Research at the U.S. National Archives and the United Nations Archives
SCOPA Grant Proposal - 2015

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Purpose and expected outcome

Understanding which government documents and records are accessible locally and which
materials necessitate a research trip is essential for many Yale researchers. To address this need,
Sahr Conway-Lanz and I offered our first workshop on “Using the U.S. National Archives
(NARA) and Presidential Library System” in April 2012.1 We drew on Sahr’s insider knowledge
of NARA and on my familiarity with U.S. government information depository resources to
illuminate the archival holdings at NARA facilities and the depository collection at Yale.2 Since
that first session, we have presented three additional workshops on this topic, each time refining
our approaches in response to researchers’ interests, and I have incorporated the sources and
research strategies from this workshop into course-integrated instruction3 and research
consultations.

While Yale researchers from a variety of disciplines, particularly graduate students and
undergraduate senior essayists, continue to seek out U.S. government information and records
from NARA, many are interested in both U.S. and UN perspectives on foreign relations, the role
of nations within the international system, and topics like development assistance and climate
change. In some cases, these research questions can be addressed with the Library’s United

1 My predecessor in this position, Julie Linden, was awarded a SCOPA grant in 2009 to conduct research at NARA
facilities and produced an online guide to support researchers as they prepare for their own research visits. I have
furthered Julie’s excellent work by migrating this guide from the YUL website’s old content management system to
LibGuides and by updating and enhancing the guide to reflect the most current NARA information and the content
of the local NARA workshop. This research guide is located at: http://guides.library.yale.edu/nara.
2 The U.S. federal government research guide and information about the depository collection can be found at:
http://guides.library.yale.edu/usfed
3 These course-integrated sessions include GLBL 392 (Intelligence, Espionage, and American Foreign Policy),
HIST 411 (The Global 1960s), HIST 415 (The Problem of World Poverty), and PLSC 522/SOCY 503 (Historical
and Archival Methods, a graduate seminar).
Nations depository collection\(^4\), but for a number of researchers, the UN depository collection acts as a complement to the holdings of the UN Archives in New York.\(^5\)

With this project, I would like to put the research strategies from the NARA workshop into action by conducting my own visits to NARA facilities, and to develop a similar framework with regard to the Library’s United Nations depository collection and the UN Archives. Expected outcomes of this project include improved support for researchers planning their own trips to the U.S. National Archives, based on personal experience and the most current information and policies from NARA, and a new level of service and instruction for Yale researchers interested in the United Nations Archives. I will also delve into the rich connections between two of YUL’s depository collections and their respective archives with the intention of promoting these materials, as well as their ties to the Library’s international collections and the diplomacy collections in Manuscripts and Archives, to Yale researchers. The availability of the Kissinger papers will likely intensify interest in archival research with foreign affairs sources, and these research trips will prepare me to collaborate with colleagues on outreach and instruction endeavors that highlight the full spectrum of government and intergovernmental organization information: from official publications to agencies’ internal records, from declassified memos to diplomats’ personal files.

**Methodology**

This project will consist of three research trips centered on a research topic that can be explored across all three archives. My topic is still evolving, but will most likely be related to World War II and the creation of the United Nations, Eleanor Roosevelt and U.S. involvement in the UN Human Rights Commission, or an aspect of U.S. foreign relations before and after the founding of the United Nations.

For the first two research trips, I will travel to National Archives facilities—Archives II in College Park, MD and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY—after developing my research topic and preparing for my archive visits using the strategies I recommend to researchers. This will entail the use of National Archives microfilm sets available at Yale, as well as other resources like the *Monthly Catalog of Government Publications*,

\(^4\) UN research guide and information about the depository collection is located at: [http://guides.library.yale.edu/unitednations](http://guides.library.yale.edu/unitednations)

\(^5\) For example, the winning essay in the 2014 Harvey M. Applebaum ’58 Award competition (for an outstanding senior essay that makes use of YUL’s depository collections) featured both U.S. and UN depository documents, as well as sources from the UN Archives. Information about the Applebaum Award is available at: [http://guides.library.yale.edu/Applebaum](http://guides.library.yale.edu/Applebaum).
For my third research trip, to the United Nations Archives in New York City, I will continue to develop my research topic while keeping notes and reflecting on the process. What support for researchers is available on the UN Archives website? What are the essential sources and strategies that one should employ when planning to visit the UN Archives? How can one make use of YUL’s UN depository collection during these preparations, and how might these strategies differ from approaching a research trip to NARA?

At the conclusion of my research trips, I will update the existing NARA LibGuide as appropriate and develop two additional guides: one modeled on the NARA guide and intended for researchers planning visits to the UN Archives, and another on the United States and the United Nations that will include resources in the YUL depository collections as well as recommendations for pursuing a research topic across both collections. Finally, I will prepare a workshop to be held in October 2015 on conducting UN research at Yale and in the UN Archives.

**Timeline**

January-February: Develop topic and prepare for NARA/Archives II research trip

February: NARA/Archives II research trip

February-March: Prepare for NARA/FDR Presidential Library research trip

April: NARA/FDR Presidential Library research trip

April-May: Prepare for UN Archives research trip

May: UN Archives research trip

May-August: Update existing NARA LibGuide

Create LibGuide and instructional materials (workshop outline; handouts or tutorials as necessary) for UN Archives research

Create LibGuide on the United States and the UN

September: Publicize guides to YUL and relevant departments or researchers

October: Hold a workshop on conducting UN research at Yale and the UN Archives
Benefit

This project will enable deeper support and improved service for Yale researchers planning trips to the National Archives and the UN Archives, and the resulting research guides will also benefit non-Yale researchers and librarians. I will apply the experience I gain during these research trips to future iterations of the NARA workshop; to course-integrated instruction in history, political science, and global affairs; and to one-on-one research consultations with senior essayists, graduate students, and other Yale affiliates as they prepare for their own research visits. In exploring these archival collections in relation to the YUL depository collections, I will also look for outreach opportunities to promote our local collections to researchers at Yale and beyond.

Expenses

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<tr>
<th>NARA research trip – Archives II, College Park, MD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amtrak (Stamford to Washington DC, roundtrip)</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<td>Metro fare (Washington DC to College Park, MD)</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lodging in College Park, MD (1 night)</td>
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<td>Per diem (2 days, $71/day)</td>
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<th>NARA research trip - Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Hyde Park, NY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel by car (162 miles roundtrip, Stamford to Hyde Park, NY, $0.56/mile)</td>
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<td>Per diem (1 day, $66/day)</td>
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<td>Metro-North (Stamford to Grand Central, roundtrip)</td>
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| TOTAL | $838.00 |