
NARA Notice 2021-198: Public Reopening of NARA Research Rooms and Reentry of Select Organizations

Mon, August 2, 2021



To: All Employees.

Attention supervisors: If you have employees who do not have access to a computer, please ensure that those employees receive a copy of this notice. This includes employees on LWOP or paid leave.

I am pleased to announce the reopening of public research rooms across the country and the reentry of NARA employees who support research room operations in Research Services and Legislative Archives, Presidential Materials, and Museums; the National Declassification Center in Agency Services; and the Research Services, FOIA and Special Access Staff.

Beginning today, we have reopened the following research rooms to the public. Each facility is located in an area with fewer than 99 new cases per 100,000 population and less than 8 percent positivity over the past 14 days.

- National Archives at Washington, DC, research room
- National Archives at Chicago, IL, research room
- Hoover Library at West Branch, IA, research room
- National Archives at College Park, MD, research room, National Declassification Center, and FOIA and Special Access Branch
- Kennedy Library at Boston, MA, research room
- National Archives at Boston in Waltham, MA, research room
- Ford Library at Ann Arbor, MI, research room
- Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, NY, research room
- National Archives at Philadelphia, PA, research room

Facilities not listed here will not reopen their research rooms, and their research room staff will not progress to Phase Three until local public health conditions improve. Facilities not listed here that have already reopened their research rooms as a pilot will continue the pilot reopening but will not expand research room operations.

As announced in [NARA Notice 2021-179](#), NARA has prioritized the reentry of our research room staff so that we can restore our services that support in-person research. The pandemic has prevented us from providing in-person research for more than a year. Researchers, historians, genealogists, and members of the public rely on in-person research, and it is an essential part of NARA's mission. Similarly, we have had to curtail the mission-essential work of the NDC and the FOIA and Special Access Staff since March 2020. We prioritized their reentry so that we can begin to restore our processes for reviewing classified and sensitive records in order to fulfill our mission and better support our customer federal agencies and FOIA requesters.

Please take care of yourselves and each other. If you need support or assistance during this time, please take advantage of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). EAP services are free, confidential, and available to all NARA employees, supervisors, and family members. EAP counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by telephone 24/7 at 1-800-222-0364 (TTY 1-888-262-7848) or online at www.FOH4YOU.com. EAP information can also be found at the [NARA@work EAP page](#).

Thank you for your patience.

DAVID S. FERRIERO
Archivist of the United States

If you have questions about this notice, contact:

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