



Donating Materials to the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library

Collection Development

The Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library accepts collections of unique and original primary-source materials that document the life, career, and time period of Lyndon B. Johnson. Our primary interest is in documents, artifacts, and audiovisual material created or maintained by Lyndon B. Johnson, members of his administration, his immediate family, and close associates.

Donating Your Materials

Please review the Frequently Asked Questions section below for a list of materials we generally do not accept.

If you are interested in donating materials to the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, please email us at johnson.library@nara.gov. Please include information about the type of documents or artifacts you would like to donate and a general estimate of the volume of material. You may consider including a photograph or scan as an example of the material you wish to donate.

Please note that the Library does not acquire very small donations (e.g. a single document or several photographs) unless they are truly unique or of a singular historical value.

Unsolicited donations will be disposed of without notice. Potential donors should receive prior approval from Library staff before sending any items to the Library.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What don't you accept?

A: We generally do not accept the following categories of materials;

- Plaques, awards, and other large items in archival donations due to storage limitations;
- Picture frames or photos stored in albums. If you have photographs stored in frames or albums, we request that you remove them from the frames before sending the photographs;
- Newspapers, journals, magazines, books, or personal libraries;
- Personal scrapbooks of news clippings and/or photographs;
- Tributes, poems, songs, or other personal reminiscences;
- Mass-produced materials such as inauguration invitations and event programs;
- Photocopies or digital facsimiles of original materials (including those from other archives);
- Materials that are too fragile to serve to researchers or require extensive conservation; materials that have mold, mildew, pest, or other potentially harmful infestations; or organic materials.

Q: How much is my material worth? Is it authentic?

A: As a federal institution, the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library cannot purchase materials, provide monetary appraisals or assessments, or recommend individual appraisers. If you would like to have your materials appraised, you must do so prior to donating them to the Library. The following websites provide the names of certified appraisers throughout the country:



<http://www.appraisers.org/find-an-appraiser>

<http://www.appraisersassoc.org/>

Q: Do I need to sign anything?

A: We may ask you to complete a formal deed of gift or to provide a written statement confirming your intent to donate the materials. We do not accept materials for temporary loan or deposit, and materials donated to the Johnson Library become the physical property of the United States. Donors are also expected to transfer to the United States all copyrights they hold in the materials, making them public domain.

Q: How will I know you received my donation?

A: All pre-approved donations will be acknowledged formally upon receipt, usually by letter or email. Please note that unsolicited donations will not be acknowledged.

Q: Will my donation be exhibited?

A: We cannot guarantee that donations will be placed on display and we are unable to accept donations requiring that stipulation.

Q: Still have questions?

A: Email the acquisitions team at johnson.library@nara.gov.