



Mass Digitization by Administrative Bodies: Experiences with the NARA strategic plan 2022-26

Pamela Wright

Chief Innovation Officer

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29, 2023*



Digitization at the National Archives

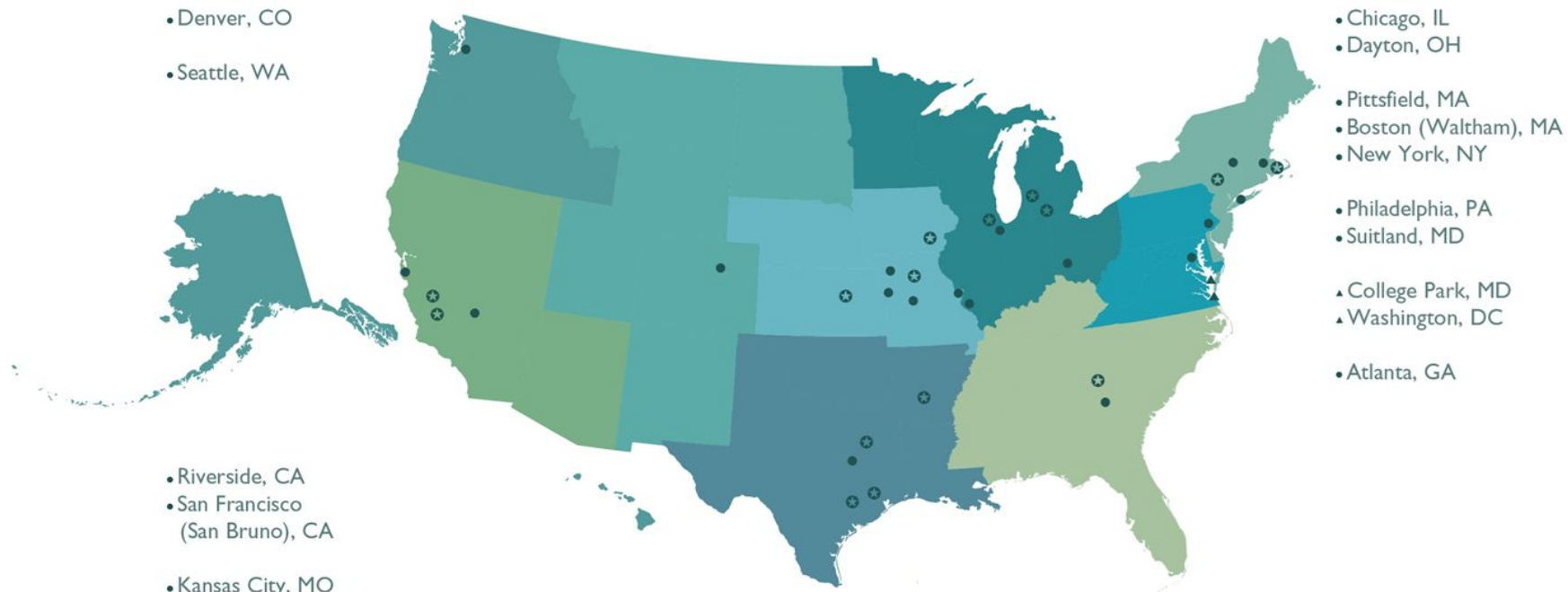
- About NARA
- Strategic Goals
- Digitization Strategy
- The Impact of COVID
- Current Statistics
- Records Management for the Federal Government
- Reparative Description and Digitization
- Looking Ahead



About NARA

We drive openness, cultivate public participation, and strengthen our nation's democracy through public access to high-value government records.





