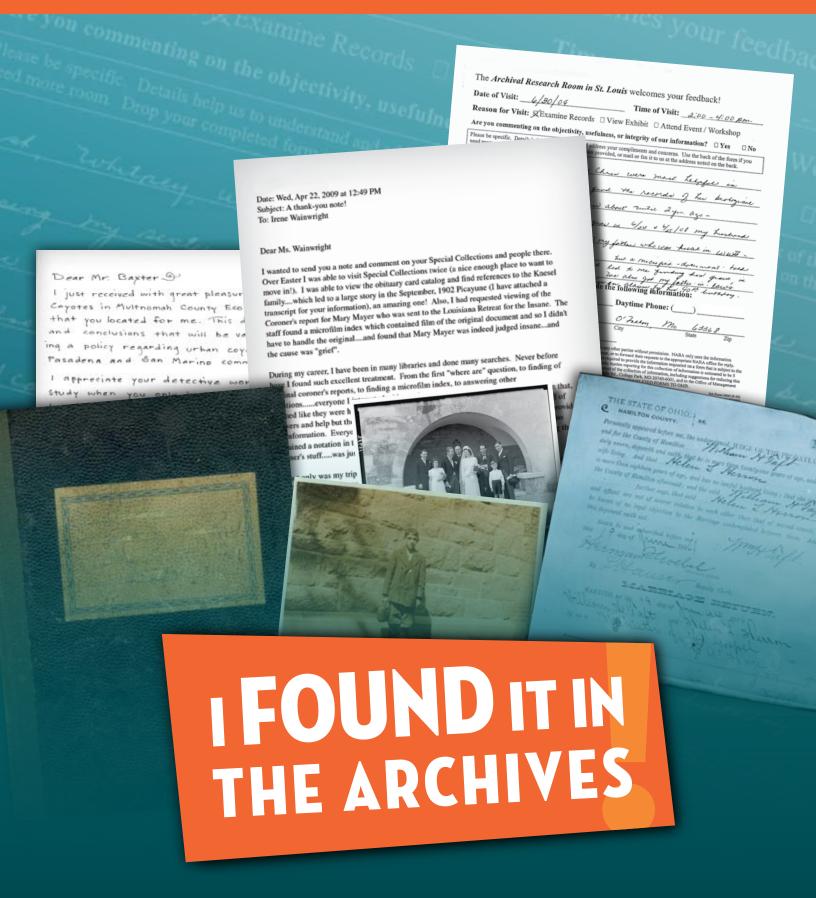
SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS



I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

Dear Colleague:

When a letter of thanks comes to us from an archives user who is grateful for our help, we're reminded of the "humanness" of our profession. We work in vastly different surroundings but share the satisfaction of knowing that our collections have meaning to many others. They just need to know "it" is there – and theirs.

Since 2006 American Archives Month has given us an opportunity to acquaint (or remind) people that items that are important to them are being preserved, cataloged, cared for, and made accessible by archivists.

This year, as we approach the 75th Anniversary of the Society of American Archivists, we're encouraging a special effort to involve people who have sought out our collections by engaging them in a fun contest that makes use of online social platforms. We live in an age of exploding social interaction that takes place daily on the Internet. "Go viral" is now a shortcut phrase that explains that something has taken off - taken on a life of its own - and is being shared, enhanced, and commented on by best friends and total strangers.

We ask all SAA members to join in a common effort in launching *I Found It In The Archives*, reaching out to individuals who have found their records, families, heritage, and treasures through our collections. Ask your users, your friends, and people you've never met to share their stories of discovery. Set up a contest, select the best entries, and allow others in the online world to vote for their favorites. Your winner will join others in what will be a national competition next year. *I Found It In The Archives* will culminate in August 2011 with a celebration of the people we serve, the history we preserve, and the significant contributions of archivists as we mark the milestone of SAA's 75th Anniversary.

What is our goal with this initiative? Awareness. And building a greater understanding of who archivists are and what archivists do.

