

Historical Documentation Survey
Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
Analysis of Survey Data by Historical Documentation Committee
December 17, 2013

I. Background

The Historical Documentation Committee of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) conducted an online survey (via SurveyMonkey) to assess challenges and opportunities facing historical research on the United States, particularly U.S. foreign relations. The survey focused particularly on the state of document classification as well as on the overall research experience at the U.S. National Archives, a key repository for documents pertaining to U.S. diplomatic history. The survey was extensively promoted via email, social media, and pertinent webpages. An astonishing 784 researchers responded to the survey between October and December 2013.

II. Respondents / survey pool:

- 784 respondents to the survey
- 687 respondents (88%) have conducted research at U.S. National Archives (USNA)
- 540 respondents (69%) conducted research at USNA within the past 3 years (321 or 41% during past 1 year).
- 451 respondents (69%) specialize in U.S. foreign relations history
- 346 respondents (44%) are professors of history
- 217 respondents (or 28%) are graduate students in history
- 221 (28%) respondents are public historians, independent researchers, high school teachers, or other

III. USNA experience:

A small percentage of respondents (12% on Q4) had not conducted research at the U.S. National Archives. Although the survey was designed to account for such a variance, in the analysis below those respondents who indicated that they had not conducted research at USNA were filtered out of analysis of those questions that specifically and exclusively apply to USNA (Q7, Q11-14, Q18). The observations below also reflect this filter.

IV. Attitudes toward Declassification:

Respondents overwhelmingly describe declassified documents as very important to their research:

- 71% rank as “very important, indispensable”

- 14% rank as important but supplemental

Most respondents find the State Department's Foreign Relations series to be important:

- 41% describe as "very important, indispensable"
- 69% describe as either "indispensable" or "important and necessary"

Researchers are split in their opinion of the availability of declassified documents at USNA:

- 35% describe as "good" and 10% describe as "excellent"
- 28% describe availability of declassified documents as "disappointed" or "very worrisome"
- 27% describe as "adequate"

Researchers overwhelmingly agree that overclassification of documents is a very serious problem:

- 80% describe overclassification as "an extremely worrisome, potentially damaging" or "very serious" problem

Researchers also agree that accelerating declassification should be a higher priority for USNA than digitizing documents:

- 75% prioritize declassification

Researchers believe detailed descriptions of withheld documents are important:

- Half (50%) describe such descriptions as "very important, indispensable" and an additional 38% believe they are "important and useful"

Researchers strongly believe that accelerating declassification should be USNA's top priority (Q19):

- More than a third of respondents (38%) rank this as the #1 priority
- Two-thirds (66%) rank declassification as "extremely urgent" or as "#1 priority."

Researchers strongly believe that an overhaul of the declassification system is needed (Q20):

- More than a third of respondents (35%) believe a "radical overhaul is urgently required"
- 78% believe reform or a radical overhaul is needed

V. Attitudes toward U.S. National Archives:

Researchers are split in their assessments of archivists at USNA (Q11-12):

- Half (50-52%) describe archivists as good or excellent in attentiveness and subject expertise

- But more than a third (36%) describe archivists as merely satisfactory or poor in attentiveness and subject expertise

Researchers do not express strong confidence with USNA finding aids or search engines (Q13-14):

- Only 7% describe finding aids as excellent and 57% describe them as merely satisfactory or poor
- Only 4% describe search engines as excellent 55% describe them as merely satisfactory or poor

By a significant margin, researchers find the “overall archival research experience,” the “usefulness of the finding aids,” and the “attentiveness of the archivists” to be more favorable at Presidential Libraries or University Libraries than at USNA. (Q15-17)

Researchers are divided in their assessments of USNA compared to foreign archives (Q18).

- 22% perceive USNA as better than foreign archives
- But 23% perceive USNA to be worse than foreign archives

Virtually all researchers (92%) strongly believe that Congress should allocate more funding to the National Archives (Q21).

VI. Slight variations according to backgrounds & experience of respondents:

When responses are filtered according to the following variables, there was little change in overall survey results. In general, results changed little (1-3% from overall responses), but the following trends do emerge:

Q1: Professor of History

- More likely to value detailed descriptions of withheld documents:
 - Q10: 59% (vs. 50% overall) rate as indispensable
- More likely to prioritize declassification:
 - Q9: 79% (vs. 75% overall) prioritize declassification over digitization
 - Q19: 69% (vs. 66% overall) to rate accelerating declassification as “extremely urgent” or “#1 priority”

Q2: Among those who specialize in U.S. foreign relations history:

- Vast majority researched at USNA during past 1-3 years: 75%
- And more likely than others (+6%) to have researched at USNA during past 1-3 years
 - Q4: 45% (41% overall) more likely to have researched at USNA in past year

- Q4: 30% (vs. 28% overall) more likely to have researched at USNA during past 3 years
- More likely to rate declassified documents as indispensable:
 - Q5: 81% (vs. 71% overall) to rate as indispensable
 - Q6: 52% (vs. 41% overall) rate FRUS as indispensable
- More likely to prioritize declassification:
 - Q9: 79% (vs. 75% overall) prioritize declassification over digitization
 - Q19: 43% (vs. 38% overall) rank declassification as #1 priority
 - Q19: 71% (vs. 66% overall) rank declassification as “extremely urgent” or “#1 priority”
- More likely to advocate reform of declassification system:
 - Q20: 38% (vs. 35% overall) believe radical overhaul is needed
 - Q20: 85% (vs. 78% overall) believe “radical overhaul” or “some reform” is needed
- More likely to have a higher opinion of presidential archives over USNA:
 - Q15: 13% (vs. 16%) describe overall experience at USNA as excellent
 - Q15: 52% (vs. 41%) describe overall experience at presidential library as excellent

Q4: Among those who researched at USNA in past 1-3 years:

- Much more likely to have done extensive archival research at any archive:
 - Q3: 76% (vs. 67% overall) select “extensively”
- More likely to rate reviewing and releasing records as a higher priority:
 - Q9: 79% (vs. 75% overall) select reviewing & releasing records
- Relative to all those who have conducted research at USNA, those who have done so in the past 1-3 years have a slightly lower opinion of USNA:
 - Q12: 16% (vs 13% overall) rate subject expertise of archivist as poor
 - Q13: 33% (vs. 29% overall) rate findings aids as poor
 - Q14: 34% (vs. 30% overall) rate search engines as poor
- More likely to believe radical overhaul is urgently required:
 - Q20: 38% (vs. 35%) believe radical overhaul of declassification system is urgently required

VII: Additional Comments

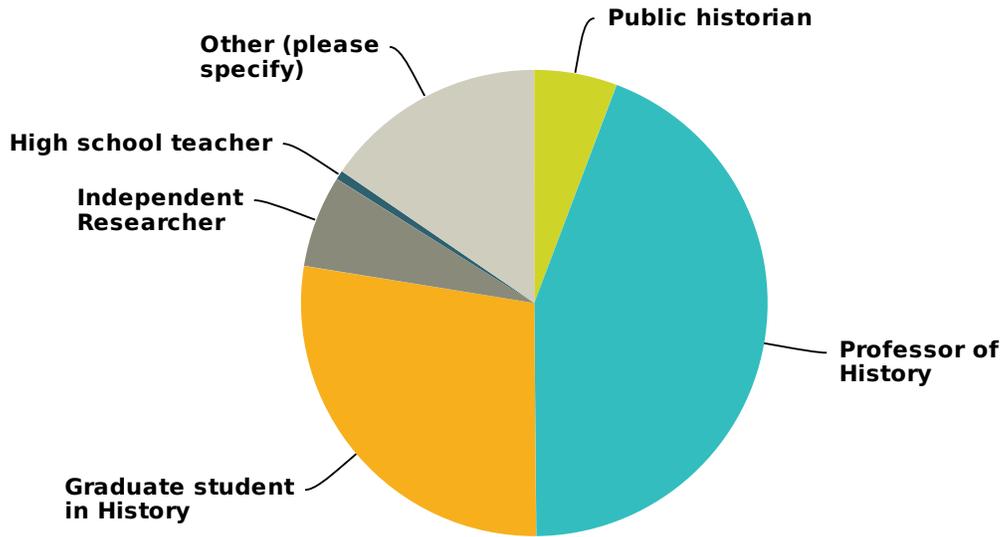
Questions 22 and 23 permitted respondents to enter additional comments. The unfiltered and un-edited responses are appended below.

VIII. For additional data:

To request additional filters or additional raw data, contact Kenneth Osgood: kosgood@mines.edu.

Q1 Which of the following best describes your professional occupation?

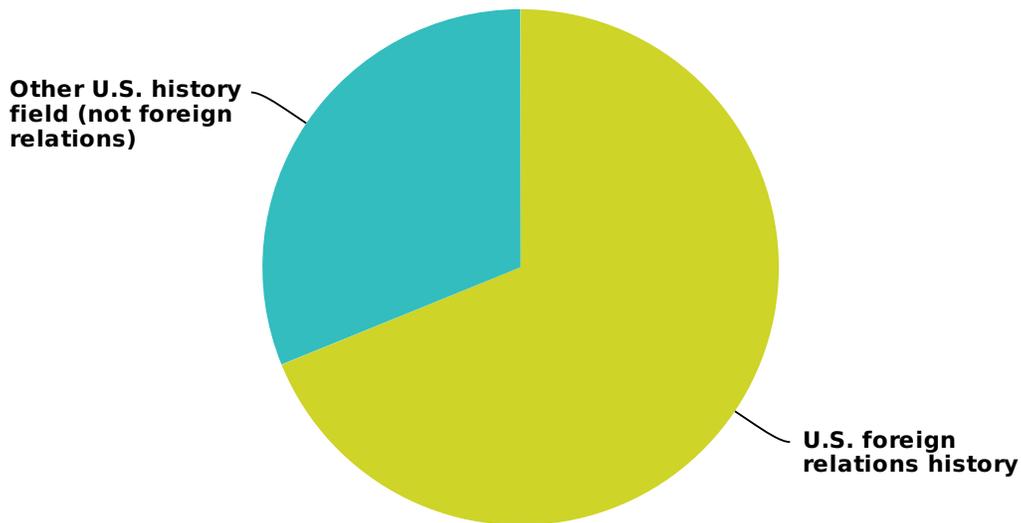
Answered: 784 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
Public historian	5.74% 45
Professor of History	44.13% 346
Graduate student in History	27.68% 217
Independent Researcher	6.38% 50
High school teacher	0.64% 5
Other (please specify)	15.43% 121
Total	784

Q2 Which best describes your area of expertise?