- Denver, CO

- Seattle, WA

- Chicago, IL
- Dayton, OH

- Pittsfield, MA
- Boston (Waltham), MA
- New York, NY

- Philadelphia, PA
- Suitland, MD

- ▲ College Park, MD
- ▲ Washington, DC

- Atlanta, GA

- Riverside, CA
- San Francisco (San Bruno), CA

- Kansas City, MO
- Lee's Summit, MO
- Lenexa, KS
- St. Louis, MO
- Valmeyer, IL

- Fort Worth, TX

Presidential Libraries & Museums

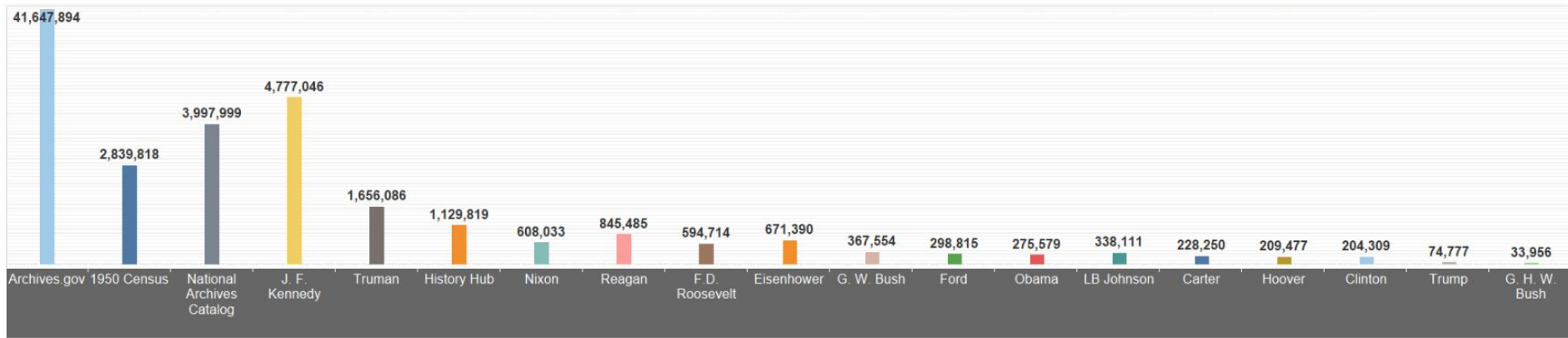
- ⊕ Herbert Hoover Library, West Branch, IA
- ⊕ Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, NY
- ⊕ Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, MO
- ⊕ Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Abilene, KS
- ⊕ John F. Kennedy Library, Boston, MA
- ⊕ Lyndon B. Johnson Library, Austin, TX
- ⊕ Richard Nixon Library, Yorba Linda, CA

- ⊕ Gerald R. Ford Library, Ann Arbor, MI
- ⊕ Gerald R. Ford Museum, Grand Rapids, MI
- ⊕ Jimmy Carter Library, Atlanta, GA
- ⊕ Ronald Reagan Library, Simi Valley, CA
- ⊕ George Bush Library, College Station, TX
- ⊕ William J. Clinton Library, Little Rock, AR
- ⊕ George W. Bush Library, Dallas, TX
- ⊕ Barack H. Obama Library, Hoffman Estates, IL



NARA's Web Presence

FY22 Website Visitors



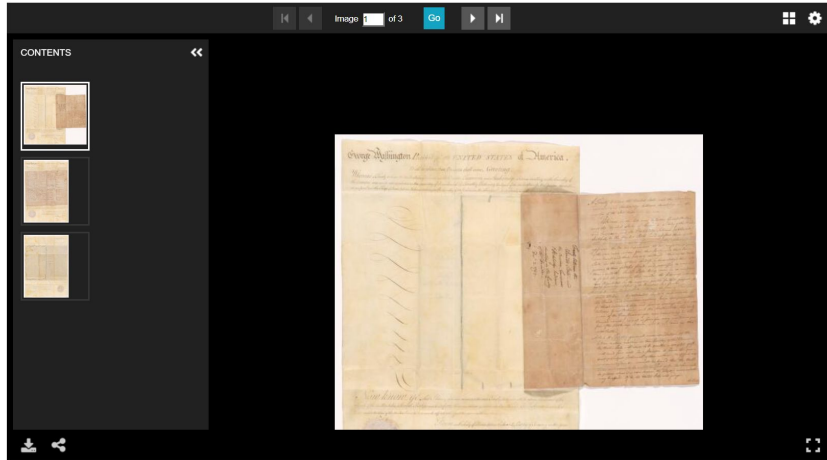
3rd Party Platforms

IDA Treaties Explorer

Resources About Guide

Treaties Cessions Tribes Places

Treaty: Ratified Indian Treaty 22: Oneida, Tuscarora, and Stockbridge - Oneida, New York, December 2, 1794



