Guide to Pre-Civil War US Presidential Documents in microform

Microforms Guide #9

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

General Collections

Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1897
Microfilm J81 B96 1896
Library of American Civilization Microfiche E169.1 L536 LAC 20814-23)

Also in paper: Storage J81 B96

Presidential Executive Orders [1845-1936]
Microfilm J80 A25

Text of orders no. 1 (June 26, 1845) through no. 7403 (June 26, 1936).

Finding aid. This collection does not have its own finding aid. Find date of executive order in CIS Index to Presidential Executive Orders & Proclamations, Ref room KF70 A55 1987.

Presidential Papers

Thomas Jefferson Papers
Microfilm E302 J4647.

Primarily Jefferson’s public papers held by the Library of Congress, complementing the Jefferson Papers at the University of Virginia, below. The collection is organized into series, of which the personal correspondence is by far the largest.

The Jefferson Papers have been digitized and are available as part of the Library of Congress American Memory website: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/mtjhtml/mtjhome.html>.


Jefferson Papers of the University of Virginia, 1732-1828
Microfilm E332.8 1977.

More than 3,400 items, dealing especially with Jefferson’s private life (thus complementing the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Papers, above). Includes personal and business letters, drafts of legislation, real estate records, documents from founding era of University of Virginia. Most are original documents of contemporary transcripts, either by Jefferson or bearing a direct relationship with him. Finding aid includes notes on each reel and an alphabetical index of letter writers and recipients.

Finding aids:
- Guide to the Microfilm Edition of The Jefferson Papers of the University of Virginia, 1732-1828. Ref Room and Microforms index area E332.8 1977 guide. Also online: <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/specrcol/collections/tj/>
- The Jefferson Papers of the University of Virginia. Stacks Z6616 J4 T45 1973

James Madison Papers, ca. 1674-1859
Microfilm E302 M15.

Madison’s papers in the Library of Congress, including correspondence with Thomas Jefferson and other notable Virginians and public figures; Madison’s autobiography; documents relating to his father and other family members; Jefferson’s notes on debates of the Continental Congress; Madison’s notes on debates in the Confederation Congress and on the Federal [Constitutional] Convention. Finding aid is arranged alphabetically by writer or recipient. Finding aid: Index to the James Madison Papers. Stacks Z6616 M3 U5.
James Monroe Papers [1758-1839]
Microfilm. Unclassed film no. 7707

Correspondence from Monroe’s service as congressman, senator, governor of Virginia, diplomat, cabinet officer, and president. Finding aid is arranged alphabetically by writer or recipient. Virginia Tech has only reels 2-4 and 9-11.

Finding aid: Index to the Monroe Papers. Stacks Z6616 M6 US

James Monroe Papers in Virginia Repositories
Microfilm E372 A25.

Complementing the Library of Congress Monroe Papers (above), these records from throughout the state document Monroe’s career as member of the Virginia Council of State (from 1782-83) and as governor (from 1799-1802 and 1811). Major topics include arming and maintaining the militia, appointments to state and county offices, and relations with bordering states. Some letters from his private life and business affairs are also included. Finding aid includes notes on each reel and an alphabetical index of letter writers and recipients.

Finding aids:

Martin Van Buren Papers
Microfilm E337.8 V33

Collection includes his Autobiography (1854-1864), general correspondence (1787-1868), messages (1837-1838), a legal record book (1807-1813), and an estate record book (1862-1863). There are many gaps in his papers because Van Buren destroyed correspondence that he thought was of little value.


Related materials

This is a selective guide to microform resources on this topic at Virginia Tech. Many additional collections of presidential papers are also available in printed sets, and various organizations are providing provides an increasing volume of papers and primary-source materials online, including the Library of Congress American Memory project <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/finder.html> and the Avalon Project at Yale Law School <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/presiden/presiden.htm>.

To view the wider range of related materials at Tech (including 19th – century presidential writings collected in the Library of American Civilization [LAC] fiche collection), search Addison using the president’s name as a subject. For well-known presidents, narrow your search by using “manuscripts” or “archives” and the president’s name as keywords. Representative official subject headings include:
• Jefferson, Thomas, 1743-1826 -- Manuscripts
• Madison, James, 1751-1836 -- Archives

More generally, use the subject “Presidents – United States.”

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