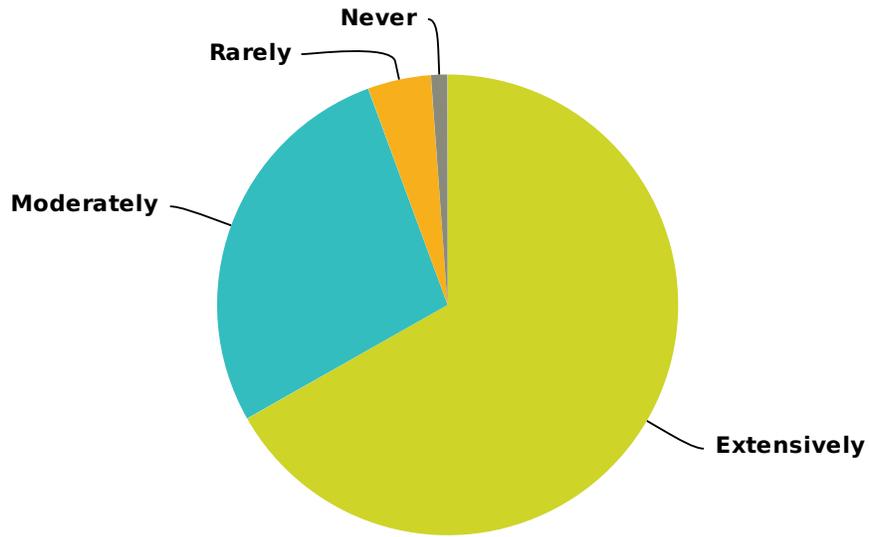
Answered: 655 Skipped: 136



Answer Choices	Responses	
U.S. foreign relations history	68.85%	451
Other U.S. history field (not foreign relations)	31.15%	204
Total		655

Q3 To what extent have you conducted archival research (at any archive)?

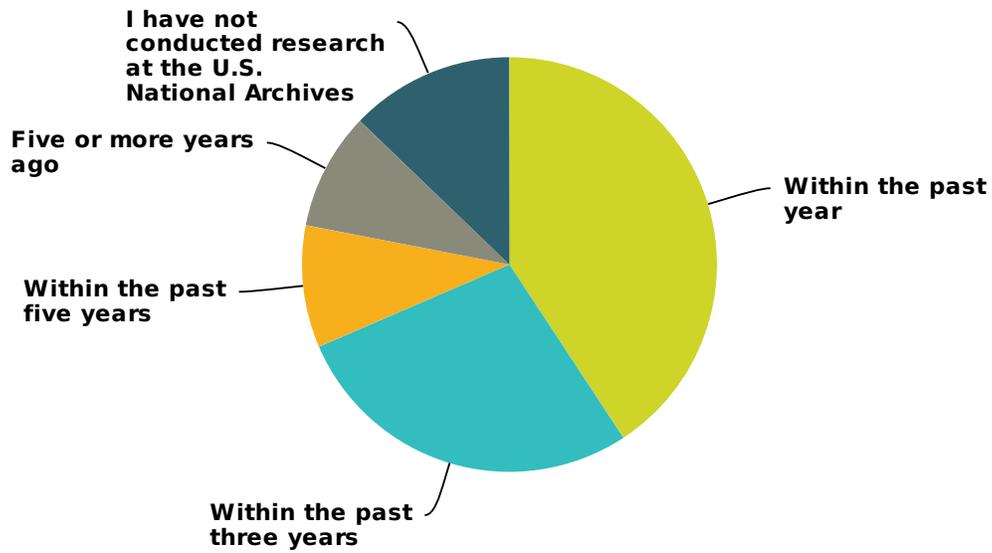
Answered: 786 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Extensively	66.79% 525
Moderately	27.61% 217
Rarely	4.45% 35
Never	1.15% 9
Total	786

Q4 When was the last time you conducted archival research at the U.S. National Archives?

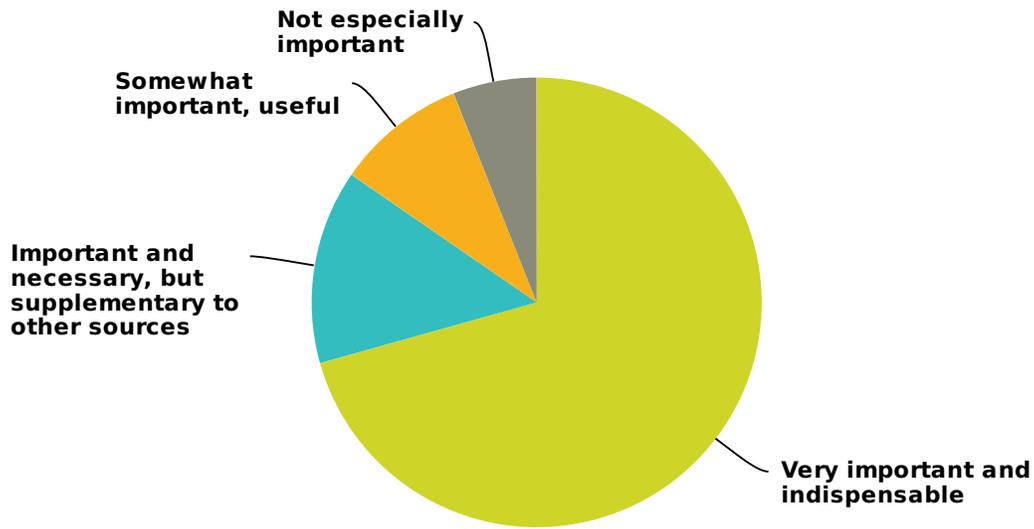
Answered: 788 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses	
Within the past year	40.74%	321
Within the past three years	27.79%	219
Within the past five years	9.52%	75
Five or more years ago	9.14%	72
I have not conducted research at the U.S. National Archives	12.82%	101
Total		788

Q5 How important are declassified documents to your historical research?

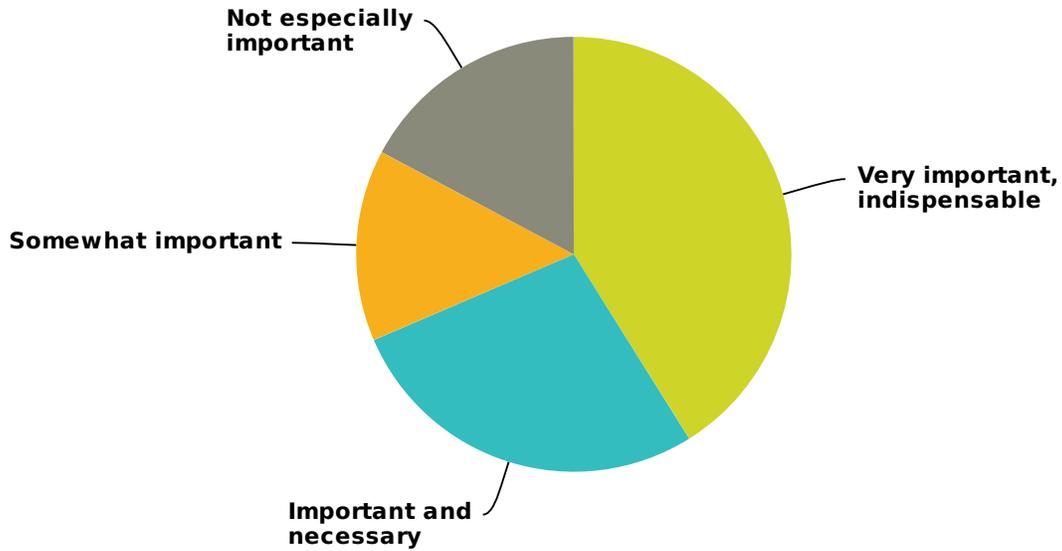
Answered: 780 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important and indispensable	70.64%	551
Important and necessary, but supplementary to other sources	13.97%	109
Somewhat important, useful	9.36%	73
Not especially important	6.03%	47
Total		780

Q6 How important is the timely publication of the State Department's Foreign Relations of the United States series to your research and/or teaching?

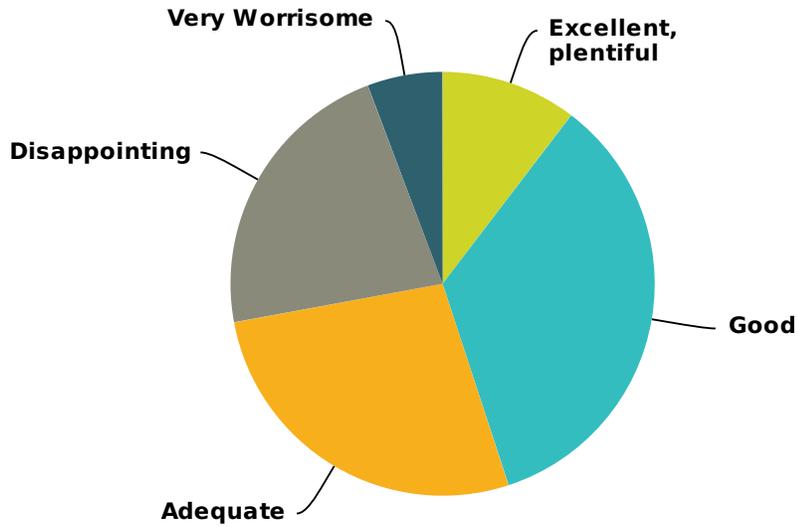
Answered: 703 Skipped: 88



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important, indispensable	41.11%	289
Important and necessary	27.45%	193
Somewhat important	14.22%	100
Not especially important	17.21%	121
Total		703

Q7 How would you describe the availability of declassified documents pertaining to your research at the U.S. National Archives?

Answered: 627 Skipped: 60

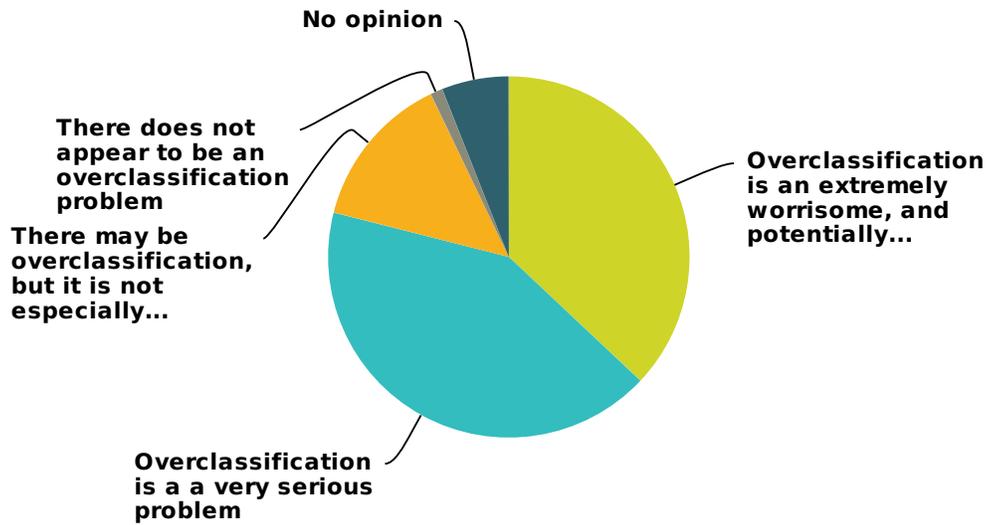


Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent, plentiful	10.37%	65
Good	34.61%	217
Adequate	27.11%	170
Disappointing	22.17%	139
Very Worrisome	5.74%	36
Total		627

Respondents who have not conducted research at NARA omitted from the results for this question.