Titles Ratified Indian Treaty 22: Oneida, Tuscarora, and Stockbridge - Oneida, New York, December 2, 1794

Other Titles Ratified Indian Treaty #22
RIT #22
RIT 22

National Archives Catalog <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/81556982>

DPLA DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Search the collection Search

946 results

Sort by Relevance Items per page 20 Layout

Please read [DPLA's Statement on Potentially Harmful Content](#).

Filtered by partner: National Archives and Records Administration type: image subject: New Deal, 1933-1939 Clear all filters

Refine your search

Create a list from these items

How Can I Use It?	
Unlimited Re-Use	946
Type	
image	946
Subject	
African Americans	13
Forced migration	8
Food stamps	6
Arts	5
Education	4
Public schools	4
World War, 1939-1945	4
Economic development	3
Schools	3
Unemployment	3
Agriculture	2
Rarefied (Misc)	1
Date	





NARA's Records

Federal Government records with continuing value—about **2 to 3%** of records created

- More than **13 billion** pages of textual records
- **18 million** maps, charts, and architectural drawings
- More than **43 million** images
- **Billions** of electronic records, the fastest growing category
- Miles and miles of film and video



NARA's Strategic Goals

- Make Access Happen
- Connect with Customers
- Maximize our Value to the Nation
- Grow our Future through Our People

[NARA's Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#)

Strategic Objectives for Digitization

Make Access Happen

1.2 By FY 2026, NARA will digitize 500 million pages of records and make them available online to the public through the National Archives Catalog.

1.3 By FY 2026, NARA will collaborate with traditionally underserved communities to correct outdated descriptions in the National Archives Catalog and prioritize citizen engagement projects that increase access to records that are important to underserved communities.