Measure your success in terms of entries, of course, but also by the number of times you promote this contest with email messages, Facebook or blog posts, tweets, or YouTube videos. As others pass along your posts, you expand the opportunity for awareness. As local media carry stories of your contest – and post information online – you add to the awareness effect. How many people visit your website as a result of your promotion? Each one is an "awareness success," for each person who clicks on your repository's website is being exposed to "who we are and what we do."

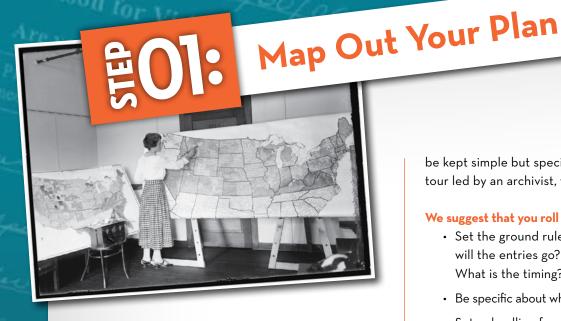
This kit provides a step-by-step guide for participating at the local level in *I Found It In The Archives* and following through to join in a national effort next year. We welcome your creativity in this common endeavor and provide this outline as a starting point on which you may wish to build. Seek out the SAA staff as a resource should you want to discuss an idea or have questions. Please contact us (toll-free) at 866-722-7858 or online at saahq@archivists.org.

Please join us to make I Found It In The Archives "go viral." Let's see how many people we can involve as we reach out, engage, and raise awareness of who we are, what we do, and the many ways in which we touch people's lives.

Relin R. Lilibo

Helen R. Tibbo SAA President, 2010-2011 October 2010





Let's keep this simple.

First, map out a plan that works for you and your institution.

We see I Found It In The Archives as an opportunity for people to submit a short story of their quest for information and their success in finding it in your archives. The story - submitted either as a 400-word written essay or as a video recording of no more than two minutes - would tell their tale of discovery and show the result of their search.

Your contest will take place primarily online, so participants should submit their entries to a designated email address. (You could allow entries submitted by mail or "walk-ins," but then you'll need to scan them and post them online.) Written entries could be attached as a Word document or pasted into the body of the email; video entries could be submitted as MPEG-4 files via email attachment or shared via a popular video site such as YouTube. (See the sidebar on page 4.) You can decide, based on your resources, whether your contest is limited to either essay or video submissions or includes both.

Your contest will culminate after several weeks (you determine your own schedule) with the selection of a winner and awarding of a prize. The prize should

be kept simple but special - a back-of-the-house tour led by an archivist, for example.

We suggest that you roll out your contest as follows:

- · Set the ground rules: Who can enter? Where will the entries go? How will they be judged? What is the timing? What is the prize?
- · Be specific about what is expected of the entrant.
- · Set a deadline for entries.
- · Announce the contest online and wherever you are able to post information.
- · Invite your users and, through them, their friends and family - anyone who wants to participate - to submit an entry. Exclude your co-workers and others who are closely affiliated with your organization (more on this later).
- · Have an internal panel judge the entries and select finalists.
- · Invite "the public" to vote for their favorite among the finalists.
- · Announce the winner(s).
- · Award a prize.
- Enter your winner(s) in the national competition. (The deadline for submission in the national competition is March 1, 2011.)

The national competition will involve a similar winnowing process, with all winning entrants from local competitions being judged by a panel from within SAA's membership and finalists being posted for public voting. We'll celebrate the culmination of the contest at ARCHIVES 360°, SAA's Annual Meeting and 75th Anniversary Celebration in Chicago, hosting the winners in each category (written essay and video) at our Awards Ceremony.

Your first step is to review the suggestions we've laid out in this guide, tailor a contest to fit your institution's needs and resources, and let us know how you're proceeding.