Q8 To what degree do you think the government overclassifies documents?

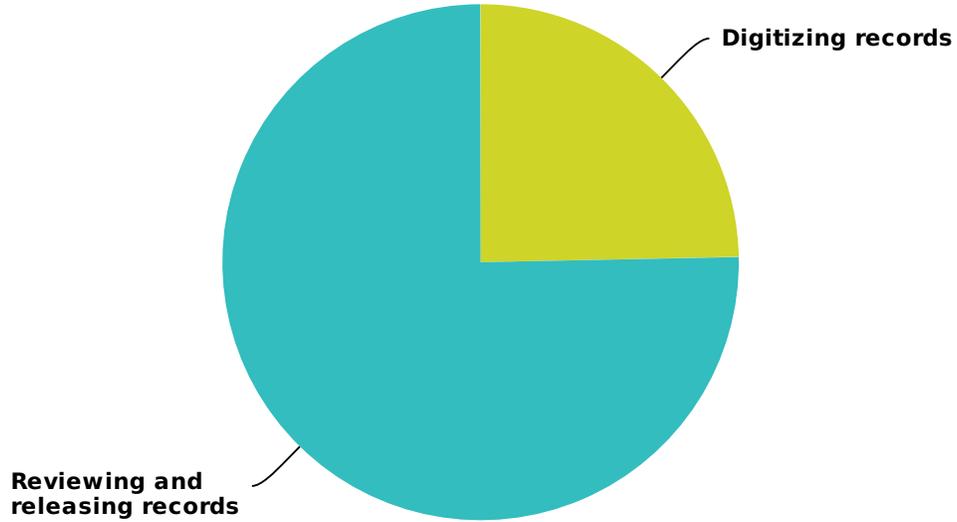
Answered: 732 Skipped: 59



Answer Choices	Responses
Overclassification is an extremely worrisome, and potentially damaging, problem	37.02% 271
Overclassification is a a very serious problem	41.94% 307
There may be overclassification, but it is not especially worrisome	13.93% 102
There does not appear to be an overclassification problem	1.09% 8
No opinion	6.01% 44
Total	732

**Q9 Which should be a higher priority:
digitizing archival records or accelerating
the review and release of records to the
public?**

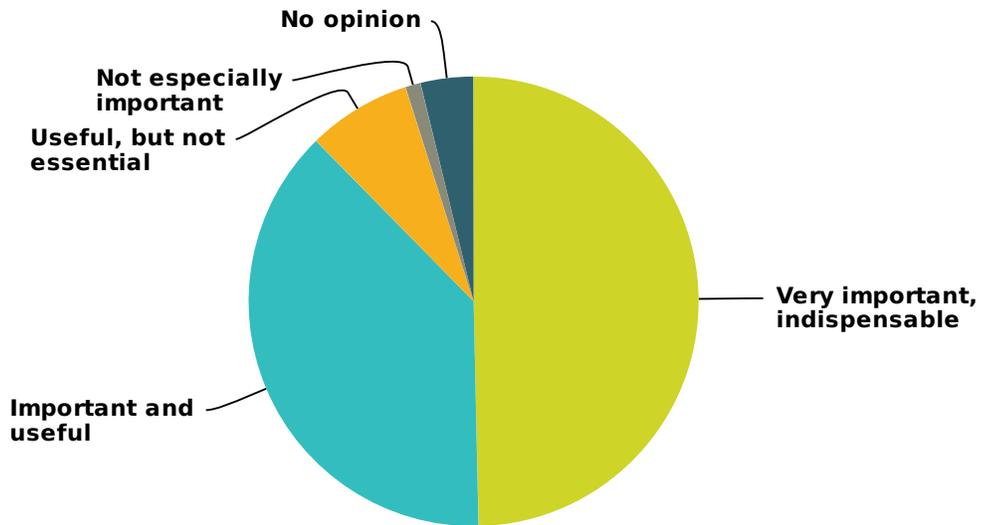
Answered: 721 Skipped: 70



Answer Choices	Responses	
Digitizing records	24.69%	178
Reviewing and releasing records	75.31%	543
Total		721

Q10 How important is a detailed description of those documents that have been withheld from declassification?

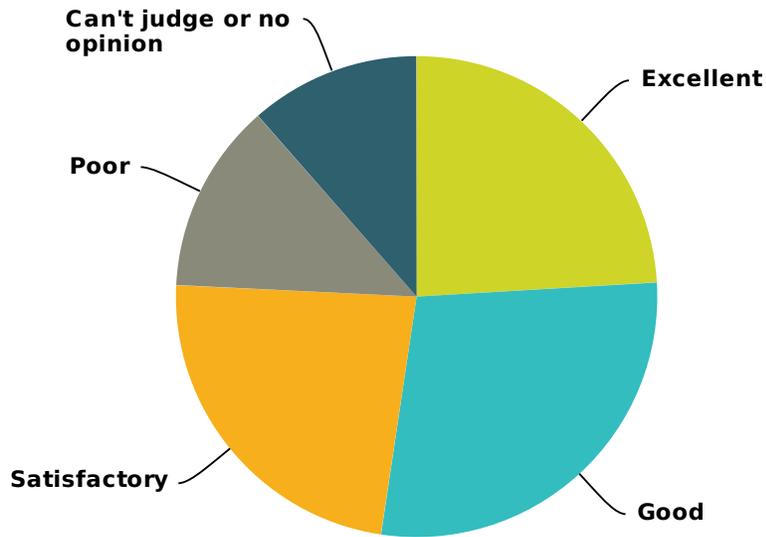
Answered: 737 Skipped: 54



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important, indispensable	49.66%	366
Important and useful	37.99%	280
Useful, but not essential	7.46%	55
Not especially important	1.09%	8
No opinion	3.80%	28
Total		737

Q11 How would you rate the ATTENTIVENESS of the archivist with whom you worked on your last research trip to the U.S. National Archives at College Park?

Answered: 611 Skipped: 76

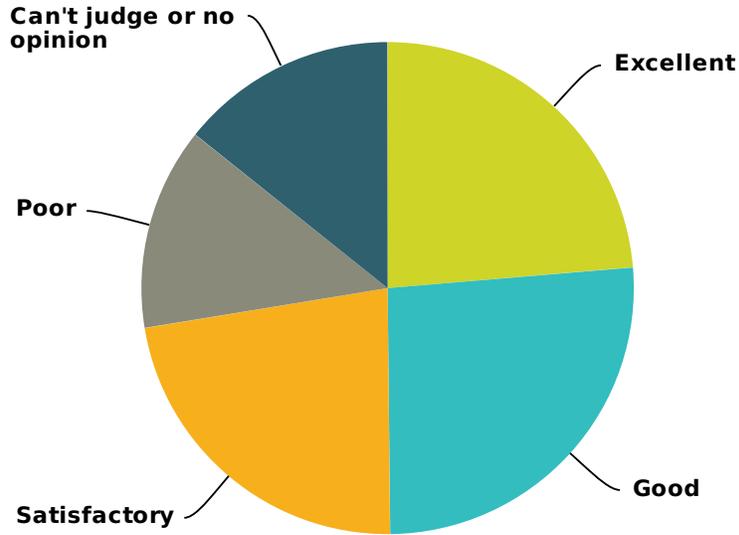


Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	24.06%	147
Good	28.31%	173
Satisfactory	23.40%	143
Poor	12.77%	78
Can't judge or no opinion	11.46%	70
Total		611

Respondents who have not conducted research at NARA omitted from the results for this question.

Q12 How would you rate the SUBJECT EXPERTISE of the archivist with whom you worked on your last research trip to the U.S. National Archives at College Park?

Answered: 638 Skipped: 49

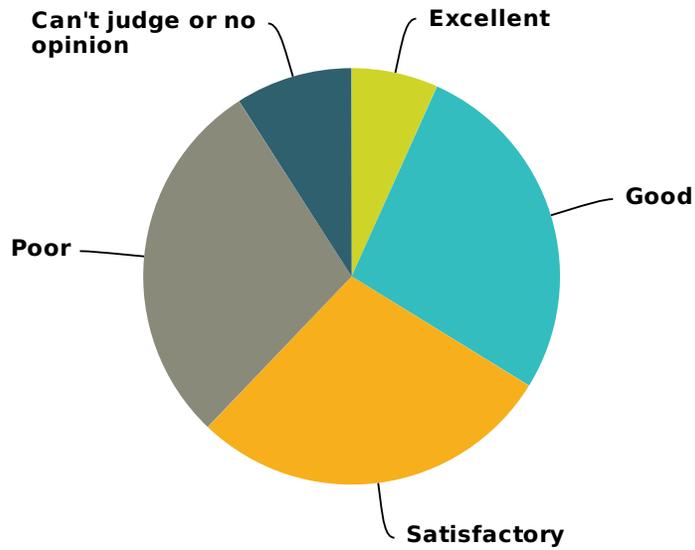


Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	23.67%	151
Good	26.18%	167
Satisfactory	22.57%	144
Poor	13.32%	85
Can't judge or no opinion	14.26%	91
Total		638

Respondents who have not conducted research at NARA omitted from the results for this question.

Q13 How would you rate the FINDING AIDS at the U.S. National Archives at College Park?

Answered: 639 Skipped: 48

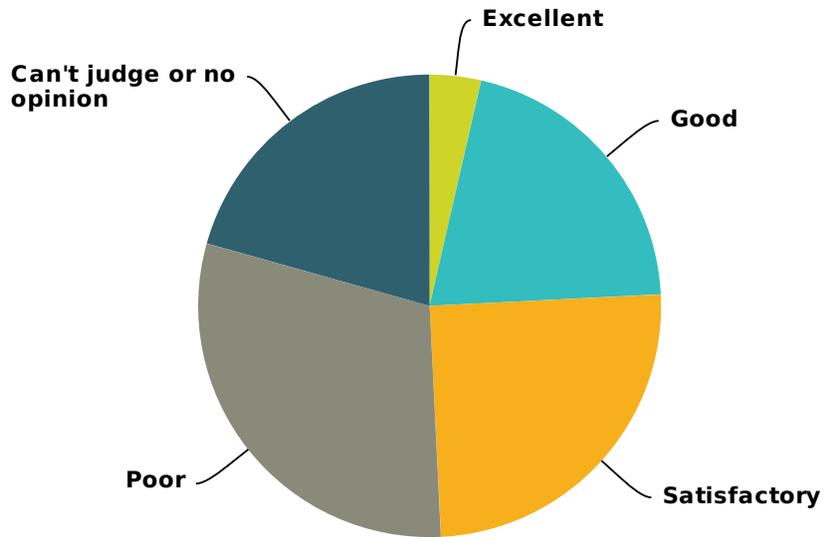


Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	6.73%	43
Good	27.07%	173
Satisfactory	28.33%	181
Poor	28.79%	184
Can't judge or no opinion	9.08%	58
Total		639

Respondents who have not conducted research at NARA omitted from the results for this question.

Q14 How would you rate the effectiveness of the SEARCH ENGINES at the U.S. National Archives at College Park?

Answered: 644 Skipped: 43

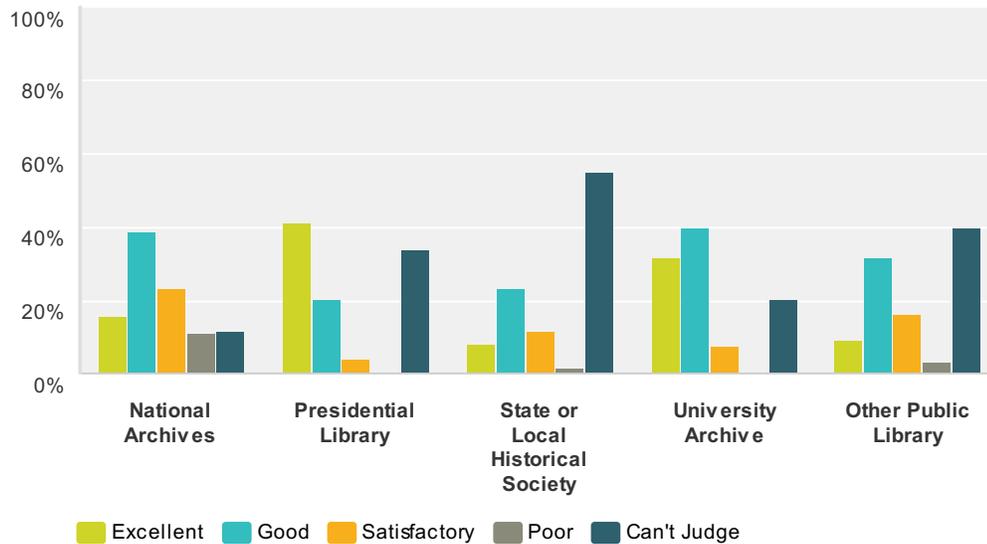


Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	3.57%	23
Good	20.65%	133
Satisfactory	25%	161
Poor	30.12%	194
Can't judge or no opinion	20.65%	133
Total		644

Respondents who have not conducted research at NARA omitted from the results for this question.

Q15 With respect to archival research only, how would you rate the OVERALL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE at the various types of facilities in the United States listed below?

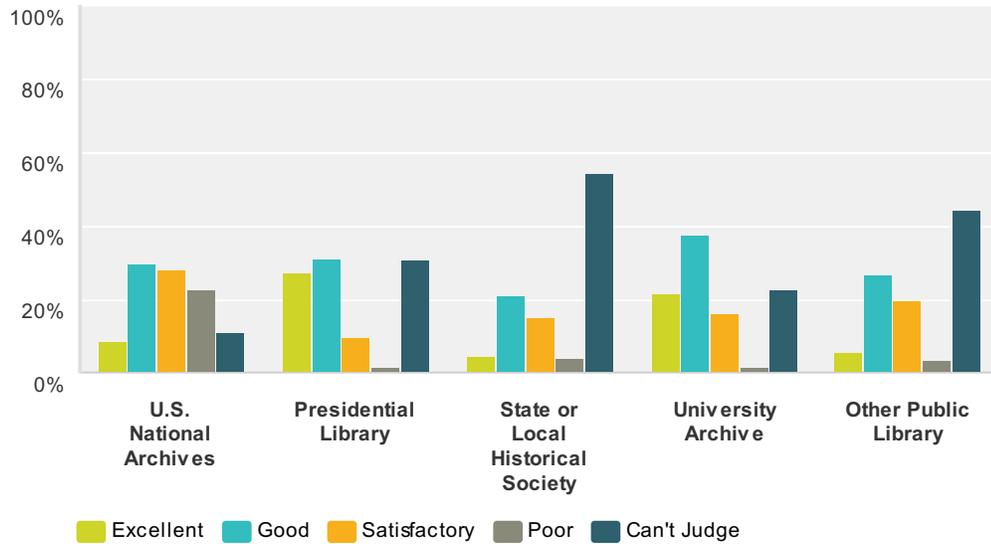
Answered: 659 Skipped: 132



	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Can't Judge	Total
National Archives	15.64% 102	38.50% 251	23.16% 151	11.04% 72	11.66% 76	652
Presidential Library	41.23% 268	20.31% 132	4.15% 27	0.62% 4	33.69% 219	650
State or Local Historical Society	8.41% 52	23.30% 144	11.65% 72	1.94% 12	54.69% 338	618
University Archive	31.60% 201	39.94% 254	7.70% 49	0.63% 4	20.13% 128	636
Other Public Library	9.12% 55	31.67% 191	16.09% 97	3.15% 19	39.97% 241	603

Q16 With respect to archival research only, how would you rate the USEFULNESS OF THE FINDING AIDS at the various types of facilities in the United States listed below?

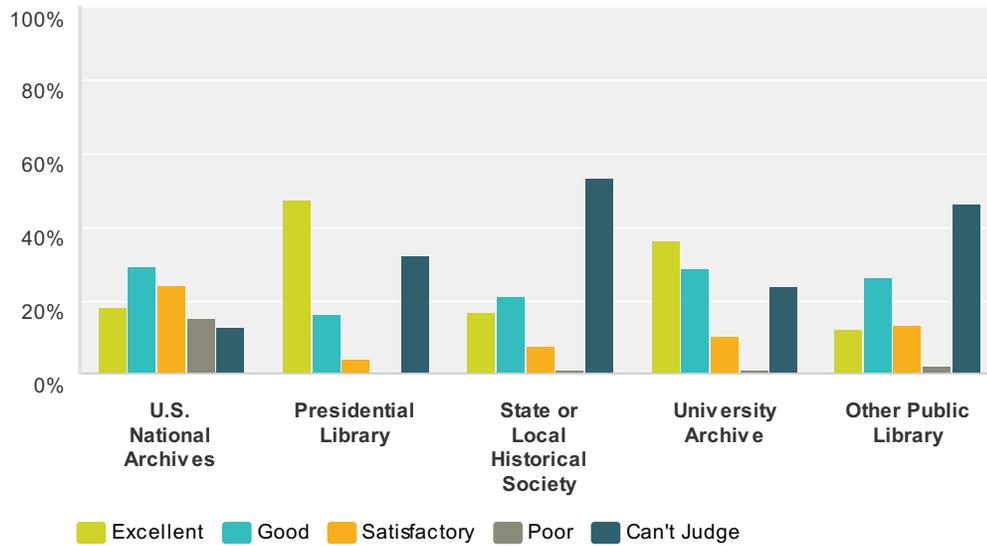
Answered: 687 Skipped: 104



	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Can't Judge	Total
U.S. National Archives	8.53% 58	29.71% 202	28.09% 191	22.65% 154	11.03% 75	680
Presidential Library	27.19% 183	31.05% 209	9.51% 64	1.63% 11	30.61% 206	673
State or Local Historical Society	4.87% 31	21.23% 135	15.41% 98	4.25% 27	54.25% 345	636
University Archive	21.61% 142	37.60% 247	16.29% 107	1.67% 11	22.83% 150	657
Other Public Library	5.83% 36	26.58% 164	19.61% 121	3.57% 22	44.41% 274	617

Q17 With respect to archival research only, how would you rate the ATTENTIVENESS OF THE ARCHIVISTS at the various types of facilities in the United States listed below?

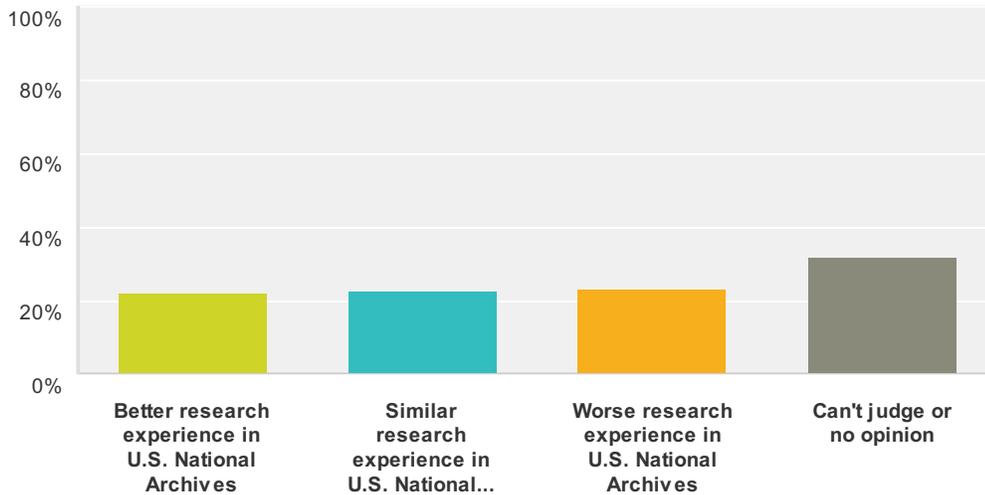
Answered: 691 Skipped: 100



	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Can't Judge	Total
U.S. National Archives	18.36% 125	29.37% 200	24.38% 166	14.98% 102	12.92% 88	681
Presidential Library	47.11% 318	16% 108	4.15% 28	0.59% 4	32.15% 217	675
State or Local Historical Society	16.51% 106	21.34% 137	7.94% 51	1.09% 7	53.12% 341	642
University Archive	36.36% 240	28.48% 188	10.15% 67	1.06% 7	23.94% 158	660
Other Public Library	12.26% 77	26.43% 166	13.22% 83	2.07% 13	46.02% 289	628

Q18 How do your experiences at the U.S. National Archive compare to those in the government archives of other nations?

