

# NASA HISTORY: CALENDAR YEAR 2008 IN REVIEW

## I. Introduction

The year 2008 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASA, which became operational October 1, 1958, following President Eisenhower's signing of the National Aeronautics and Space Act on July 29. Throughout the year, the NASA History Division, Office of External Relations, was involved in activities related to this landmark anniversary. It also continued to focus on its core goals of conducting a high-quality, academically sound program of research pertinent to NASA leadership's concerns; effectively acquiring, preserving and making available documentary information in the NASA Historical Reference Collection; and disseminating historical information to the widest practicable audience.

In pursuit of these objectives, the History Division continued to follow its detailed strategic plan, as laid out in Appendix A. Among the Division's highlights for 2008 were a conference "NASA's First 50 Years: A Historical Perspective," held October 28-29 at the NASA HQ Auditorium on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; participation in the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, where NASA was featured; and the publication of books in aerospace history, including volume VII of the documentary series *Exploring the Unknown*, and the Space Age 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Proceedings, *Remembering the Space Age*. NASA Administrator Michael Griffin served as the opening keynote speaker for the NASA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, and the Chief Historian gave the closing keynote. Two further volumes on the societal impact of spaceflight were in preparation as part of a series of studies on this subject, undertaken in accordance with objective 4 of section 102 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act. In conjunction with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) an annual grant for the history of aerospace technology was awarded, in addition to the long-running NASA-American Historical Association grant in aerospace history, and the NASA-History of Science Society grant for the history of Earth and space science.

## II. NASA Historical Publication

An important element of the NASA History Program continued with the preparation of solid, well-researched works on the history of the U.S. civil space program.

### *New Publications*

*William H. Pickering: America's Deep Space Pioneer* (NASA SP-2008-4113), by Douglas J. Mudgway. Please note this is a revised version of the 2007 edition.

*Exploring the Unknown: Selected Documents in the History of the U.S. Civil Space Program, Volume VII: Human Spaceflight: Projects Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo*, by John M. Logsdon and Roger D. Launius, editors. (NASA SP-2008-4407)

*Altitude Wind Tunnel at NASA Glenn Research Center (SP-2008-4608)* by Robert Arrighi.

*Atmospheric Science at NASA: A History* by Erik M. Conway. (Johns Hopkins University press New Series in NASA History, 2008)

*Remembering the Space Age: Proceedings of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference*, Steven J. Dick, ed. (NASA SP-2008-4703)