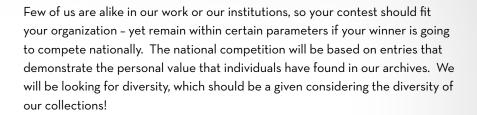
을02:

28 Set The Ground Rules



Submitting Your Video Entry

For helpful tips on video sharing or to submit your local entries to the national competition, visit www2.archivists.org/i-found-it



You'll want to solicit entries from people who have "used" your facility or your staff's expertise, including those who may have explored your collections via your website. Be sure to exclude your staff and their families from entering, as well as people who are so closely associated with your institution that it would be awkward if they were to win. This would include board members, docents, vendors (such as an advertising or PR agency), and maybe even volunteers (you decide). Be specific regarding who cannot participate so there are no conflicts later when judging takes place. The Entry Form on page 6 outlines these exclusions. A customizable form is available at www2.archivists.org/i-found-it.

Compose ground rules that can be posted and that explain clearly what is expected of entrants.

Announce the dates on which the contest will start and end. (We recommend that you limit the entry period to three or four weeks so that you build a sense of urgency among entrants – and so that you have plenty of time for your preliminary judging and online public voting. Although the end-of-year holidays generally should be avoided for public relations activities, this may actually be a good time of year for your entries as folks gather with their families and have video cameras at the ready.)

The national competition will run from March 15 to May 1. Your local entry(ies) must be received by March 1 in order to compete nationally. **Therefore, you**

With their help, I was able to fill avoid in my life.

should set your deadlines to ensure that you've selected your winner(s) in time for the March 1 deadline.

All entries should be submitted to a specific email address that you have set up for this purpose. This will enable you to communicate easily with the entrants and, with

their permission, you can add them to a database of people who are "friends" of your organization and communicate with them on an ongoing basis. If you choose to accept entries in other ways, do ask entrants for an email address.

For a sample Entry Form, Entry Application, and Release and Waiver, see pages 6-8.

E03: Invite Entries Online, On Site, And Through Media

The more people who know about your contest, the better - so use as many contact tools as you have at your disposal. First, create a page or section of your website where complete information on the contest appears. Promote it on your home page so that it is highly visible. Your goal in this step is to drive as many people as possible to your website and the contest rules page, so every promotional tool you use must include the URL (address) that takes prospective entrants directly to the information page.



There are many ways to promote your contest:

- Email your users, introducing the contest and providing a link to your website page.
- Post on your institution's Facebook page; tweet if you have an institutional Twitter account.
- Post and tweet using your personal pages and accounts. Ask employees
 of your institution to do the same and ask them to ask their friends to
 pass it along.
- Display posters or flyers throughout your institution. (See page 14 for a flyer template that you can customize for your institution.)
- Post flyers in nearby shops or restaurants that people might pass en route to your facility.
- Post a video on your home page, your Facebook page, and/or YouTube to explain
 the contest and invite entries. (See tips at www2.archivists.org/i-found-it.)
- Issue a news release to local media, briefly explaining the contest and directing people to your website for full information. (For tips on media relations, see www2.archivists.org/aam.)
- Be creative! Who uses your services? Students? City workers?
 Researchers? They're your targets. Alert them by email or phone or place flyers where they're likely to see them.

Don't stop with one post, tweet, or email! The path to going viral is to be present repeatedly with information. Posting daily isn't too much, but do try to be original with each message. You could promote the fact that you've received your first entry (or the 10th or 25th), that a video made you laugh out loud or that an essay was particularly poignant. Comment on creativity or a clever approach. Do a daily countdown to the close of entries.

Make Your Posts Enticing

Twitter limits you to 140 characters - and that's good news if you're trying to drive people to your website for complete information. So make that tweet or Facebook post vague and interesting. And make sure you mention that magic word "win"! It's one of the most intriguing words in the English language....