Answered: 621 Skipped: 66

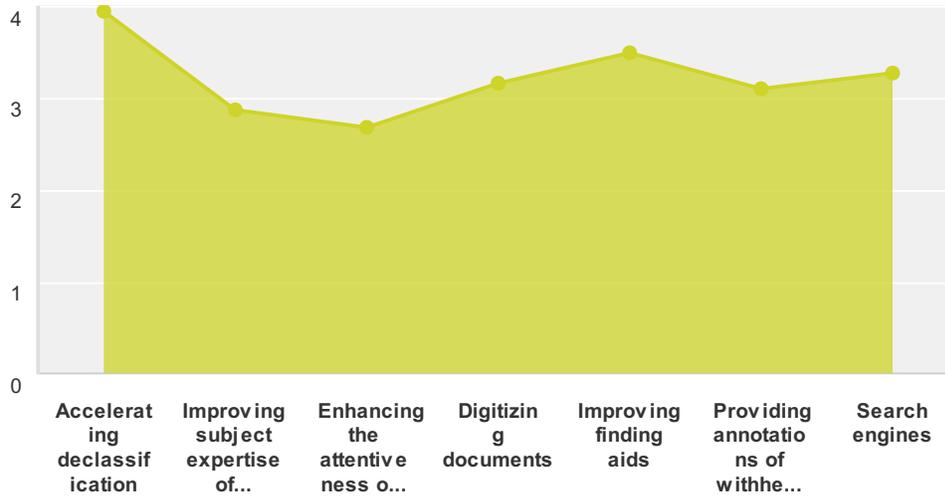


Answer Choices	Responses
Better research experience in U.S. National Archives	22.22% 138
Similar research experience in U.S. National Archives and archives outside the U.S.	22.71% 141
Worse research experience in U.S. National Archives	23.35% 145
Can't judge or no opinion	31.72% 197
Total	621

Respondents who have not conducted research at NARA omitted from the results for this question.

Q19 To what extent should the U.S. National Archives focus its limited resources on each of the priorities below?

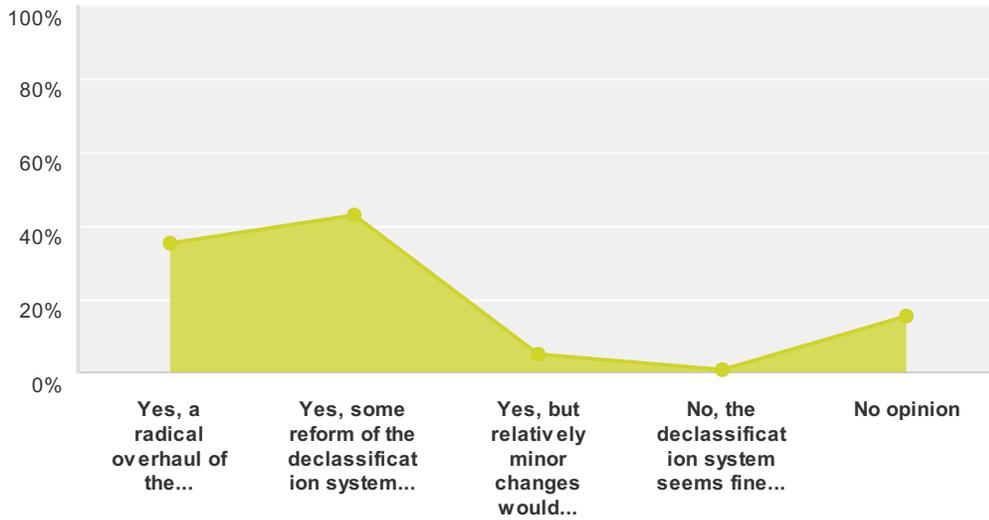
Answered: 689 Skipped: 102



	Low priority	Somewhat important	Important	Extremely Urgent	#1 Priority	Total	Average Rating
Accelerating declassification	1.75% 12	6.11% 42	26.49% 182	27.95% 192	37.70% 259	687	3.94
Improving subject expertise of archivists	8.21% 56	22.87% 156	47.36% 323	17.16% 117	4.40% 30	682	2.87
Enhancing the attentiveness of staff/archivists	12.26% 83	26.44% 179	44.90% 304	13.74% 93	2.66% 18	677	2.68
Digitizing documents	7.77% 53	21.70% 148	30.65% 209	26.54% 181	13.34% 91	682	3.16
Improving finding aids	1.32% 9	9.81% 67	40.12% 274	35.72% 244	13.03% 89	683	3.49
Providing annotations of withheld documents	4.86% 33	20.47% 139	40.06% 272	28.72% 195	5.89% 40	679	3.10
Search engines	4.15% 28	15.88% 107	39.02% 263	30.27% 204	10.68% 72	674	3.27

Q20 Would you recommend an overhaul of the declassification system?

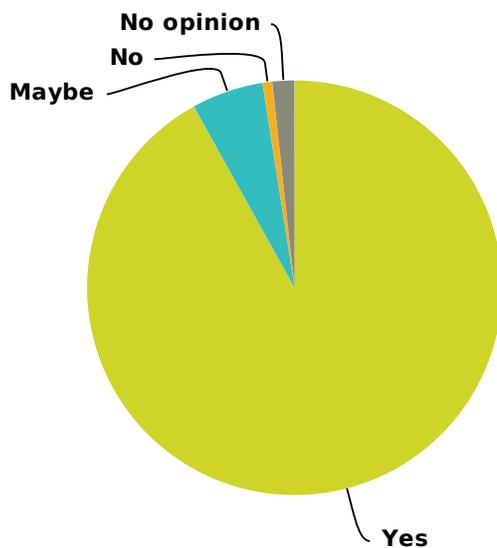
Answered: 694 Skipped: 97



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, a radical overhaul of the declassification system is urgently required	35.30% 245
Yes, some reform of the declassification system is needed	42.94% 298
Yes, but relatively minor changes would probably suffice	5.19% 36
No, the declassification system seems fine as is	1.01% 7
No opinion	15.56% 108
Total	694

Q21 Would you recommend that members of Congress allocate more funding to the U.S. National Archives?

Answered: 693 Skipped: 98



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	91.92%	637
Maybe	5.63%	39
No	0.72%	5
No opinion	1.73%	12
Total		693

Q22 Would you care to make any additional comments with respect to the importance of timely declassification of documents? (optional)

Answered: 83 Skipped: 708

#	Responses	Date
1	Time limits are set for purposes which need be evaluated as to expirations and benefits from declassing documents.	11/18/2013 10:48 PM
2	The over-classification of federal government documents is a serious problem in this country. A democracy cannot function effectively without governmental transparency.	11/15/2013 2:53 PM
3	We know that it is much safer to over-classify a document than properly rated so the system has been abused so long as it has existed.	11/15/2013 12:57 PM
4	Very, very disappointed with responses to my FOIA requests. I have a request that is now over 10 years old. I have tried numerous times over the last few years to get in touch with my case worker. He rarely ever answers his phone or email and the few times he does, simply tells me he is working on the request and will get back to me! This is ridiculous! Nothing is getting done and my research stagnates!	11/15/2013 11:37 AM
5	no, working mostly on European archives. NARA is a good example for many European archives as I know from several doctoral students whom I supervised. European archives in many cases are more illiberal in general.	11/15/2013 9:27 AM
6	This is not just ancient history, it's fundamental to informed public (and official) understanding of how we got to where we are and how we can (a) resolve or (b) avoid crises and other national problems.	11/15/2013 8:32 AM
7	Government should rethink declassification and focus it's efforts on declassifying the most important collections.	10/30/2013 9:35 PM
8	This is a process that must continue, and perhaps given the current technology, requires a new set of rules that will assure the survival of all documentation. In addition, the ability to store these documents electronically will demand a symbiotic relationship between the way scholars are trained to use them, how Archivists learn to use them, and could links that are Theme-Driven be created which would aid researchers seeking materials from several sources now do their research securely via the Internet.	10/27/2013 9:46 PM
9	The system of declassification is in urgent need of an overhaul, but that by no means is the only problem. The underlying system of classification and overclassification is broken, period -- far too much is classified or is classified at too high a level.	10/27/2013 5:40 AM
10	The principle of preserving transparency in government is essential to our democracy. Furthermore, there is no way for historians of the modern period to carry out their work effectively if vital documents are withheld. As a professional historian and as a citizen, I regard the timely declassification of documents as a fundamental matter of principle.	10/26/2013 9:00 AM
11	I believe that, with the time that declassification currently takes, digitization should become part of the process and the turnaround time of both could be improved simultaneously.	10/25/2013 12:11 AM
12	Timely declassification of documents is a core component of an informed and free press, and thus essential to a functional democracy. This isn't just a matter of scholarly research. It is a matter of national character.	10/24/2013 11:13 PM
13	let us use a clear see-through bag to carry our research tools	10/24/2013 10:43 PM
14	Conducting research in the early 2000's on the 1930s and 1940s, I found a shocking number of documents still classified—I was able to piece together the contents only by trolling through a number of different archives that had declassified different parts of the documents. That's really silly and a waste of time.	10/24/2013 12:22 PM

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15	I gather this is a pressing question for 20th century researchers. It is also a pressing question for democracy. Timely declassification is urgent.	10/24/2013 8:51 AM
16	My requests in 2010 are still being reviewed.	10/24/2013 8:45 AM
17	-----	10/23/2013 7:56 PM
18	It's crucial for historical research. As a graduate student that is about to begin writing his dissertation, I depend on newly declassified sources to write an original, novel dissertation, which will hopefully land me my first job.	10/23/2013 5:04 PM
19	Obviously this survey is geared to promote declassification. I think that continued longer hours of opening are honestly a more important issue than declassification; it made a huge difference in my visits to have expanded evening and weekend hours. If I had to put money in one place, it would be there, and preservation, before declassification.	10/23/2013 1:33 PM
20	I have extensive experience with US and other international archives outside the US. I feel I am in a good position to make a judgement on the matter. In my opinion declassification is an important issue and expertise is also needed more for staff training and research tools.	10/23/2013 12:17 PM
21	At one of my research trips as a graduate student, I was advised by the archivist that the MDR/FOIA requests should be filled and will be available (if I am lucky) by the time third edition of my book (hypothetical) would come out. Timely declassification is very important and cannot be emphasized enough.	10/23/2013 12:09 PM
22	While certainly not a popular political pitch in a political climate that fetishizes government spending cuts, it must be remembered that the open access to all government records should be considered a pillar of any modern democracy. The timely declassification of records is a vital aspect of this process, and the current backlog well before the "30-year rule" is shameful. Similarly, the extent of redacted passages in de-classified intelligence records is also shameful, and without sufficient explanation appears arbitrary.	10/22/2013 3:47 PM
23	Bad as things are now, I think the community will look back after some time and see this period as the knee in the curve. New types of material, in vast quantities, and all highly classified, all coming into play, and the system unable to cope even with the traditional forms and volumes of material.	10/22/2013 2:04 PM
24	See above.	10/22/2013 1:46 PM
25	timely declassification of documents is hugely important; however, it does little good unless they are accessible to the public. There are files at NARA from the late 1960s that have been declassified but are not yet accessible to the public b/c of NARA's backlog of getting everything into the system. Please allocate greater funding to NARA. Enable them to hire more staff (archivists AND declassification experts) so that the experience and quality of the available offerings improves.	10/22/2013 12:25 PM
26	I have been waiting three plus years to get documents declassified through the Nixon Library. 30 years should make for automatic declassification but clearly I am still waiting and may never see my requested documents.	10/22/2013 11:11 AM
27	A huge amount of time is being wasted reviewing the same documents over and over again, frequently redacting ever-larger amounts of information with each review. I can provide multiple examples (most recently DIA and State) of the same documents released almost in full 10/20/even 30 years ago being heavily redacted the latest time around. This is bureaucratic insanity, and a scandalous waste of taxpayer resources!	10/22/2013 10:55 AM
28	Nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands and the medical use of data collected from the testing should be declassified. I've conducted research in Havana and was told that certain archives were closed because the researchers had written the wrong interpretation. I defended the openness of the US system. Now, I am in doubt of our "openness."	10/22/2013 10:39 AM
29	Not everything I need is/was classified.	10/22/2013 10:35 AM
30	-----	10/22/2013 10:23 AM
31	It is critical and especially important to remember that scholars beyond historians make use of the material on a regular basis	10/22/2013 10:09 AM
32	Acceleration of declassification is pointless if researchers cannot FIND them. Acceleration is only useful if declassification happens in an orderly and structured fashion.	10/15/2013 9:13 AM