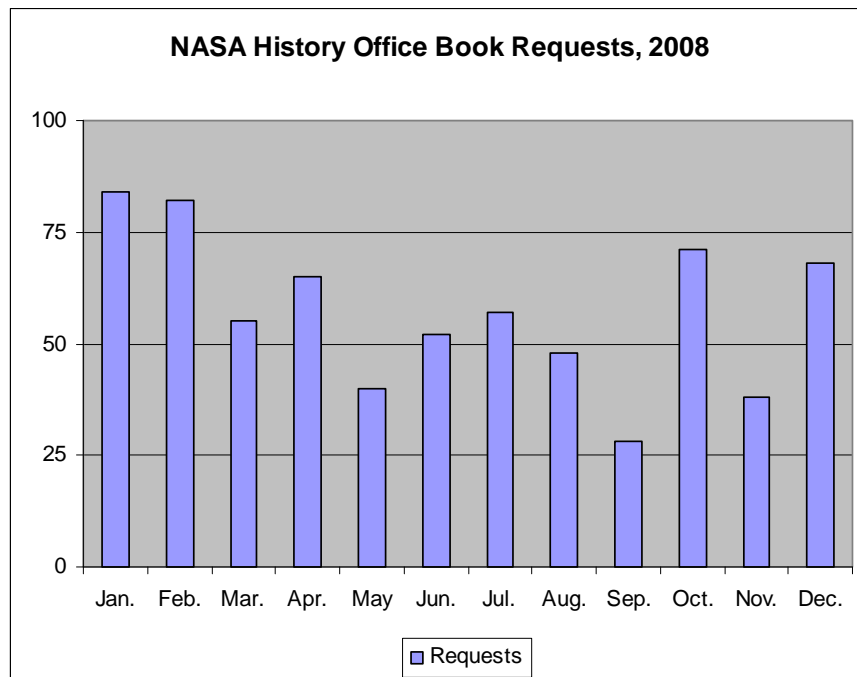
### ***Dover Agreement***

As part of an effort to give NASA history the widest possible dissemination to the public, the History Division signed an agreement with Dover Publications to reprint selected out of print books in the NASA History series. The first three books reprinted are Constance Green and Milton Lomask, *Vanguard: A History*, Courtney Brooks, James Grimwood and Loyd S. Swenson, Jr., *Chariots for Apollo: A History of Manned Lunar Spacecraft*, and Edward Ezell and Linda Ezell, *On Mars: Exploration of the Red Planet, 1958-1978*.

To increase interest in our products, new books and DVDs are advertised on our history web site, on a listserv, and in Heads-up which is published by NASA INC within the Office of Public Affairs. Working with the Government Printing Office, we were also able to list some of our publications on Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

The History Division attempts to track the number of individuals who visit our office with book requests. In 2008 we received 688 requests; the monthly totals are reported in Table 1 below.

**TABLE 1**



## NASA History Award Winners

*Atmospheric Science at NASA: A History* by Erik M. Conway. (Johns Hopkins University press New Series in NASA History, 2008) won the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) prize for best historical manuscript. This book critically examines this politically controversial science, examining the complex roles and relationships of NASA, congressional appropriation committees, government weather and climate bureaus, and the military.

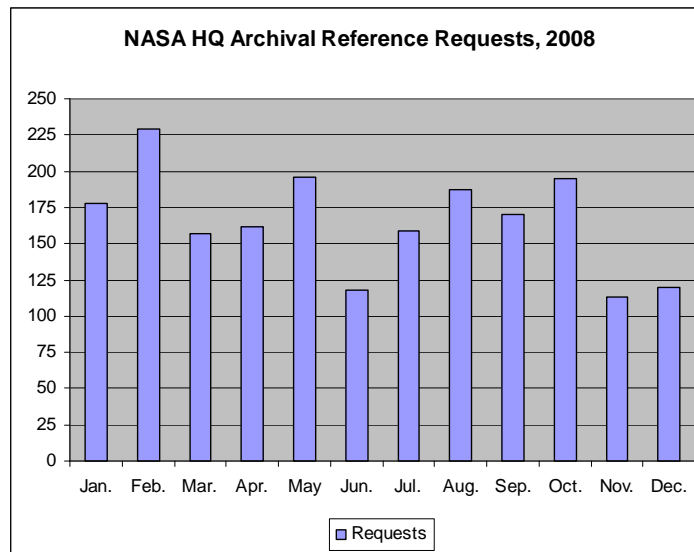
*Altitude Wind Tunnel at NASA Glenn Research Center. An Interactive History* earned the John Wesley Powell Prize from the Society for History in the Federal Government for excellence in historical preservation and display. Along with its accompanying website, <http://awt.grc.nasa.gov/Interactive/awt.html>, this CD documents the design, history and technological contributions of the Altitude Wind Tunnel through the inclusion of a timeline, photos, primary technical reports and diagrams, and interactive illustrations of its layout. Bob Arrighi, archivist at Glenn Research Center, compiled the extensive source material, multimedia and reflections included on the disc.

## III. Historical Reference Collection

### Reference Requests

During calendar year 2008, NASA History Division personnel answered a total of 1,984 research requests from governmental, educational, and private organizations on a wide variety of topics. This was nearly a 20% increase over the previous year. History Division personnel also provided research services to approximately 276 on-site researchers using the Historical Reference Collection. Table 2 displays the total number of information requests NASA History Division archival personnel handled per month during calendar year 2008.

**TABLE 2**



The advance of e-mail technology has resulted in significant annual increases in the number of queries the History Division receives from across the world. Such queries represent a growing workload for NASA History Division personnel. We remain committed to providing quality, timely service for those seeking information about NASA's history, but the challenges of doing so are becoming increasingly difficult as the number of requests continue to rise.

While the History Division has been able to reduce the amount of time given to each information request through greater efficiency, the annual workload for information requests requires more than three full-time equivalent personnel. Additionally, we rely on student interns for some of this work, but the rise in the workload is a matter that requires continued attention if we are to meet NASA's obligations to the public.