I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

Entry Form

It's essential that all entrants acknowledge that they understand what is involved and what their participation means. Use this form to secure that acknowledgment. (The form is also available via SAA's website at www2.archivists.org/i-found-it.) You could post this on your website in a downloadable format so it can be filled out, signed, scanned by the entrant, and returned to you as an email attachment. You could also offer the option of mailing the form, but be sure to set a deadline for the postmark so that you're sure you have forms that match every entry before you begin the judging.

The [NAME OF INSTITUTION] is sponsoring the *I Found It In The Archives* essay and video contest to show how the items and information found in the nation's archives touch people's lives. We're seeking entrants who have found something special in our collections – records, documents, photos, recordings, a meaningful item or treasure. If it has meaning to you, it has meaning to us and is a wonderful basis for your entry.

Between now and the close of entries on [DATE], we ask that you submit either:

- A 400-word essay describing your quest for information and explaining why finding it has made a difference for you, along with a color photograph of you, or
- A video of no more than 2 minutes in which you describe your quest for information and explain why finding it has made a difference for you.

This entry form (which is downloadable) must accompany your entry and can be submitted along with the essay or video as an attachment to your email. (You may also drop off your entry and this form at our offices at [ADDRESS].)

There will be [HOW MANY] finalists in this competition, whose essays and videos will be posted online for a public vote. The essay and video with the most votes will be declared the winners and will receive [DESCRIBE PRIZE].

RULES

You may submit only one entry. Submitting more than one entry will disqualify you.

You may submit your entry by email or by dropping it off at our offices at [ADDRESS].

You must not currently be employed or previously have been employed by [the INSTITUTION] - whether as employee or contractor - or related to a member of the same household as an [INSTITUTION] employee or contractor.

You must be 18 years of age or older at the date of entry. You must be a legal resident of the United States.

Your entry becomes the property of [INSTITUTION]. We reserve the right to post your essay and photograph or video online. Materials will not be returned.

TIMELINE

Entries must be received by [TIME AND DATE].

Semi-finalists will be notified by [DATE] for a phone interview.

Finalists will be notified by [DATE] and their essays or videos posted online for a public vote.

The close of public voting will be [TIME AND DATE].

The winners of the competition will be notified on [DATE].

The winners may be asked to compete in a national competition. National winners will be hosted at the Society of American Archivists Annual Awards Ceremony in Chicago in August 2011.

Download your customizable form at: www2.archivists.org/i-found-it

I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

Entry Application

Please complete this form and answer all questions. Your entry will not be considered if it has any incomplete fields or if any questions are not answered. You may download this form, complete it, and scan it into a document that becomes an attachment to your emailed entry OR you may mail or drop off your essay and photo or video, along with your entry form, so that it arrives at our office at [ADDRESS] on or before [DATE and TIME].

FIRST NAME	
LAST NAME	
STREET ADDRESS LINE 1	
STREET ADDRESS LINE 2	
CITY STATE	ZIP
HOME PHONE	
CELL PHONE	
WORK PHONE	
EMAIL	
ARE YOU 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER? YES NO	
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN EMPLOYED BY [INSTITUTION]? YES NO	
ARE YOU OR YOUR EMPLOYER A CONTRACTOR TO [INSTITUTION]? YES	NO
ARE YOU RELATED TO, OR A MEMBER OF A HOUSEHOLD OF, A CURRENT OR FORMER [INSTITUTION] EMPLOYEE OR CONTRACTOR? YES	NO
I have signed this application and the attached release and waive affirm that the statements made by me herein are accurate and to	ruthful. I also affirm that I understand that my essay and
photograph or my video may be displayed on [INSTITUTION'S] w that, if I am a finalist, my entry will be posted online for a public v	
PRINT NAME:	a la la compositable format:
SIGNATURE:	Download your customizable form at:

I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

Release and Waiver

In consideration for the opportunity to submit my Essay or Video and Entry Application to participate as an applicant in the *I Found It In The Archives* contest being sponsored by [INSTITUTION], and for other good and valuable consideration, I irrevocably give [INSTITUTION] and its agents and contractors the right and permission to use, copy, alter, distribute, publish, broadcast, and display the Essay or Video that I have submitted; photographs and

images of me that I have provided or that they will create; my voice and likeness; my name; the city, state, or province in which I live; and other information and material included in my Entry Application, on [INSTITUTION'S] website, elsewhere on the Internet, in advertising and promotional materials, and in any other medium or format for any purpose related to the I Found It In The Archives contest.

