Staffing

The Ohio Congressional Archives is:

- Staffed by professional archivists trained and experienced in the processing of large and complex congressional collections
- Knowledgeable in the writing, design, and online mounting of detailed collection inventories
- Housed in a state-of-the-art facility designed for the preservation storage of archival materials
- Supported by the expertise of the staff within the preservation and cataloging departments of The Ohio State University Libraries
- Active within professional archival organizations such as the Congressional Papers Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists
- A founding member of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress

Facility

The Ohio Congressional Archives is located within the University Archives Building on the west campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. The facility provides high-density, environmentally controlled archival storage for books, manuscript collections, and audiovisual materials. Built in 1995, the building is one of several dozen such facilities across the country based on a design originally used at Harvard University.

Attached to the storage modules are offices, ample space for the processing of collections, and a general reference room for the use of researchers interested in accessing the Ohio State University Archives and Photo Archives, the collections of the Byrd Polar Research Center Archival Program, and the collections of the Ohio Congressional Archives.

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Purpose

The purpose of the **Ohio Congressional Archives** is to make available for research and educational use unique and historical material documenting:

- The workings and history of the U.S. Congress
- The participation and contributions of Ohio members of the U.S. Congress
- The impact of the U.S. Congress on the history of the State of Ohio

To fulfill its goal to document, *on a non-partisan basis*, the accomplishments and activities of Ohio Members of Congress, the Ohio Congressional Archives collects and preserves the following types of material.

- The papers and related materials of members of the Ohio delegation to the U.S. Congress compiled while in office
- The papers and related materials of members of the Ohio delegation compiled during their careers prior to or after their service in the U.S. Congress
- The papers and related materials of personal advisors and staff personnel to members of the Ohio delegation to the U.S. Congress
- Oral histories of Ohio members of the U.S. Congress, their political advisors, and key staff members
- The papers and related materials of individuals who actively campaigned for but failed to win election to a seat in the Ohio delegation to the U.S. Congress

Background

The collections of manuscripts, photographs, and related materials compiled by members of the U.S. Congress represent a significant resource in the study of the legislative branch of the federal government. The official records of Congress are mandated by law for preservation by the National Archives and Records Administration. However, the personal papers of individual members - the “other half” to the story of Congress - in many cases are not preserved. Our collective understanding of Congress therefore diminishes due to a lack of primary documents for use by students, educators, and scholars.

The Ohio Congressional Archives is one of eleven Special Collections housed by The Ohio State University Libraries. Established in 2004, the archives is an outgrowth of the recommendation put forth by the Third Report of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress (S.Pub.106-52, Dec. 31, 2000) for the “development (within each state) of statewide Public Policy Centers that include a strong archival component with a focus on political and public policy documentation.”

The report stressed the advantages gained by centralizing similar collections at a dedicated repository, both in staffing resources and in the accessibility of collections to researchers. It also emphasized the need for good record management practices within Congressional offices and urged Members to choose a permanent repository for their records early in their term of office.

On June 20, 2008, the 110th Congress passed House Concurrent Resolution 307, “Expressing the Sense of the Congress that Members’ congressional papers should be properly maintained” and that members should arrange for the donation of their papers to a research institution properly equipped to care for them. The Ohio Congressional Archives serves this function for members of the Ohio Congressional Delegation.

Collections

The Ohio Congressional Archives currently holds the following collections.

- **John H. Glenn** (D - Ohio) served in the U.S. Senate from 1975 to 1999.
- **Mary Jo Kilroy** (D - Columbus) served the 15th Ohio District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2009-2011.
- **William M. McCulloch** (R - Piqua) served the 4th Ohio District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1947-1973.
- **Deborah D. Pryce** (R - Upper Arlington) served the 15th Ohio District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1993 to 2009.
- **Ralph S. Regula** (R - Navarre) served the 16th Ohio District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1973 to 2009.
- **Milton A. Wolf** served as ambassador to Austria from 1977 to 1980; was a close associate of John Glenn and former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste.