Mission and Background

The USCIS History Office and Library program preserves and promotes understanding of the history of USCIS and its predecessor agencies and programs.

- Historical Reference Office staff research, write, and distribute histories, and provide authoritative historical information to USCIS, other government agencies, and public researchers.
- The History Reference Library acquires, organizes, and provides access to library resources supporting the history of USCIS, its predecessor agencies, and US Immigration and Nationality law; and provides professional library services to both government and public customers.

Contact Information

Library Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays.

By Appointment Only:

To schedule an appointment (an extended research visit), call 202.272.8370, email CISHistory.Library@dhs.gov or write to the address below. All visitors must present a valid form of photo identification and enter through building security.

Location:

USCIS History Office and Library
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, 1st Floor
Washington, DC 20529
Telephone: 202.272.8370
Fax: 202.272.8374
Library Email Address: CISHistory.Library@dhs.gov

Library On-line Catalog:

http://207.67.203.70/U95007Staff/OPAC/

This catalog allows users to search for historical U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) reference material.

For additional U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reference visit www.uscis.gov

(Click on the "About Us" tab and see the link to "USCIS History" at the left).

* *Extended library visits (more than 3 consecutive days) require security checks.*

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

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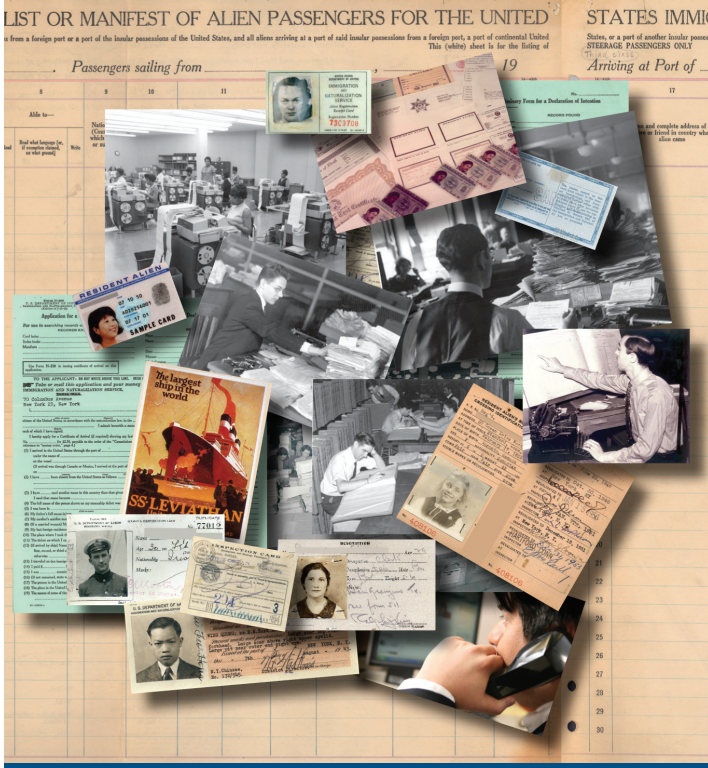

USCIS History Office & Library

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Our Collections

The Historical Reference Library collection consists of books, publications, reports, periodicals, microfilm, legal material, law enforcement material, and secondary works by and about USCIS and the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service. The collection includes materials created by the service over more than a century. Below is a list of sub-collections:

General collection. The general collection consists largely of agency publications, reports, handbooks, and other material documenting agency operations and programs. Included are complete sets of agency annual reports since 1892 and Statistical Yearbooks since 1978. The collection also includes published works on immigration and nationality history and law.

Periodicals. Among the library's most-used materials are late 20th century agency periodicals, including the *INS Monthly Review, I&N Reporter, Information Bulletin, and Commissioner's Communiqué*.

Historical Photograph Collection. The library's historical photograph collection depicts agency facilities and operations throughout the country from the 1890's to the present.

Video Collection. Videotapes dating largely since the 1980's cover major changes in immigration legislation, legacy Commissioner's conferences, training tapes, and a variety of other topics.

Vertical File. Our extensive vertical file of miscellaneous materials relates to various immigration and nationality topics.

Legal History Resources. Certain library materials focus on the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 and prior laws, including legislative histories, regulations instructions, interpretations, and forms.

Services for the Public

Among the library's frequent patrons are scholars, students, journalists, attorneys, and many others with an interest in the history of immigration and nationality law, policy, and agency programs. The History Office and Library offers a variety of services to public researchers.

- The library is open to the public by appointment only. No materials are lent to public patrons, but a copy machine is available.

- Historical Reference Library staff can answer researcher questions by letter, telephone, or email.
- Images from the History Office and Library photo collection are made available to authors and publishers.
- Historians will consult with researchers regarding research problems, records availability, and access procedures.

The Historical Reference Library does not hold or provide access to any genealogical records.

Services for DHS and Other Government Agencies

As a DHS and federal library, the Historical Reference Library is available to DHS and other federal staff who need information to perform their official duties. Among the services offered by the History Office and Library are:

- Reference assistance to identify and locate materials. Reference questions can be submitted via the DHS "Ask a Librarian" service or directly by calling the library.
- Research help to duplicate, mail, or fax information to federal requesters.
- Inter-Library Loan to share library materials via another DHS library.
- Library access and limited borrowing privileges.