### **Visitors**

Although most reference requests arrive by email or telephone, the History Division continues to host those who come in person to conduct research. In 2008, the History Division hosted many visitors from within the building, of course, as well as from the following NASA installations, Ames Research Center and Goddard Space Flight Center.

Local visitors to the History Division included researchers from American University, George Washington University, George Mason University, Johns Hopkins University, National Air and Space Museum, Library of Congress, National Research Council, Federal Aviation Administration, Universities Space Research Association, Global Security.org, Ares Corporation, Aerospace Corporation (Arlington, VA office), Niebur Consulting, History Associates, Inc., and Rand Corporation.

Out-of-town researchers hailed from MIT, University of California at Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, UC Davis, LeMoyne College (NY), Princeton University, Fordham University, University of Central Florida, University of Pennsylvania, Georgia Tech, Yale University, University of North Dakota, Monmouth University (NJ), Harvard University, Cornell University, Mt. Holyoke College (MA), West Chester University (PA), Elon University (NC), Georgia Tech, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Cornell University, Syracuse University, the Orlando Sentinel, and the Corp of Engineers (Champaign, IL).

International visitors came from Apogee Books and University of Alberta (both in Canada), German Aerospace Centre, Free University of Berlin, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Sydney.

## Acquisitions

In 2008 the NASA History Division received approximately thirty-eight cubic feet of material from various offices at Headquarters, from Center History Offices, and from our contract historians. Below are highlights of the donations:

- Fourteen cubic feet of Participant in Space files, 1977-94, 2002-03, from the Education Office.
- Ten cubic feet of Current News, 1963-75 and 1981-98, and NASA Magazine, 1992-94, from the KSC archivist.
- Four cubic feet of Executive Level Meeting Files, 2007-08, from the Deputy Administrator's office.
- Three cubic feet of international relations files, ca. 1985-94, donated by the Space Operations Division and the Export Control and Interagency Division within OER.
- Two cubic feet of technical journal articles on astronomical interferometry from the JPL Archives.
- One-half cubic foot of microfiche press releases from the HQ Library during their downsizing.
- One-half cubic foot of material on NASA preparations for the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, from Office of Public Affairs.
- Six oral histories from the NACA Reunion held at Langley; twenty-four interviews with NASA officials-in-charge for the NASA at 50 Oral History Project; and three interviews with "NASA experts" representing a cross-section of NASA employees (Francois, Parkinson, Sokolik), from the JSC oral historians.
- DVDs of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference held in the HQ auditorium in October as well as several other 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary DVDs produced by NASA TV.
- Space Station Policy History status reports and sample documents, 1999-2000, from Jeff Bingham.
- NASA-RSA contract (with the first 7 years of mods) covering Shuttle Mir and early ISS, from Exploration Systems Mission Directorate.
- A handful of Space Station Freedom materials, 1988-89; several planetary protection documents from contract author, Michael Meltzer; a large binder of reference materials used during House consideration of legislation affecting ISS

- Oral history interviews on scientific ballooning, donated by contract historian Henry Dethloff.
- Several oral history interviews donated by John Krige, author of the forthcoming history on international relations activities at NASA.
- Craig Waff's interview tapes made for an unpublished deep space network history, donated by contract historian Andrew Butrica.
- Oral history interviews for the forthcoming aeronautics history, donated by contract historian Rob Ferguson.
- Oral history interviews conducted by Ames Scientist William J. Clancey as source material for the forthcoming Mars Exploration monograph.
- Large mounted picture of a supernova from Science Mission Directorate.
- Hundreds of historically significant items copied from collections that the archival staff recalled from the Federal Records Center. These collections included files on the Electronics Research Center, Office of Policy, and the Apollo program as well as material on the careers of HQ officials George Low and Alfred Eggers.

Additionally, at the end of 2008, the Chief Archivist was involved with the disposition of the records and historical materials of the former Administrator and Deputy Administrator. She worked with the records management staff to ensure that this important part of NASA history was captured and preserved.

