Office of Policy and Plans
Office Work Instruction

Management of the NASA Historical Reference Collection

Original Approved by
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Associate Administrator
Office of Policy and Plans

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TO VERIFY THAT THIS IS THE CORRECT VERSION BEFORE USE
### DOCUMENT HISTORY LOG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status (Baseline/Revision/Canceled)</th>
<th>Document Revision</th>
<th>Effective Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>12/10/99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin Update</td>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>4/24/02</td>
<td>Administrative Update to change responsible organization from Code Z to Code I. Action taken as a result of the July 10, 2001 memo from Administrator Dan Goldin to redistribute Code Z functions to other offices at HQS. Authorization made via email on 4/24/02 from Code I/Lynn Cline to transfer this OWI to her organization. (This OWI used to be Z005.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to capture and make available to NASA employees, researchers, and the general public, documents recording the history of NASA’s programs.

2. Scope and Applicability

This OWI covers maintenance of the Historical Reference Collection by the History Division staff at NASA Headquarters for reference use by NASA officials, researchers, and the general public. Documents are obtained from NASA organizations and current and former NASA employees and are copies of Federal records as well as publicly available materials from non-NASA sources. NASA Records Retention Schedules and the NASA Handbook (see references below) govern the retention, retirement, and destruction of agency records, thus determining the content of the Historical Reference Collection.

3. Definitions

Because the NASA Headquarters History Division serves, among others, the general public, we do not rely on NASA-unique terminology or acronyms for effective communications.

3.1 NASA HQ Historical Reference Collection: A collection of non-federal record copies of news articles, reports, correspondence, and related publications located at NASA Headquarters, and available for examination by NASA officials and other researchers during normal NASA business hours. Most materials are available in hardcopy form although some are available in electronic form as well.

3.2 Historical Program Review Team: Experts in the history of aerospace technology, policy, and business who are routinely consulted to assist in planning and performance evaluations for the NASA History program.

3.3 Document Management System: A computer-based online catalog of, and finding aid for, documents contained in the NASA HQ Historical Reference Collection.

3.4 Support Contractors: Three professionally trained and experienced archivists provided to the History Division by an outside contractor for the
purpose of assisting with the arrangement, description, and reference services in the HRC.

4. References


4.2 NPG 1441.1D, “Records Retention Schedules.”

4.3 HHR-64, “Research in NASA History: A Guide to the NASA History Program.”


4.5 Standard Form 135, “Records Transmittal and Receipt Form.”
Identify Materials to be added to the Historical Reference Collection (HRC)

6.1

Assemble, Arrange & File Materials

6.2

Enter Descriptive Information into DMS

6.3

Review Existing Records for Retirement

6.4

Assist Visitors with Research in the HRC

6.5

Receive & Respond to Inquiries

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## 6. Procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Actionee</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Chief Historian, Archivist</td>
<td>Identify biographical and subject files and reference materials to be added to the Historical Reference Collection by consulting with NASA officials, History Division staff, and Historical Program Review Team. Actionees also use subject-matter expertise as well as guidance conveyed in NPG 1441.1D, Records Retention Schedules, to identify HRC material. Materials come from a number of sources: distribution lists, printed and online sources, NASA organizations, current and former NASA employees, and employees under contract to the agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Archivist with Support Contractors</td>
<td>Enter descriptive information, including location, into History Division Document Management System. Maintain descriptive information (DMS record) in electronic form searchable by History Office staff and researchers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Chief Historian, Archivist</td>
<td>Review and select materials for retirement to the Federal Records Center or National Archives and Records Administration in accordance with NPG 1441.1D. Records are retired to FRC and NARA based on timetables and other instructions spelled out in NPG 1441.1D and in consultation with the HQ Records Manager. Go to step 6.7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>History Office staff, with Support Contractors</td>
<td>Assist visitors with research in the Historical Reference Collection by guiding them through a database search of the History Division Document Management System. Provide visitors with a copy of NASA HHR-64, <em>Research in NASA History: A Guide to the NASA History Program</em> to facilitate their research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>History Office staff, with Support Contractors</td>
<td>Receive and respond to inquiries received by phone, fax, e-mail, or letter from NASA staff, researchers, and the general public. Prepare and maintain answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) on a network, shared drive. Prepare individual responses to information requests that require additional research and retain copies of those responses only for a limited period of time. An internal, History Division document entitled “Procedures for Handling Reference Requests” explains this action in further detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>Chief Historian, Archivist</td>
<td>Are Records Ready for Retirement (see step 6.4)? If so proceed to step 6.8. If not, retain in HRC or evaluate for retirement at a later date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>Chief Historian, Archivist</td>
<td>Prepare materials for retirement to FRC or NARA in accordance with NPG 1441.1D and in consultation with the HQ Records Manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>Chief Historian, Archivist</td>
<td>Send materials to FRC or NARA by contacting HQ Records Manager to arrange for pickup of boxes along with the required paperwork, a Records Transmittal and Receipt Form, SF-135.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 6.10 Chief Historian

Prepare and issue monthly and yearly History Division activity reports that include information on research use of the historical reference collection. Receive input from History Division staff prior to preparation of reports. Re-examine monthly reports prior to annual report preparation. Reports are distributed to Code I Assistant Administrator and staff. Additionally, yearly report is placed on the NASA History Division web site.
7. Quality Records

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record Identification</th>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Record Media: Electronic or Hard Copy</th>
<th>Schedule Number and Item Number (NPG 1441.1D)</th>
<th>Retention/Disposition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HRC Files</td>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>History Office</td>
<td>Hard Copy</td>
<td>1.8.A</td>
<td>Permanent; retain in Agency until there is no longer active Agency use then transfer to NARA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Office Document Mgmt. System Record</td>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>History Office</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>1.8.A</td>
<td>Permanent; retain in Agency until there is no longer active Agency use then transfer to NARA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)</td>
<td>History Off. Staff, Contractors</td>
<td>History Office</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>1.8.B</td>
<td>Retain indefinitely in agency space until no longer needed, or destroy when 75 years old, whichever is longer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records Transmittal and Receipt Form, SF-135</td>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>History Office</td>
<td>Hardcopy</td>
<td>1.8.B</td>
<td>Retain indefinitely in agency space until no longer needed, or destroy when 75 years old, whichever is longer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Report</td>
<td>Chief Historian</td>
<td>History Office</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>1.12.B.1</td>
<td>Permanent; retire to Federal Records Center when 5 years old; transfer to National Archives Records Administration in 5 year blocks when 20 years old.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>Chief Historian</td>
<td>History Office</td>
<td>Electronic</td>
<td>1.12.B.1</td>
<td>Permanent; retire to Federal Records Center when 5 years old; transfer to National Archives Records Administration in 5 year blocks when 20 years old.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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APPENDIX: [ None ]