

NATIONAL ARCHIVES CATALOG



Calling all techies! Explore the Catalog API

We'd like to introduce you to the [National Archives Catalog API](#). The API (or "application programming interface"), is a technology that allows computer programs or web applications created by the public to interact with our Catalog's dataset. ([Read more about APIs in government.](#))

The dataset for the Catalog API contains all archival descriptions, authority records, digitized records (the images, videos, and so on) and their file metadata, all National Archives web pages, and public contributions (tags, transcriptions, and comments). The API allows citizen developers to retrieve structured archival metadata for any given record or search results set. The API is also writable, which means you can use it to post tags, transcriptions, or comments to records. We believe it is one of the first public write APIs in operation at a cultural institution.

```
    "dateTime": "2004-10-19T00:00:00"
  },
  "created": {
    "dateTime": "2001-12-03T00:00:00"
  }
},
"recordKey": "596998",
"title": "Photograph of President George and Barbara Bush in Kennebunkport, Maine",
"useRestriction": {
  "status": {
    "naId": "10675400",
    "termName": "Unrestricted"
  }
},
"variantControlNumberArray": {
  "variantControlNumber": [
    {
      "note": "This is the NARA Internal Exhibit Tracking Number for the Public Vaults exhibit.",
      "number": "09641",
      "type": {
        "naId": "10675515",
        "termName": "Other Identifier"
      }
    },
    {
      "note": "This is the film roll and frame number assigned to this photograph by the White House Photograph Office.",
      "number": "P23382-21",
      "type": {
        "naId": "10675515",
        "termName": "Other Identifier"
      }
    }
  ]
}
```

Screenshot of data from the Catalog API

Our API is still relatively new, and there may be some kinks to work out. But we encourage you to give it a try and see what you can create with it. The API is located at <https://catalog.archives.gov/api/v1/>, but we also recommend you start out by checking out some of our other documentation to learn the ropes:

[Catalog API on GitHub](#)

[Interactive API Sandbox](#)

Also, be sure to give us feedback (whether questions, bug reports, or ideas for improvement) in [our GitHub repo issue tracker](#) or by emailing api@nara.gov. Let us know what you make!

New and interesting records in the Catalog

Henry Morgenthau, Jr.: [Diaries, 4/27/1933-7/21/1945](#)

Consists of over 850 diary volumes documenting the public career of Henry Morgenthau, Jr. as head of the Farm Credit Administration and Secretary of the Treasury during the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Economic Cooperation Administration: [Country Files of the Mutual Security Program, 1950-1951](#)

Geographic files on defense issues for eight countries in Western Europe and the Far East.

Federal Open Market Committee: [Current Economic Reports by District \[aka The "Redbook", 5/1970-12/1983](#)

Narrative reports providing comments on economic conditions and economic outlooks.

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.



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