### **Processing Activities**

The History Division staff processed (i.e., appraised, arranged, described, and preserved) or partially processed a number of collections in 2008. Other materials were placed in the backlog for processing at a later date. History Division staff processed a total of one hundred eighteen cubic feet, retaining ninety-three cubic feet. Collections processed include:

- Sixty-two cubic feet of human spaceflight reports (Gemini through Shuttle)
- Eighty-four cubic feet of HQ Office files; these were only minimally processed years ago.
- Fourteen cubic feet of reading files, 1990-98, from the Director of Advanced Projects in the Office of Space Flight.

- Seven cubic-feet of solar exploration material that was partially processed last fall by our University of Maryland archival practicum student.
- Seven cubic-feet of NASA engineer, John Sloop's material.
- Six cubic feet of Dill Hunley's launch vehicle technology collection.
- Five cubic feet of congressional materials, including GAO, OTA, and CBO reports and other material.
- Three cubic feet of Lane Wallace's source files for the Goddard history entitled *Dreams, Hopes, Realities*. Included in this collection is a draft GSFC history written by James Capshew.
- Two cubic feet of Education Division office files from the 1980s.
- One cubic foot of History Division files.
- One-half cubic-foot of space tracking and data network history source files.
- One-half cubic-foot collection of 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival files documenting NASA's participation in this event.
- One cubic foot of Automated Information Systems Division (Code NT) files, 1987-89
- One-half cubic-foot microfiche press release collection, ca. 1958-92
- One-half cubic-foot of Carl Pilcher's space science collection containing post-SEI materials on Mars missions and beyond.
- A small collection of Craig Waff interviews done for a draft history on deep space network.

Additionally, ten cubic feet of deteriorating news clippings and other materials were photocopied and/or re-folded in acid-free folders. These preservation efforts focused on astronaut biographical files, the NACA collection, early Administrators' files, and files on satellites and probes. In other processing actions the Chief Archivist approved the transfer of one hundred sixty cubic feet of scheduled records from the Federal Records Center to National Archives.

## NASA History Division Online Catalog (Database)

The current database, which began operating in May 1998, alleviates space constraints in the NASA History Division by storing discreet parts of the NASA Historical Reference Collection. Thanks to the database's full-text searching capability, historical materials are more readily available to History Division staff and others. Ongoing efforts to scan and electronically store historically significant documents from paper collections maintained in the NASA Historical Reference Collection accomplish several tasks, including:

- Preserving Agency records that are critical to understanding the Agency and its historical development.
- Allowing the disposition of paper originals to the National Archives where they belong in keeping with the Archive's mission of maintaining a record of the activities of the federal government.
- Freeing up space within the NASA History Division to allow for further collection of historically significant Agency documents.
- Making historical materials available to a wide body of researchers from NASA, other government agencies, the academic community, and the public.

Work began in 2007 on the digitization of the speeches of former Administrators, Deputy Administrators, and Associate Deputy Administrators found in the Historical Reference Collection. The Administrators' speeches were completed in 2007, the Deputy Administrators' speeches in 2008. All of these have now been scanned and are full text searchable in our database and on a public web site at <https://mira.hq.nasa.gov/history/>. Additionally, a number of other collections were digitized in 2008, including nine cubic feet of Office of External Relations chronological correspondence files, six cubic feet of life sciences chronological correspondence files, one-half cubic-foot of former Deputy Administrator Fred Gregory files; and dozens of George Mueller speeches. In December a project to scan three cubic feet of SF-135s, records transmittal forms, was completed. These forms describe the thousands of boxes transferred from HQ to the Federal Records Center between 1951 and 1985.

During the year, History Division staff scanned and checked into the Document Management System (DMS) nearly 82,000 items and created over 1,500 cataloging records describing these documents. Approximately 1,921 records describing our non-scanned or hardcopy holdings were updated, and 363 new cataloging records were created as hardcopy materials were subsequently added to the reference collection. Through these efforts, NASA historical materials have become more widely available to staff and visitors.

The Chief Archivist worked with the IT contractors to fix three DMS-related problems: one, involving indexing thousands of scanned PDFs; two, a DMS synch problem between the production DMS and the public DMS; and three, a problem with the search function on the public DMS page. Only the indexing problem remains unresolved at present. The IT staff worked to re-index these documents while the archival staff diligently tested to



make sure the conversion worked. As of 2009, only about five percent of the PDFs remain problematic.