I acknowledge and agree that if am selected as a finalist for the *I Found It In The Archives* contest, [INSTITUTION] may post the Essay and my photo or the Video on the Internet and allow the public to vote and comment on the material and on whether I should be chosen as the winner of the *I Found It In The Archives* contest sponsored by [INSTITUTION].

I waive any right to royalties or other payment for the use of my Essay and photo or Video and I also waive the right to inspect or approve [INSTITUTION'S] use of the Essay and photo or Video and other materials that [INSTITUTION] may use with them.

I attest that there is no copyrighted material in my Essay or Video.

I release and waive and agree to hold [INSTITUTION], its agents, and its contractors harmless from any claims, damages, or liabilities resulting from their use of the Essay or Video and I agree not to bring any such claims against the released parties at any time in the future. This includes, but is not limited to, claims for violation of publicity rights and privacy rights, claims based on moral rights, claims for intrusion, claims for defamation, claims for fraud, claims for infliction of emotional distress, and claims for copyright or other intellectual property infringement, whether those claims may be based on statutes or the common law.

I represent and warrant to [INSTITUTION] that:

- · The Essay or Video is my original work.
- · I have not granted anyone else any rights to use, distribute, publish, broadcast, or display the Essay or Video.
- · I have the full right and authority to execute this Release and Waiver.
- · I have all rights necessary to grant the rights, waivers, and releases granted in this Release and Waiver.
- I have read this Release and Waiver and I fully understand it.
- All statements and information included in my Entry Application and any other statements and information that I
 provided to or will provide to [INSTITUTION] are true and complete.

PRINT NAME:	
SIGNATURE:	
ADDRESS:	Download your customizable form at:
DATE:	www2.archivists.org/i-found-it

Judge the Entries



Judging can be a tricky business. First select an odd number of people (three or five is good) to serve on the judging panel. It's good to have a mix - both men

and women, various ethnicities, different ages. The person in charge of the contest or the one who manages the entries should not be a judge; she or he will have a sense of who the entrants are, which could bias the judging.

All entries should be blinded - no name, age, or address when they are presented to the judging panel. Both essays and videos should be reviewed and winnowed down to a manageable number - 10 to 15 in each category if you are going to have 5 finalists in each. Judges should work independently, but each judge should read/view all entries, scoring them (1 to 5)

in quality. The entries with the highest combined points make it to the semi-finals. Judges can now work as a group, with independent scoring following a discussion of the merits of the entry. Because the finalists will be posted online for a public vote, it is important that their presentations are articulate.

Be sure to take another step before deciding on the final five in each category: Talk to them personally. A screening phone call is a very important step. You want to ensure that each person is okay with being a finalist; that each agrees to having his or her entry posted and voted on; and that each is willing to compete nationally and is able to travel to Chicago alone or with a companion in August 2011.

You can also use the screening phone call to assess how individuals might promote their selection as a finalist. Can they harness their friends and families to participate? Are they okay with any other promotion you have planned?

You can decide the number of finalists you select according to the results of this final step in the judging process. Better to have three articulate and enthusiastic finalists than to have four or five including a couple who are lukewarm about the possibility of winning.



Date: Wed, Apr 22, 2009 at 12:49 PM

Dear Ms. Waiswright

March 21, 2010

Attn: Cheryl

nisiana Division/City/ Archive ov Orleans Public Library New Orleans Public Libra 219 Loyola Avenue New Orleans, LA 70112

Words cannot express my gratitude in the extra miles that you went in finding my grandfather's obituary. Now I can the peace of mind knowing that the records will reflect his burial in the cemetery records with my grandmother. Because of your determination, I can know that all is well. I am ordering the monuments for the cemetery to acknowledge and celebrate the life of both my grandmother and grand

eply thankful for your kindness and hard work in finally finding the correct

I enclose my check of \$2.00 for the research document, as well as a \$20.00 don the library fund for the Archives Department.