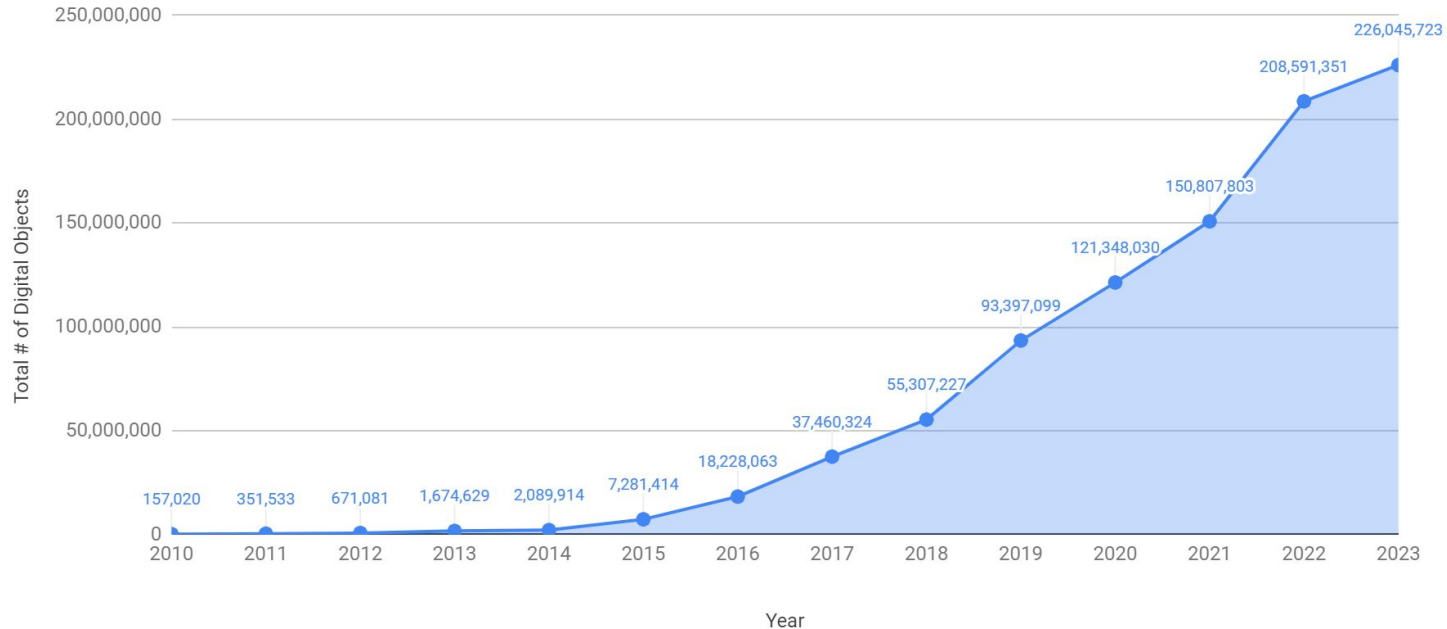
Maximize Our Value to the Nation

3.1 By FY 2026, NARA will provide policy, requirements, and oversight to support a transparent, inclusive, and fully digital government.



Expanding Access through our Catalog

Total # of Digital Objects in the National Archives Catalog (FY 2010 - FY 2023)



NARA's Digitization Strategy 2015-2024

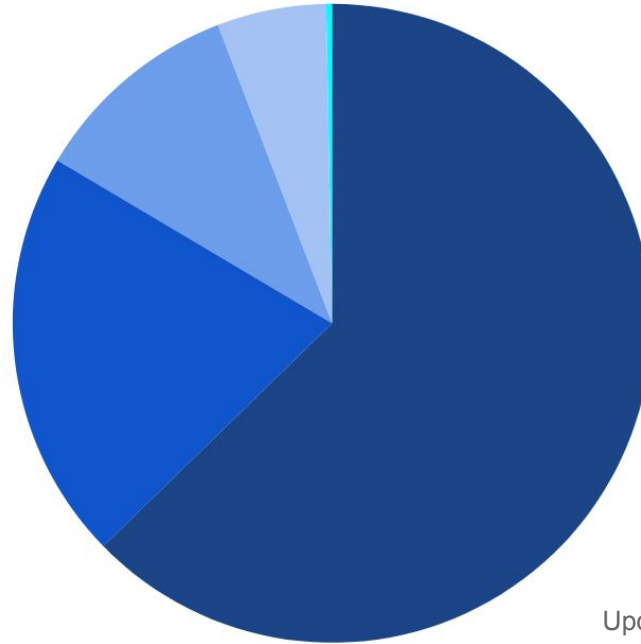
5 Approaches to Digitization:

- 1) Partnerships
- 2) Digitization Lab
- 3) Agency Transfers
- 4) Culture of Digitization
- 5) Citizen Archivists

Sources of Digital Copies in the Catalog

Digital Copies in the Catalog

- Partnerships: 140,109,185 (62.7%)
- Digitization Lab: 46,509,149 (20.8%)
- Agency Transfers: 23,818,266 (10.7%)
- Culture of Digitization: 12,349,474 (5.5%)
- Citizen Archivists: 657,479 (0.3%)