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33	My main concern, regarding this and other matters, is that PhD students and younger scholars have become so accustomed to the problems noted in this survey that for them it may be the new normal—disliked, but also shrugged off. Older scholars who knew something a bit better make comparisons that younger ones can't make. Energizing younger scholars to complain and take action may be a key challenge.	10/10/2013 10:59 AM
34	Our history and our democracy depends on this. one reason that conspiracy theories proliferate is that our government has not been forthcoming about so many events. This needs to change, and the place to start is by making our past more accessible and creating some healthy chinks in the armor of the culture of secrecy.. "protecting what we must," as the Archives like to say, but opening up far more quickly those items where continued classification is really overkill.	10/10/2013 7:27 AM
35	NARA has lost huge ground as a national archive in the last 20 years (I have been a user for 30+ years). Have a look at The National Archive in the UK, which in the last decade has gone from one of the worst and least responsive national repositories to being world's best practice.	10/9/2013 1:28 AM
36	Blanket demands for rapid declassification are self-defeating. In addition, thorough descriptions of withheld items are often impossible—the description itself sometimes needs to remain classified. Digitizing records and making them available via the internet makes a lot of documents immediately accessible to anyone in the world, while declassifying documents is labor-intensive, slow, and provides records for only a small number of users in a very specific field. In addition, the digitized version preserves the original, and creates an insurance policy in the event of catastrophe. (Most of the Revolutionary War records burned in an archives fire, other record groups have been damaged by other events). While it would be nice to have both, if the choice is one or the other, digitizing records would be my priority.	10/8/2013 10:05 AM
37	It needs to get fixed. NOW.	10/8/2013 8:27 AM
38	The bias should be on the side of declassifying not redacting or retaining classification after a reasonable period has passed. This should apply to ALL federal agencies, and compliance monitoring needs to be external to those agencies.	10/8/2013 8:05 AM
39	It's critical, of course, for government transparency and accountability.	10/8/2013 6:56 AM
40	More funding and manpower needs to be allocated towards this task; otherwise, the information contained in these classified documents will not be publicly revealed until long after I'm gone.	10/8/2013 5:51 AM
41	Documents should be liable to automatic opening unless Government gives a reason for the withholding of the document. A date should be then given as to when the document will be available.	10/7/2013 10:59 PM
42	One of the major problems facing the NARA is the accession of new records. Agencies no longer have staff to organize materials properly. NARA refuses to access records not so organized. Much material is being lost as a consequence.	10/7/2013 9:15 PM
43	A historically informed citizenry is vital to the United States.	10/7/2013 8:06 PM
44	I think that having access to government records is indispensable - not just to scholarly research - but to a healthy democracy.	10/7/2013 12:46 PM
45	These issues are important to foreign historians as well as US ones. We don't understand the declassification system well enough to make suggestions. But it doesn't seem logical that State Department telegrams for 1977-1979 were not available at College Park	10/7/2013 5:21 AM
46	This is so crucial to research - the reason the National Archives exist. How could this not be seen as a high priority for NARA?	10/6/2013 9:44 PM
47	See previously noted - the dearth of declassified documents from 1977 onwards, while getting better, makes foreign relations history research difficult, especially if the topic studied relies more on working level files. The MR and especially FOIA processes take far too long. The Ford library was the fastest, - I got materials in one case after 6 months. Carter took 2-3 years, NARA took up to 4 years. Doctoral students or academics working on books cannot wait these unruly time periods, often for a single withdrawn document	10/5/2013 7:24 AM
48	If NARA simply followed declassification guideline, a sense of timely release of documents would exist.	10/4/2013 3:26 PM
49	Be nonpartisan; to often it seems like FOIAs are playing gotcha.	10/4/2013 3:07 PM

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50	The closer you get to the present, the more documents have been classified in the first place. In conducting research on World War II or the early Cold War, only hot-button issues were classified. In recent years, virtually everything has some level of classification so an ineffective declassification process doesn't just mean that you can't write about sensitive issues; it means that you can't write about anything.	10/4/2013 9:03 AM
51	np	10/4/2013 7:08 AM
52	Access and its efficiency should be fundamental to a practicing democracy. How do you learn from history without access in an efficient manner?	10/4/2013 1:12 AM
53	See comments above. This is a very important issue that has not been addressed sufficiently.	10/3/2013 8:55 PM
54	Really needs to be done. Even if it can't be declassified (and remember - I work with old stuff that isn't particularly sensitive) it needs to be reviewed and annotated.	10/3/2013 8:51 PM
55	The amount of time it takes to get documents declassified is longer than I can wait in order to publish to meet the demands of an academic career.	10/3/2013 6:27 PM
56	Automatic declassification at 25 years unless there is a compelling reason not to (e.g. revealing a human intelligence source, design of weapon of mass destruction).	10/3/2013 1:30 PM
57	Timely transparency is a pillar of democratic governance. The US system has obvious weaknesses, however, when compared to other countries, the US still scores very high.	10/3/2013 10:46 AM
58	For my research, the declassification of documents from and relating to the CIA during the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s is the highest priority.	10/3/2013 9:38 AM
59	The fact that very few US Department of State records (e.g. for the Middle East) are available for the period after the mid-1970s is a real constraint on the study of regional politics as well as US diplomacy. To a certain extent some of this material is available at the presidential libraries, but there were still substantial gaps.	10/3/2013 5:29 AM
60	Very important for researching and expanding our knowledge of contemporary US foreign relations history	10/3/2013 1:28 AM
61	If we don't get things under control, there's no way the NARA will be able to keep pace with the ever-increasing number of docs being created by gov't agencies because of the explosion of electronic communications.	10/2/2013 9:39 PM
62	I request as many documents as I can after each visit by submitting entire withdrawal slips from almost every folder I see. This practice is encouraged by the archivists I have met. Perhaps SHAFR members should be encouraged to request documents proactively or as part of a larger organized campaign. I will note that I am not an American citizen, but I am encouraged by archivists to put down an American address so that specific provisions related to the declassification of intelligence documents do not bar my requests. This seems so silly: Surely the intelligence community must know that there are non-American citizens living at U.S. addresses?	10/2/2013 8:04 PM
63	Without timely declassification, general rules about access to document (e.g. thirty-year rules) are completely meaningless.	10/2/2013 4:29 PM
64	Within 40 years of the end of World War II, virtually all documents related to the war were declassified. My primary interest is Southeast Asia in the 1950s, and there are still thousands of State Department, Pentagon, and CIA documents that remain classified.	10/2/2013 4:08 PM
65	Again, it's important to attract current undergraduates to doing archival research who choose more "modern" topics.	10/2/2013 4:07 PM
66	I support the maximum increase possible in funding for NARA. History is important. Compared to other programs, the cost required to fund NARA at maximum levels is quite modest. And, yes, I'd be willing to pay more in taxes to make this happen.	10/2/2013 3:29 PM
67	It's absolutely necessary for a healthy democratic society.	10/2/2013 2:52 PM
68	the FRUSA Vol XXIII Johnson has been pending since before 1996. It is now past declassification and due for publication in 2014 or later.	10/2/2013 2:51 PM
69	What happened to the "thirty-year rule?"	10/2/2013 2:48 PM

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70	Why is a survey for SHAFR members only catering to US archives and only to what I would call Political Scientists and not historians. There are 200 years of declassified material, we cannot even judge yet what has occurred in the last 25, let it rest. There a many stories still to tell in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. SHAFR needs to refocus	10/2/2013 2:16 PM
71	By the time my FOIA requests were processed (2 years after submission), my dissertation was nearly complete. I voluntarily closed several remaining FOIA requests because they would have taken even longer to process and would have arrived too late to be useful.	10/2/2013 2:10 PM
72	NARA needs to comply with the law by meeting the 30-year target. FRUS volumes with no target date in sight include Iran 1951–1954, Iran; Congo, 1960–1968; Chile, 1969–1973; Arab-Israeli Dispute, 1969–1972; National Security Policy, 1973–1976; Japan, 1969–1972. Intelligence equities must give way to the demands of the law.	10/2/2013 2:09 PM
73	I have presented and lectured on aspects of this issue. I am pessimistic that there is any short-term solution. Part of the trick is to get in front of the problem by making sure historians and allied academic groups have a place at the table when government agencies are creating the criteria for documetation/messaging systems in the future. As long as the task is left entirely in the hands of computer experts, they will always favor creating systems that maximize current user operability with little attention to how the material might be used/retrieved in 10 or 20 years' time when the supporting computer systems have all changed. Part of NARA's problem is that they must build a lowest-common-denominator system for making born-digital documents avaiable to the public. If the federal government had a common set of standards and common platoforms for electronic messaging/retention, it would go a long way to simplifying the process of declass, release, and retrieval at the back end of the lifecycle.	10/2/2013 1:55 PM
74	Thing shave gotten much worse recently.	10/2/2013 1:55 PM
75	without prompt declassification it is very difficult to hold people accountable.	10/2/2013 1:54 PM
76	There is no reasonable security purpose in withholding documents more than 6 decades old. Not only does doing so make it more difficult to get a complete picture of an event, but it naturally skews our perspective since certain agencies have much more of their materials classified.	10/2/2013 1:46 PM
77	timely declassification cannot be accomplished under the current system. Without overhauling the way documents are treated - and even allowing for automatic declassification of documents in bulk, it will be impossible to catch up and the system will break sooner rather than later.	10/1/2013 9:17 AM
78	In the 1990s we were studying Kissinger and in 2013 still studying Kissinger. Access to documents of the late 1970s and 1980s is too low by almost any standard in the West. British and German archives have declassified extensively through the 1980s.	10/1/2013 3:31 AM
79	The declassification schedule has slipped back in ways that completely block the ability of historians to carry forward their work. UK records are available up to 1983, and German ones to 1982; the State Department files are stuck in 1976. For international historians, that's a huge gap. I would argue that in a pinch, bulk declassification is more urgent than filling particular FOIA requests. FOIA plays an important role in refining historical understanding. Without the wide opening of materials in the first place, dissertations are impossible to conceptualize and write.	9/30/2013 9:38 PM
80	Timely declassification is essential to the democratic oversight of foreign policy. Recent delays to the declassification process have encouraged the anarchical alternative of entities like Wikileaks, whose haphazard "revelations" will fuel sensationalism among the press and the public.	9/30/2013 7:50 PM
81	The problem of overclassification is real, and it is serious. It is regularly taking five to seven years to process my FOIA and MR requests for documents. This hampers citizens' rights to understand how their government functions, and costs millions of dollars per year.	9/30/2013 7:27 PM
82	revision od declassification in order to consider new topics of interest and Latin America not as a region but per country in detail.	9/30/2013 6:32 PM
83	As a scholar from outside the US I can only say that NARA; FRUS, the Presidential Library System are to me an ideal of how archives should be set up. Instead of cutting down on these funds, it should be seen as a real strength - even as a part of public diplomacy. Open and easy access to government documents is admirable. It is much easier to research the US influence in international relations than for most other countries. It is, therefore, researched more ;)	9/30/2013 1:47 AM