My best wishes to you and your career

은05: Public Judging

A goal of this contest is to drive people to your website so that they can see firsthand what archivists are all about. Public voting can accomplish this many times over.

Post the finalists on your institution's website or Facebook page and invite the public to vote. Here are two posting methods:

On Your Website:

Place the finalists' essays and links to their videos on your site. (To publish your video finalists on your website, upload the videos to a YouTube or Vimeo video-sharing account and use "embed" tools to copy and paste HTML code directly into your organization's website page[s]. No advance scripting is necessary. For tips and guidelines on how to do this, visit www2.archivists.org/i-found-it.) Unless you already have interactive capability, ask voters to email you their vote, using the same email address that you used for the contest entries. If you do have interactive capabilities built into your website, work with your IT department to activate a voting mechanism. And if the notion of an "IT department" doesn't apply to your institution, you might consider incorporating a service like Polldaddy (http:// polldaddy.com/features-polls/) to tally your votes. Polldaddy has good reporting features and is not difficult to use.

On Facebook:

To set up a simple poll or contest on your Facebook page:

- Create a photo album with the title of your contest. You can add text describing the contest or the rules onto the album description.
- 2. Upload a photo for each contestant.
- Add a description or caption below the photo.
 You could put the essay here or hyperlink to the essay on your website.
- Promote the contest with a link to the photo album and instruct voters to "LIKE" their favorite entry.
- 5. People can vote for each contestant only once, but they can vote for more than one contestant.

Here's an example of a simple photo contest: http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=213875&id=12190 2929539&ref=mf

To generate votes, start with your finalists – and everyone who entered your contest. For most, you won't have to ask twice for them to alert family and friends to go online and cast their vote. "Family and friends" can have a ripple effect on the order of a chain letter.

You can also announce the opening of the public vote through your normal communication tools:

- · Send an email to everyone in your database.
- Mention it in your newsletter, e-newsletter, and other publications.
- Post it on your website home page, your Facebook page, and other social media platforms.
- · Tweet if you have a Twitter account.
- Alert your family and friends and ask them to pass it along.
- Work with your local media to generate stories on the contest, the finalists, and the vote. (For tips on media relations, see www2.archivists.org/aam.)

From then on, it's a matter of tallying the votes and choosing your winner(s).

응06:

Announce The Winner(s), Award The Prize(s)



Your awards ceremony can be as elaborate or as simple as you'd like to make it - fireworks and a band or a phone call and a welcoming event at your institution. Same with the prize. The scope is up to you, but do make it meaningful.

The best prize is one that you simply can't get anywhere else. It doesn't need to cost a cent. Remember that the people who enter a contest tied to your institution already have found value in your archives. Give the winner(s) – or the winner(s) and runner-up – a chance to go behind the scenes and experience something that isn't open to the public at large.

the public. For example, give a private tour led by an individual on your staff who has special expertise or holds a high office; allow something rare to be viewed; plan something outside of your institution that ties back to your collection – a neighborhood walk, for example.

The "extra" that goes along with your prize is the opportunity to compete nationally and win a trip to the SAA Annual Meeting in Chicago in August. SAA will host the national winner(s) at the annual Awards Ceremony.



appreciate your detective work

Going On To "Nationals"

All local winners will be entered in a national competition sponsored by SAA. We're working out the details of the national contest now, but it will include both written essays and videos. The video element really allows us to add to the "go viral" aspect of the contest and, literally, make our entrants come alive. In our increasingly visual world, video is a tremendous asset, allowing us to get to know people far better as we see and hear them.