Updated on 5/31/2023

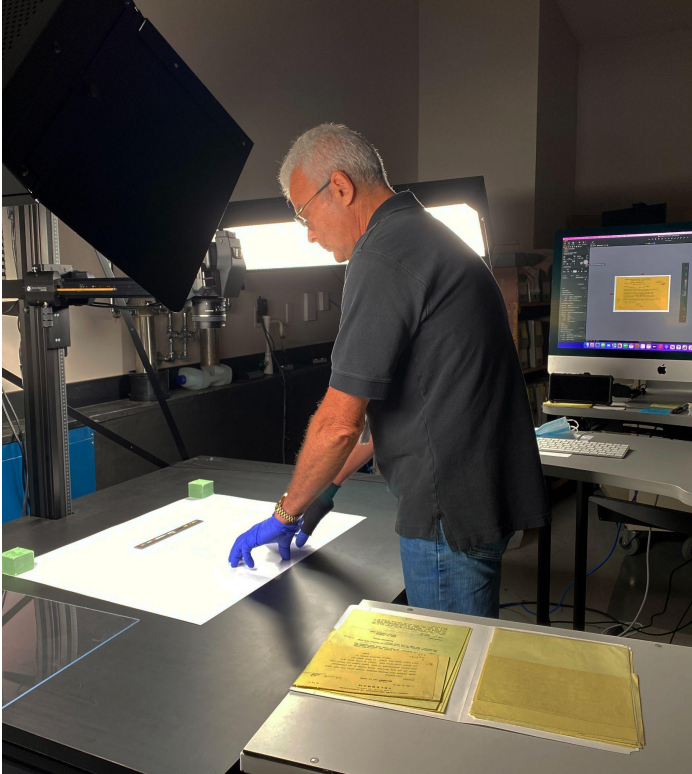
Partnerships

The following digitization partners digitize microfilm and original records from NARA's holdings and make them available on their websites. Eventually NARA adds the digitized images and descriptive metadata to our online catalog.

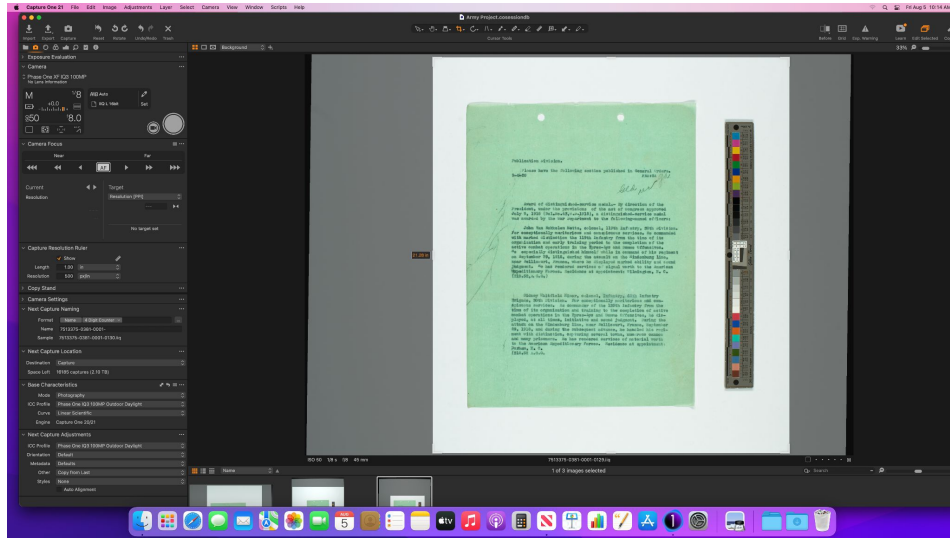
- Ancestry
- FamilySearch
- Fold3

The full list of records digitized by partners is available at [archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov).