Also in 2008, the Chief Archivist and one of the contract archivists continued to work with the IT staff on a service request, begun the year before, to publish four series of material in the DMS to a public web site at <https://mira.hq.nasa.gov/history/>. A version of this site was made available in March for testing by the archival staff, and ultimately the site went live in April.

## **Other Activities**

The Chief Archivist continues to direct the work of the three archival contractors. From April through August the History Division was fortunate enough to have a University of Maryland archival practicum student from the previous year return as a volunteer. Her primary task was that of adding additional descriptive information about interviews to the oral history inventory.

The Chief Archivist, along with the Law Librarian and the Head Librarian, began serving on a committee in November 2007, to implement plans for downsizing the Headquarters Library. The downsizing and restacking activity continued throughout 2008. The Chief Archivist spent one-and-a-half weeks beginning in late April working with a HQ team from Public Affairs, the General Counsel's Office, and records management staff searching through dozens of archive boxes recalled from the Federal Records Center. The group attempted to locate responsive documents for the Agency to present to the plaintiff in the settlement phase of a FOIA lawsuit against the Agency.

Over several months last summer the Chief Archivist, with the help of an intern and the archival staff, reviewed and published hundreds of Administrators' and Deputy Administrators' speeches to the public DMS web site. Additionally, she and an OER colleague completed a mandatory declassification review of a dozen documents for the Security Office. The Chief Archivist also handled two records management actions: one, to identify vital records in OER, and two, to identify and schedule OER IT applications. These RM efforts are part of a much broader Agency-wide action from National Archives.

With the loss of a historian from our staff in 2006, the archival staff took on additional responsibilities such as maintaining and improving the history web site, adding additional images and captions to the GRIN photo database, and assisting one of our historians in developing an Apollo 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative web site. The archival staff were also called upon to fact check many items, including: introductions, captions, chapters and/or appendices to a number of our books; a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary timeline; NASA materials used at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival; and a draft speech delivered by the Deputy Administrator at the portrait unveiling of former Administrator Dan Goldin.

## IV. Oral History Projects

Recording, transcribing, and permanently accessioning in the NASA Historical Reference Collection the recollections of NACA/NASA personnel has been one of the most important activities undertaken by the NASA History Division since its inception in 1959. Many NASA oral histories originated when historians interviewed participants to obtain firsthand information to facilitate writing their volumes in the NASA History Series. Other oral histories can be more properly categorized as exit interviews. The NASA Historical Reference Collection holds over 2,000 oral histories on a widely divergent set of individuals. They include oral histories focusing on all the major projects of the agency, organizational culture, engineering practice, program management, aerospace medicine, and other specialized topics.

Other NASA centers also have large collections of oral histories. The Johnson Space Center, for example, has a collection of interviews with over 600 people. While the majority of the oral histories available from NASA have been conducted during the course of writing specific historical works, the agency increasingly has undertaken oral history for its own sake as a means of preserving knowledge. Often supporters of this effort have been motivated by the realization that the first generation of agency officials are passing from the scene and that it is important to capture as much of their knowledge as possible. Accordingly, several discrete projects have been undertaken, and some are still in progress, recording the recollections of key officials.

Often these oral history efforts record the entire careers of individuals covering a broad spectrum of activities. They have a similarity to the oral histories of Columbia University's Oral History Research Office and to the senior officer oral history programs of the various armed services. In every case these works are transcribed, edited, and placed in the history collections of the agency. Since 2002, the JSC oral history collection, as well as the interviews conducted by the JSC oral historians for Headquarters, has been made available on the web at [www.jsc.nasa.gov/history](http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/history). From links at this site, researchers can find oral history projects sponsored by the Headquarters History Division, including: Administrators, Herstory, Aviatrix Pioneers, Ballistic Missile Development Pioneers, and NACA employees. A copy of the transcripts as well as the audio file for each interview is deposited at the University of Houston Clear Lake.