We anticipate posting videos as part of the national voting process

and will be encouraging our participating members to include their finalists' videos on their websites and Facebook pages. We'll generate voting with a promotional campaign and will work with you to gin up support with your constituents as well.

There will be more details to come on the national competition but, for now, it's important that as you plan your contest, you let it be known that this is a first step in what will be a national event. We also will be asking you for background information on your local winner(s) - what you learned in your

You Tube Search Browse Upload 75 Years of Discovering Archival Treasures, Part 1 of 4 usnationalarchives 891 videos ≥ Subscribe 07:47 / 22:17 360p 🖭 🔲 🗗 👯

> screening interviews and in meeting them when you awarded your prize. We want to be certain that we have a good sense of who our finalists are as we promote them and their experience with media and others.



TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. SCHEDULE No. 1.-POPULATION. Stay in been mack helpful -• 12 •

日 188 Tallying Our Success



As always, we'd like to try to measure our success with this I Found It In The Archives campaign. To that end, we ask that you track, to the best of your ability, the numbers that indicate what you achieved:

 How many people did you "touch" directly with your information through your database of users and others?

- · Number of entrants.
- Number of hits on your website page dedicated to the contest.
- · Number of votes cast.
- Number of media impressions. (This is measured by the circulation of the print media or the audience of the broadcast outlet. You can Google a question such as "circulation of XYZ newspaper" or "audience of XYZ program on channel X" and will almost always wind up with current information for a specific news outlet.)
- · Any other statistics that you can collect.

Please collect these numbers as you go along so that when you receive a survey from SAA headquarters, you can easily fill in the blanks and we can see what kind of impact this campaign has had.

We're hoping for a large and enthusiastic turn-out for this campaign to raise awareness of the value of archives and archivists. Thank you in advance for participating!

Acknowledgements: SAA gratefully acknowledges the following sources of images used in this kit:

Cover (clockwise from upper left): Note to Records Management Analyst/Archivist Terry Baxter, Multnomah County Records Management Program, Portland, Oregon; letter to Irene Wainwright, Louisiana Division/City Archives, New Orleans Public Library; feedback to Archival Research Room, National Archives and Records Administration, St. Louis Region, provided by William Seibert, Chief, Archival Operations Branch, Archival Programs Division, National Personnel Records Center, NARA; "Taft Marriage License, Ohio" (Batson News Service, publisher, between ca. 1910 and ca. 1915), LC-DIG-ggbain-09299, courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division; "Miss Hedejar[?] and Mr. Lang wedding at St. Andrews Church" (Matson Photo Service, between 1940 and 1946), LC-DIG-matpc-14266, courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division; "Camillo DeMarco, Lawrence, Massachusetts" (Lewis Wickes Hine [1874-1940], photographer, September 1911), LC-DIG-nclc-02336, courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division; old notebook from Pixmac.com.

Page 3: "Woman creating map of United States showing states and counties" (August 1922), LC-DIG-npcc-23258, courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Page 4: "Jo Veal, 219 Park Street, Lindale, Georgia" (Lewis Wickes Hine [1874-1940], photographer, April 1913), LC-DIG-nclc-02796, courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Page 5: "Full-length portrait of an African American woman seated holding an African American infant" (A.D. Jaynes, photographer, created between 1860 and 1870), LC-DIG-ppmsca-11042, courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Page 9: "Inter city beauties, Atlantic City Pageant, 1925" (Atlantic Foto Service, 1925), LC-USZ62-125527, courtesy of the Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division; letter to Louisiana Division/City Archives, New Orleans Public Library.

Page 17: (Left) The Carol K. Pforzheimer Reading Room in the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University. (Right) Sarah Minegar, archives technician/museum educator, Morristown (New Jersey) National Historical Park, instructs Roxbury High School students.

Page 12: Journalist and author Cokie Roberts, who serves as vice president of the Foundation for the National Archives, moderates a panel of distinguished speakers who discuss their favorite discoveries within the National Archives' holdings, October 2, 2009. Accessed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ótBFzEbNO20