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Q23 What topics or issues do you think the National Archives should prioritize with respect to declassifying documents from the 1980s and 1990s? List the top three. (optional)

Answered: 160 Skipped: 631

#	Responses	Date
1	Reagan presidency; end of the Cold War; and U.S. priorities after the collapse of the Soviet Union	11/19/2013 7:24 AM
2	Relations with China Relations with Europe and Russia International economic relations	11/16/2013 4:17 PM
3	End of the Cold War and Breakup of Soviet Union Issue related to Breakup of Yugoslavia Records of intelligence departments	11/15/2013 1:26 PM
4	National Security Defense related State Dept. related	11/15/2013 12:57 PM
5	Be realistic. Also reform the Presidential Records Act so that archivist in libraries from Reagan onward can process systematically and thoroughly and not being forced to jump through hoops in response to unreasonable FOIA requests. Lets face it. 20 year old foreign government documents and intelligence agency documents are not, for the most part, going to be declassified until more time passes. I am thankful that I never had to work under the burdens of the Presidential Records Act. It was a poorly conceived piece of legislation having highly negative impacts on the processing of post 1980 Presidential records.	11/15/2013 12:02 PM
6	Fix the broken FOIA system so that there is a timely review of documents. We should not have to wait over 10 years to find out if our request has even been answered!	11/15/2013 11:37 AM
7	Cold War US Foreign Policy	11/15/2013 11:23 AM
8	Anything related to China/Taiwan	11/15/2013 9:29 AM
9	presidential/secdef/secstate files.	11/15/2013 9:25 AM
10	Iran and Persian Gulf; Middle East; East Asia.	11/15/2013 8:32 AM
11	U.S.-Japan relations; U.S. involvement in Central America;	11/14/2013 7:37 AM
12	Email, electronic records, Presidential Records	11/12/2013 10:24 AM
13	State Department Public Diplomacy Intelligence	11/6/2013 6:51 AM
14	National Security Affairs (including nuclear weapons) international economics and globalization Bilateral relations with main allies, main adversaries, and participants in "regional" conflicts	11/5/2013 8:50 AM
15	Reagan covert actions; fall of iron curtain; 1st gulf war It is outside the scope of the executive order but nuclear policy should also be reviewed for declassification	10/30/2013 9:35 PM
16	Iran-Contra Somalia intervention Rwanda	10/30/2013 8:57 PM
17	Foreign Relations with the Soviet Union; documents related to the USSR's collapse; documents related to America's involvement in the Iran-Iraq War, and with those states individually.	10/30/2013 12:18 PM
18	How much did the impeachment of President Clinton derail his efforts to halt what he clearly felt was the growing menace of Radical Islam. Did the US military particularly its Intelligence branches, along with the FBI and other key agencies give 100% in support of Bill Clinton's efforts to intercede in the evolution of Al Qaeda? The actions surrounding the decision to escalate supporting the mujahideen in Afghanistan during the Reagan and Bush 41 period/	10/27/2013 9:46 PM
19	End of the Cold War (incl. documents cited in the Zelikow-Rice book), enlargement of NATO (incl. documents cited in Asmus book), Unrest in China in 1989 and the violent suppression of it, Pakistan's nuclear weapons program, Iran-Iraq War,	10/27/2013 5:40 AM
20	Cold War	10/25/2013 10:10 PM

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21	Deregulation; end of cold war; surveillance of allied countries	10/25/2013 2:50 PM
22	national security and defense	10/25/2013 2:13 PM
23	1) A protocol for batch declassification is needed due to volume. 2) Approaching the 90s some documents will already be digitized. Again protocol should be in place. 3) Moving forward, digitization of the finding aids would decrease workload over the long term.	10/25/2013 12:11 AM
24	National Security Council papers ; State Department papers; CIA papers	10/24/2013 6:53 PM
25	This is important but there are still documents from the 1940s and 1950s that should be declassified.	10/24/2013 5:09 PM
26	1. Relations with other countries - State Dept & other agencies.	10/24/2013 10:10 AM
27	DOS, NSC and other files regarding US Foreign Policy in Central America, Eastern Europe and, topically, with respect to human rights issues.	10/24/2013 8:57 AM
28	- Foreign policy in Central America and the Caribbean - idem, Africa - idem, South America	10/24/2013 8:51 AM
29	START War Between Iran-Iraq Nuclear Talks with North Korea	10/24/2013 8:45 AM
30	-----	10/23/2013 7:56 PM
31	Nuclear policy and strategy, as well as US-Soviet arms control negotiations. Specifically, the Carter and Reagan administration's roles in the NATO "dual-track decision."	10/23/2013 5:04 PM
32	Civil wars and unrest in Latin America	10/23/2013 3:29 PM
33	US arms transfer policy during the Iran-Iraq War	10/23/2013 2:19 PM
34	1. Yugoslavia because of the Yugoslav wars of succession and the changes to US engagement abroad in ethnic and humanitarian conflicts during the Clinton I Administration. 2. North African relations. 3. US-Chinese relations	10/23/2013 12:17 PM
35	Intelligence, collapse of the Soviet Union, end of the Cold War	10/23/2013 12:11 PM
36	U.S. Foreign Relations	10/23/2013 12:09 PM
37	Treasury Department NSC State Department	10/22/2013 6:14 PM
38	1.) Records pertaining to the end of the Cold War and collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union 2.) Records on 1980s/1990s foreign policy in Latin America 3.) Records pertaining to the first Gulf War and the Middle East	10/22/2013 3:47 PM
39	Nuclear strategy, including command and control The rise of the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and U.S. foreign policy. U.S. relations with Saddam Hussein.	10/22/2013 1:46 PM
40	U.S. foreign policy in the "Third World." U.S. economic Policy CIA documents.	10/22/2013 1:31 PM
41	U.S. involvement in Lebanon. Panama invasion. U.S.-Iraq relations.	10/22/2013 12:34 PM
42	Iran	10/22/2013 11:00 AM
43	US relations with Cuba Nicaragua Guatamala	10/22/2013 10:39 AM
44	Records of the Department of Defense	10/22/2013 10:35 AM
45	My research at the National Archives was related to 1850s Sino-American policy, so I do not have any opinion on contemporary declassification issues.	10/22/2013 10:31 AM
46	-----	10/22/2013 10:23 AM
47	The Reagan administration Diplomatic and National security documents, East-West relations and the end of the Cold War, Soviet and East-central European documents	10/22/2013 10:18 AM
48	National Security Council documents	10/22/2013 10:18 AM
49	Nuclear proliferation / arms control / disarmament	10/22/2013 10:09 AM
50	Making and keeping an electronic record of the dates on which particular documents have been declassified.	10/22/2013 8:30 AM
51	Cold War Summits Military Aspects of the Cold War East-West Trade in the Cold War	10/17/2013 10:51 AM
52	Iran-Contra Affair, Support of the Mujahideen in Afghanistan	10/16/2013 2:09 PM

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53	1. Cold War (and end of) 2. Involvement in foreign countries (i.e. Afghanistan) 3. Desert Storm/Iraq/Kuwait	10/16/2013 3:26 AM
54	Desert Shield/Storm Iran Contra Central American small wars	10/15/2013 9:13 AM
55	Germany (because I'm selfish), but more broadly I think my colleagues in Middle Eastern history would really benefit from opening up files related to that area	10/15/2013 9:08 AM
56	Foreign Relations CIA	10/11/2013 4:24 PM
57	Gulf War, End of the Cold War, Intervention on former Yugoslavia	10/10/2013 7:24 PM
58	US foreign policy and reactions to developments overseas--Grenada, Angola, Iran-Contra, Iran-Iraq War, Intifada, Gulf War, etc. Items related to cultural diplomacy in the same period	10/10/2013 7:27 AM
59	US-Soviet relations US-Southeast Asian documents	10/9/2013 8:31 PM
60	South Africa (end of apartheid) Rwanda Democratic Republic of the Congo	10/8/2013 8:00 PM
61	Finish declassifying WWII docs	10/8/2013 2:09 PM
62	The "War on Drugs" Iran-Contra US views on Iran-Iraq war	10/8/2013 9:55 AM
63	Military operations, presidential records, state department records.	10/8/2013 9:28 AM
64	foreign relations in respect to latin america	10/8/2013 8:08 AM
65	Presidential material National Security/Intelligence Department of Defense	10/8/2013 8:05 AM
66	Balkan conflict, military cooperation, peacekeeping	10/8/2013 7:49 AM
67	Multinational corporations and their relationship with government and politics. The impact on NAFTA on Americans, Canadians and Central/South America. Foreign relations, terrorism (both internal and foreign generated). Demographic data on citizens, documented and "undocumented" people within our borders.	10/8/2013 6:56 AM
68	Shocking amounts of science policy related materials are declassified simply because they had something to do with nuclear weapons. This seems to be dramatically improving in the past five years, however. My sense is that the problem now (in my field) is not so much the declassification but an inability to locate declassified information, whether on USG websites or in actual boxes at NARA.	10/8/2013 6:31 AM
69	- Secret War in El Salvador - Operations in Granada - Operation Just Cause in Panama - Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm - Operation Provide Comfort in Northern Iraq - Peacekeeping Operation in Kosovo	10/8/2013 5:51 AM
70	Military records, presidential records, NSC records, diplomatic records, and domestic agency records in that order.	10/7/2013 9:15 PM
71	Military plans, nuclear targeting planning	10/7/2013 8:41 PM
72	Intelligence records	10/7/2013 8:37 PM
73	The wars in the former Yugoslavia, particularly American intervention in Kosovo in 1999. Documents related to ethnic cleansing.	10/7/2013 8:29 PM
74	The Lebanon War The fall of the Soviet Union The Balkan interventions	10/7/2013 8:06 PM
75	Relations with China. Reagan's policy toward the Soviet Union.	10/7/2013 7:33 PM
76	War, cultural diplomacy, covert operations.	10/7/2013 2:13 PM
77	Third World (Middle East, in particular) Executive-Congressional discussions CIA activities	10/7/2013 12:46 PM
78	- collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe	10/7/2013 11:57 AM
79	U.S. relations with Latin America.	10/7/2013 11:32 AM
80	Foreign Relations Intelligence Operations Military Operations and Planning	10/7/2013 9:08 AM
81	The Bosnian Crisis, Dealings with the UN, Iran-Contra	10/6/2013 9:44 PM
82	Relations with Latin America Relations with Middle East Relations with China	10/6/2013 4:17 PM
83	US-Israel relations, including intelligence sharing US relations with Persian Gulf nations US/IAEA initiatives toward control of nuclear weapons	10/6/2013 12:13 PM

