

Access Policy

The NEH Digital Repository offers access to collections through two areas accessible through the main website (neh.dspacedirect.org):

- *NEH Staff Access*: Provides restricted access to NEH staff only. May contain sensitive information.
- [Public Reading Room](#): Open without restriction to the general public. Materials may be searched, viewed, and downloaded without prior permission from NEH staff. Use of materials may be limited by copyright status.

Copyright

As work products of the government of the United States, the vast majority of material created by NEH staff falls outside the scope of U.S. copyright law and is made available within the public domain. Where materials or portions of materials are protected under copyright law, NEH either has prior permission to make such items publicly available or provides access according to the provisions of U.S. copyright law allowing for limited “fair use” of copyrighted materials for purposes such as research or teaching.

In order to promote responsible use of materials published within the digital repository, NEH includes information regarding rights with each item record. Where possible, this includes links to standardized statements drawn from RightsStatements.org. However, it is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status and appropriate use of repository materials. NEH is not responsible for unlawful uses of these materials and cannot provide legal advice to the public.

Access Restrictions & Privacy

NEH makes every reasonable effort to ensure that access to private or sensitive information contained within repository collections remains limited to NEH staff. After being reviewed by NEH’s Office of General Counsel, materials containing such information may be published in the Public Reading Room, with some information redacted as required by law.

We also maintain policies and practices to ensure the privacy of repository users. We do not collect personally identifying information (PII) unless it is explicitly and voluntarily given by creating an account or sending an email to NEH staff. Such information will not be shared except with NEH employees and, when necessary for maintenance of the repository, third-party service providers. We may automatically collect some non-identifying information, including:

- IP address
- Type of browser and operating system used to access the site
- Date and time you access the site
- Pages you visit (only in aggregate)
- If you linked to the repository website from another site, the address of that site