



Using the Peace Corps Digital Library: a guide for the Peace Corps community

About the Digital Library:

The Peace Corps Digital Library provides a searchable collection of electronic Peace Corps historical materials, including:

- Photos and stories contributed by Volunteers and RPCVs, using an online submission form at www.peacecorps.gov/50
- Digitized newsletters, speeches, annual reports and other key agency historical materials
- Contributions of photos and historical documents from country posts
- Brochures, posters, audio and video clips, and marketing materials from each decade of Peace Corps history

The Digital Library is...

... a work in progress

Our goal is to provide access to Volunteer and RPCV photos and stories from all eras of Peace Corps history and from each country where Peace Corps has had a program; we rely on Volunteers and RPCVs to contribute materials from their service and to spread the word.

We are adding more agency historical materials such as speeches, reports, press releases, and historical photos as our resources permit.

... searchable and browsable

The digital library has several built-in features to help you find materials. You can browse by item type, or search by keyword, country, date, etc. The full-text search function allows you to quickly and easily find what you are looking for within the many PDF documents included in the collection.

... a resource to support your 50th Anniversary celebrations

Feel free to use digital library items as source material for publications, exhibits, and events that honor the 50th anniversary of Peace Corps.

With very few exceptions, materials in the digital library may be reproduced to suit your needs. Please include contextual information about the materials you use—for example, if you use a photo include a caption that states where and when the photo was taken and cite the Peace Corps Digital Library as your source.

The few items in the digital library that have copyright restrictions are clearly identified as such and should not be reproduced without written consent from their publishers.

Many, but not all, of the Volunteers and RPCVs who have contributed materials to the digital library have agreed to release their contact information to organizations that may want to interview them for publications and other 50th anniversary-related celebrations. Please contact digital@peacecorps.gov for more information.





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The Digital Library is...

... NOT a comprehensive archive of Peace Corps historical materials**

The digital library includes a selection of historical materials of general interest to the Peace Corps community and the general public. You will find many important documents and photos, but the digital library can not possibly include every item that researchers might want to locate.

Our resources do not permit us to serve as a comprehensive Peace Corps historical archive, nor is it our mandate to do so. For in-depth research, we suggest making use of the rich resources available through:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NARA serves as the archive for historical records of federal agencies. Their College Park, Maryland, holdings include Peace Corps historical documents, photos, slides, and audio-visual materials. Visit www.nara.gov for details.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. The John F. Kennedy library (www.jfklibrary.org) in Boston, Massachusetts, offers an RPCV archival collection of journals, letters, photos, and other materials, donated by RPCVs. They also help coordinate an RPCV oral history project.

University archives. Many universities that were involved in early Peace Corps training hold archival collections with a focus on Peace Corps history. Most archives do not loan materials; they require you to come in person to use their collections.

Local libraries. Your local library is a good starting point for accessing many published historical materials about the Peace Corps. Most libraries have interlibrary loan programs that allow you to borrow materials from other participating libraries.

The National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) and RPCV affiliate groups. NPCA and RPCV affiliate groups are often good resources, and their online forums can help put RPCVs in touch with one another.

Peace Corps does not collect original materials such as journals, letters, photos, slides and memorabilia from Volunteers or RPCVs. Volunteers and RPCVs interested in donating their original materials to an archive should contact the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum (www.jfklibrary.org) for guidelines on how to contribute to their RPCV collection.

*** Peace Corps is unable to assist groups or individuals with in-depth research regarding Peace Corps history.*