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84	Diplomatic documents concerning the Middle-East; documents on foreign aid; documents on the collapse of the Soviet Union	10/6/2013 9:09 AM
85	Latin America, Asia, and Europe	10/5/2013 3:56 PM
86	Foreign relations	10/5/2013 1:17 PM
87	We need investment to deal with the current backlog and to figure out a way to deal with the imminent avalanche of electronic records created in the 1980s and 1990s.	10/5/2013 8:42 AM
88	1 The Crises of 1983 – KAL 007, Able Archer 2. Records related to Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan - including Iran-Iraq war, Iran contra, Desert Storm, CIA support for the mujahadeen, the Soviet pullout of Afghanistan and the rise of the Taliban. 3 US relations with Europe including NATO expansion, CSCE etc in the early post Cold War era (1991-1995)	10/5/2013 7:24 AM
89	No issue should be prioritize.	10/5/2013 4:13 AM
90	US documentation in relation to the Soviet Union, China and German reunification.	10/5/2013 2:51 AM
91	One issue not covered in this survey was the excessive time that it takes to get responses to FOIA and similar requests for declassification of documents. I have many requests that have never been answered. The presidential libraries are better at this.	10/4/2013 6:52 PM
92	National security decisionmaking with regard to military operations Foreign policy documents related to summit meetings State to state memoranda (executive, NSC, DoS)	10/4/2013 6:47 PM
93	Foreign relations, economic policy-making	10/4/2013 5:14 PM
94	1) balanced declass review of State Dept central files and cable traffic; everything should be in synch one year at a time including TS and nodis material 2) Secretary of Defense office files	10/4/2013 4:36 PM
95	1. Economic records 2. Environmental records 3. Drug control	10/4/2013 3:26 PM
96	Cold War military documents.	10/4/2013 3:07 PM
97	The "Reagan Doctrine" US-Soviet relations US relations with Western Europe	10/4/2013 12:07 PM
98	Foreign policy: 1) military intervention; 2) human rights; 3) nuclear policy	10/4/2013 10:57 AM
99	DOD records Lot files RG 59 Diplomatic Post files RG 84	10/4/2013 8:54 AM
100	China North Korea South Korea Japan	10/4/2013 8:40 AM
101	1. Decision-making processes and threat assessments in the wake of Cold War's end. Especially focus on George HW Bush administration, but also Clinton administration. 2. Decision surrounding the end of the Cold War, especially assessments of Soviet/Russian power through 80s and early 90s.	10/4/2013 8:35 AM
102	U.S.-China relations, U.S.-Japan relations, and U.S.-Soviet relations.	10/3/2013 11:07 PM
103	National security, China, North Korea	10/3/2013 8:55 PM
104	clearly the late Cold War documentation is critical ...	10/3/2013 8:51 PM
105	Central America policies	10/3/2013 8:15 PM
106	Foreign Relations Environmental Issues Energy Issues	10/3/2013 1:47 PM
107	Difficult to assess as there are so many topics.	10/3/2013 1:30 PM
108	Middle East, NSA, Lebanon.	10/3/2013 12:59 PM
109	National Security Documents/NSC meetings Trade Relations	10/3/2013 12:22 PM
110	1. Military aid/intervention in other countries; Diplomatic relations; Presidential documents	10/3/2013 12:12 PM
111	1. U.S. relations with Iraq 2. Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestinian-Israeli peace process 3. End of the Cold War	10/3/2013 11:38 AM
112	Arms control negotiations Persian Gulf War Sino-American relations	10/3/2013 11:31 AM
113	Nuclear strategy, arms negotiations	10/3/2013 11:19 AM
114	I feel like some agencies are better than others about being transparent. Ironically, the CIA, DoD, and FBI seem to make more efforts in this than places like the Department of State. There is very little open documents on the State website, no FOIA reading room, and it's difficult to pull IG and GAO reports regarding the DoS from their website or even the IG or GAO.	10/3/2013 10:24 AM

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115	US involvement in Central American conflicts, 1980s US Negotiations with Soviet Union, 1980s US involvement in Afghanistan 1980s-1990s, and related 1990s counterterrorism efforts	10/3/2013 8:06 AM
116	Technology and Data Security	10/3/2013 7:50 AM
117	end of the Cold War US involvement in Central America the first Gulf War	10/3/2013 6:40 AM
118	Papers from the US Agency for International Development (many of which are not actually classified) might be very usefully released. They are a very interesting resource for students of US foreign relations and area studies as well.	10/3/2013 5:29 AM
119	1. End of the Cold War - US relations with Soviet Union/Russia in the 1980s and 1990s 2. US decision-making, diplomacy and international cooperation concerning military conflicts and threats, e.g. Gulf War, Balkans, ++ 3. US relations with China in the 1980s and 1990s	10/3/2013 1:28 AM
120	Iran-Contra Bosnia US-Israeli relations	10/2/2013 9:39 PM
121	foreign relations with the newly independent states of the Soviet Union and Persian Gulf states. Economic documents pertaining to globalaization/WTO/NAFTA negotiations.	10/2/2013 8:01 PM
122	Science and technology/R&D State Department records Records pertaining to US military interventions abroad	10/2/2013 7:18 PM
123	First--BULK declassification for all records related to communist countries which no longer exist (USSR, GDR, et al) or have so transformed their political systems (eg, the Warsaw Pact plus Mongolia) that the governments in existence during the Cold War have essentially managed--and this includes US policy related to questions pertaining to the Cold War, eg, the military preparations for a Warsaw Pact invasion, the division of Germany, etc. Documents on the Iran-Iraq War and the entire Middle and Near East, given the region's intensified importance post-cold war and post-9/11. Documents on US-China relations.	10/2/2013 4:21 PM
124	No opinion.	10/2/2013 4:08 PM
125	National Security; Interventions/wars; Globalization	10/2/2013 4:07 PM
126	Middle East and Latin America; Cold War end	10/2/2013 4:07 PM
127	1) U.S.-Soviet relations/end of the Cold War 2) international drug war 3) war in Central America	10/2/2013 3:53 PM
128	Balkan engagements, missions in Somalia, genocide in Rwanda.	10/2/2013 3:34 PM
129	End of Cold War Iran Contra Nuclear non-proliferation	10/2/2013 3:28 PM
130	U.S. in Latin America, Immigration policy, Security operations	10/2/2013 3:27 PM
131	Middle east related topics	10/2/2013 3:16 PM
132	Would have to have a better sense of the full range of possible documents that could be declassified. My own interest is in national security and political economy.	10/2/2013 2:52 PM
133	Latin America	10/2/2013 2:48 PM
134	Central America counterinsurgency in 1980s	10/2/2013 2:46 PM
135	Nuclear deterrence and nuclear weapons Relations with the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc Relations with Western Europe	10/2/2013 2:39 PM
136	Domestic economic matters and foreign economic policy	10/2/2013 2:38 PM
137	foreign policy national security white house	10/2/2013 2:33 PM
138	No opinion.	10/2/2013 2:10 PM
139	Counter-terrorism, anti-communism, intelligence policy.	10/2/2013 2:09 PM
140	The End of the Cold War The First Gulf War	10/2/2013 2:05 PM
141	NATO MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC FOREIGN POLICY	10/2/2013 1:56 PM
142	1. The Middle East 2. US-Soviet relations 3. US-China relations	10/2/2013 1:54 PM
143	Nuclear Arms Control End of the Cold War Covert Operation	10/2/2013 1:42 PM
144	1) national security/intelligence documents 2) Reagan administration records (FRUS please!) 3) records on America relations with Third World	10/2/2013 1:38 PM

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145	terrorism, foreign policy planning	10/2/2013 1:37 PM
146	-Relations with the Soviet Union -Relations with Middle Eastern states, especially Israel, Iran, Iraq - Relations with western European allies	10/2/2013 12:37 PM
147	1. National Intelligence Estimates/PDBs 2. Covert operations 3. Nuclear issues/WMD	10/2/2013 10:58 AM
148	1. Arms Control 2. Intelligence estimates regarding the Soviet Union 3. Activities of US forces in Latin America	10/1/2013 9:12 PM
149	Foreign policy (Presidential and State Dept. records); human rights-related materials; and CIA records	10/1/2013 1:28 PM
150	Presidential archives - NSC files; State Department LOT files; State Department cable traffic. All three can be accomplished easily if automatic bulk declassification is allowed (as the UK National Archives have done).	10/1/2013 9:17 AM
151	Getting the finding aids in order, putting them online, and ensuring that the search engines yield results that can actually be used to request documents. It will save a lot of time for researchers Declassification Making more documents available online	10/1/2013 5:53 AM
152	The nuclear foreign policy making of Carter and Reagan administrations remain a mystery. The only entry point we have on these administration is Central America thanks to declassified documents digitalized by the National Security Archives and the Cold War International History Project. The rest is widely understudied because of the lack of documents from Defense, State and JCS	10/1/2013 3:31 AM
153	terrorism diplomatic relations with other countries	10/1/2013 3:20 AM
154	NATO, Human rights, and the global economy	9/30/2013 9:38 PM
155	US-Soviet relations and US-Russian relations. Everything related to Iran and Iraq. Yugoslavia (or Clinton era humanitarian intervention in general, eg Somalia and Rwanda).	9/30/2013 7:50 PM
156	Nuclear proliferation, defense attaché records (very important and hardly available, even prior to this period), Middle East	9/30/2013 7:27 PM
157	The role of the United States in what Samuel Huntington called the "Third Wave" of democratization globally.	9/30/2013 6:49 PM
158	African Liberation Communist Influence in the Developing World American policy towards Africa	9/30/2013 6:46 PM
159	end of Cold War in Latin America Gulf War and Middle East accords democratization process in South America	9/30/2013 6:32 PM
160	topics related to human rights and NGOs	9/30/2013 6:30 PM