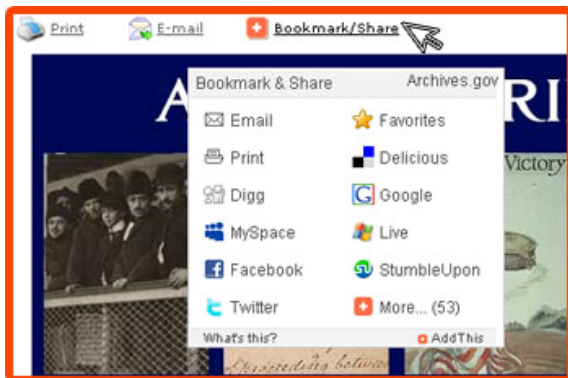




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## NARA Online: Social Media

**NWE Collaborate Online Forum:** In April, the National Archives introduced a new online community with the goal of creating a “virtual meeting place for members of the National Archives education team (NWE) in Washington, DC, and colleagues from schools, institutions, and organizations across the nation to share innovative ideas and best practices.” *Collaborate*, which is aimed at history and social studies teachers in particular, is based on the premise that no one understands the challenges and opportunities of the classroom better than the teachers themselves. This cooperative effort, therefore, seeks to combine the valuable experience of educators with the historic records expertise of the National Archives staff in order to provide a web resource that will help teachers inspire their students with primary records. The site offers a blog where NWE team members pose questions to readers concerning the best methods of connecting with students, which skill sets to emphasize, and the types of content to present. Reader feedback left in the discussion forum is then integrated into plans for the evolving website, making the primary consumers of the site key players in its development as well. To learn more about the project, which was recently featured on [WhiteHouse.gov](http://WhiteHouse.gov), visit <http://collaborate.digitalvaults.org/>.



**Bookmark ARC!** If you've visited the Archival Research Catalog ([ARC](#)) recently, you may have noticed a new option at the top of our Web pages, next to the printing and emailing icons. By hovering your cursor over the new Bookmark/Share link, you can access a menu of popular social networking and bookmarking sites, many of which open up new opportunities for information sharing. Whereas the traditional Internet Explorer Favorites toolbar confines your list of bookmarks to a single computer, applications like [Delicious](#) and [Digg](#) allow you not only to keep track of your favorite sites wherever you have access to the Internet, but to broadcast them as well. [Facebook](#) and [MySpace](#) allow users to share ARC discoveries via links on their profile pages while [Twitter](#) users can share the catalog with friends via 140-character “tweets.”

[StumbleUpon](#), a mashup of collaborative search tools and recommender systems, encourages users to assign keyword tags to websites. These can then be used to direct fellow “stumblers” with similar interests to the tagged page when they use the system to discover new sites. Next time you're using ARC, take a minute to explore a few of these handy new organizational and outreach links!

## **RACO 2009 Collaborating Across Boundaries: Government Records and Social Media Blog and Twitter Feed:**

The 2009 NARA-hosted Records Administration Conference (RACO) took place on May 28<sup>th</sup> and was chronicled live via the official RACO2009 Twitter feed throughout the day. The tweets passed on information updates concerning scheduling, events, and award announcements to both attendees and those following the conference online or via mobile devices. The full list of announcements is available on the [RACO blog](#), which, prior to the actual event, provided information on the program, conference speakers, exhibitors, links to related sites, registration, and travel tips for conference participants. On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, tweets announced that meeting [presentations](#) had been posted to the [organization's NARA website](#). If you're interested in following the RACO feed, visit their Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/raco2009> or the blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/raco/>.



## Online Description in the U.S. Archival Community

**SAA Conference in Austin:** The [schedule](#) for the upcoming Society of American Archivists annual meeting includes a number of presentations dealing with the new opportunities and challenges presented by the increasing presence of archives on the Web. If you'll be in Austin and are curious about this new phase of



archival outreach, try to attend a few of the events listed below. Those interested in the changing management and access practices of graphic materials in particular won't want to miss Session 505, in which NARA's Jerry Simmons will be speaking. For full details about each session, click on the underlined session numbers. And for those who would like to share summaries of talks they've either given or attended, we'd love to post details in our next issue of The Buzz!

**Session 101:** "Building, Managing, and Participating in Online Communities: Avoiding Culture Shock Online."

**Session 104:** "The Real Archives 2.0: Studies of Use, Views and Potential for Web 2.0."

**Session 202:** "Expressing Identities and Constructing Memories: Archiving Local, Global, and Online Communities."

**Session 306:** "Omeka: Using Web 2.0 Technologies to Enhance Digital Content."

**Session 401:** "The Potential of Web 2.0 for Collection Development."

**Session 505:** "From Traditional Formats to Digital Delivery: Visual Collections Sustained for Research in the Internet Age."

Conference events run from Sunday, August 9- Sunday August 16, in Austin, Texas.

[http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/145.html?Action=Conference\\_Detail&ConfID\\_W=145](http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/145.html?Action=Conference_Detail&ConfID_W=145).

## Online Description in the International Archival Community

**Europeana:** [Europeana](#), the prototype digital library, archive, and museum of



over 4 million European cultural treasures is now up and running. The site provides virtual

access to a wide range of digitized paintings, photos, museum objects, maps, newspapers, diaries, music, spoken word recordings, newreels, TV broadcasts, and other significant historical records. The pilot, which draws on the resources and expertise available from over 100 European cultural and technological organizations, allows users to tag their finds and save favorite searches and items to personal "My Europeana" profiles. Other fun features include "People are currently thinking about:" a list of three recently popular search links which updates itself each time the page is opened or refreshed and the Timeline Navigator which allows users to explore documents based on time periods rather than topical keywords. Europeana's creators hope to have more than 10 million records online by 2010, so check back frequently to stay up-to-date with these exciting developments!

<http://www.europeana.eu/portal/index.html>

"The Buzz" is a quarterly digest of news relating to online description and access initiatives from the National Archives of the United States and our colleagues around the world. You may contact Kristen Albrittain at [kristen.albrittain@nara.gov](mailto:kristen.albrittain@nara.gov) with ideas for articles, suggestions, or comments.