The Digitization Labs at NARA



The Digitization Labs at NARA



Digitization Strategy: Born Digital Records



Citizen Archivists





Lessons Learned During COVID

Digitized records are foundational to remote work

The federal government/NARA expanded telework

Description and transcription opportunities for remote work

[History Hub](#) - NARA's first collaborative online reference room



By the Numbers as of June 2023

Descriptions in the Catalog: 29 million

Digital Copies in the Catalog: 226 million

Tags: 6.9 million

Transcriptions: 2.5 million

Newsletter subscribers: 350 thousand



Records Management for the Federal Government

By June 2024 - federal agency's permanent records in electronic formats

Originally December 31, 2022, but COVID slowed this down

NARA functions as a digital agency, supporting a digital government



NARA Regulations

36 CFR Subpart E: Digitizing Permanent Federal Records:

- Scope and Definitions
- Records management requirements
- Documenting digitization projects
- Quality management requirements
- File format requirements
- Digitization requirements for permanent paper and photographic prints
- Digitization requirements for permanent mixed-media files
- Metadata requirements
- Validating digitized records and disposition authorities

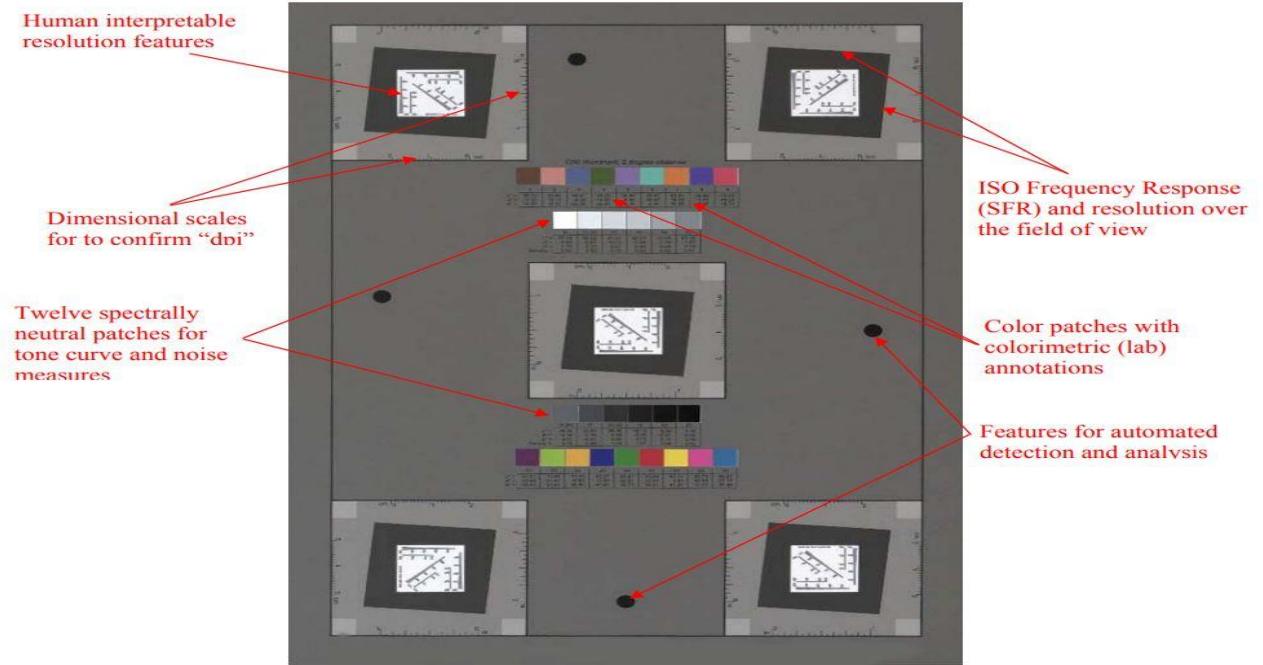
36 CFR Subpart F: Transfer Metadata



Incorporates Parameters from Federal Agencies

Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI)

- Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI)
- Digital Image Conformance Evaluation (DICE)





Reparative Description and Digitization

January 2021 Executive Order [Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#)

May 2021 [Archivist's Task Force on Racism Report](#)

July 2021 [Reparative Description and Digitization Working Group](#)



Looking Ahead

- 1/2 Billion records available by FY 2026
- What Role Will Artificial Intelligence Play?
- NARA's New Archivist - Dr. Colleen Shogan

Thank you!

Pamela.Wright@nara.gov