### **Administrators Oral History Project**

Started in 2001, this effort gathers information and knowledge from individuals who have served in major administrative roles for the Agency. The oral histories document organizational culture, program management, decision-making rationales, and details of events that occurred during that person's tenure. The following oral histories have been completed to date:

*James Beggs*, NASA Administrator 1981-1985

**Julian M. Earls**, former Center Director and longtime employee from Glenn Research Center, 1968 - 2005

**Harold Finger**, NACA Engineer and Director, Nuclear Systems, NASA Headquarters, 1958-1967.

**Stephen Francois**, Program Manager of the NASA Launch Services Program, former Director of Space Station and Shuttle Payload, and Space Station Launch Site Support, 1972-present.

**Edward A. Frankle**, General Counsel, NASA Headquarters, 1988-2001.

**Arnold Frutkin**, NASA Assistant Administrator for International Affairs, 1963-1978.

**Carolyn L. Huntoon**, NASA Center Director, Johnson Space Center, 1994-1995.

**Wes Huntress**, NASA Associate Administrator of the Office of Space Science, 1993-1998.

**Charles Kennel**, NASA Associate Administrator for Mission to Planet Earth, 1994-96; former Chair --NASA Advisory Committee.

**Joe Rothenberg**, NASA Associate Administrator, Office of Space Flight, 1998-2001, and Director of Goddard Space Flight Center, 1995-1998.

**Josie Soper**, longtime administrative support personnel at NASA Headquarters, 1962 – 2006.

**Courtney Stadd**, Former NASA Chief of Staff and White House Liaison, 2001-2003.

**J. R. Thompson**, NASA Deputy Administrator, 1989-1991, and Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center, 1986-1989.

**Richard Truly**, NASA Administrator, 1989-1992, and Associate Administrator, 1986-1989.

**William Taub**, NASA Senior Photographer, 1958-1975; NACA Photographer, 1941-1958.

**Jeff Bingham**, Office of Legislative Affairs: 1994, served as coordinator in NASA's Space Station Program Office, 2001-2002, Acting/Associate Administrator. Senior Advisor to the NASA Administrator for Policy and History, 2002-2005. Also, Special Assistant to NASA Chief of Staff and White House Liaison. Participant in Synthesis Group that formulated planning options for the Space Exploration Initiative in 1990.

Interviews were completed for the NASA at 50 Oral History Project, commissioned in 2007 by the NASA History Division, for a publication to be released sometime within the next year. Those interviewed included:

<i>Michael D. Griffin</i>	Administrator
<i>Shana L. Dale</i>	Deputy Administrator
<i>Rex Geveden</i>	Associate Administrator
<i>Christopher Scolese</i>	Associate Administrator; Chief Engineer
<i>Bill Gerstenmaier</i>	Associate Administrator, Space Operations
<i>Dr. Scott Horowitz</i>	Associate Administrator, Exploration Systems
<i>Scott Pace</i>	Associate Administrator, Program Analysis and Evaluation
<i>Michael O'Brien</i>	Assistant Administrator, External Relations
<i>Charles Scales</i>	Associate Deputy Administrator
<i>Bryan O'Connor</i>	Chief, Safety & Mission Assurance
<i>Robert Cobb</i>	Inspector General
<i>J. T. Jezierski</i>	Deputy Chief of Staff/White House Liaison
<i>Michael Coats</i>	Center Director, Johnson Space Center
<i>Charles Elachi</i>	Center Director, Jet Propulsion Laboratory
<i>Richard Gilbrech</i>	Center Director, Stennis Space Center
<i>David A. King</i>	Center Director, Marshall Space Flight Center
<i>William W. Parsons</i>	Center Director, Kennedy Space Center
<i>Kevin Petersen</i>	Center Director, Dryden Flight Research Center
<i>Lesia Roe</i>	Center Director, Langley Research Center
<i>Edward J. Weiler</i>	Center Director, Goddard Space Flight Center
<i>Woodrow Whitlow</i>	Center Director, Glenn Research Center
<i>Pete Worden</i>	Center Director, Ames Research Center

#### **NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS**

Additional interviews were collected for the NACA Oral History Project. Begun in 2005, this project gathers history from individuals associated with NASA's predecessor organization. In 2008 *Ruth Hoover Smull, Gloria R. Champine, Israel Taback, Edwin C. Kilgore, John V. Becker, and Richard E. Kuhn* were interviewed.

#### **SMITHSONIAN FOLK LIFE FESTIVAL**

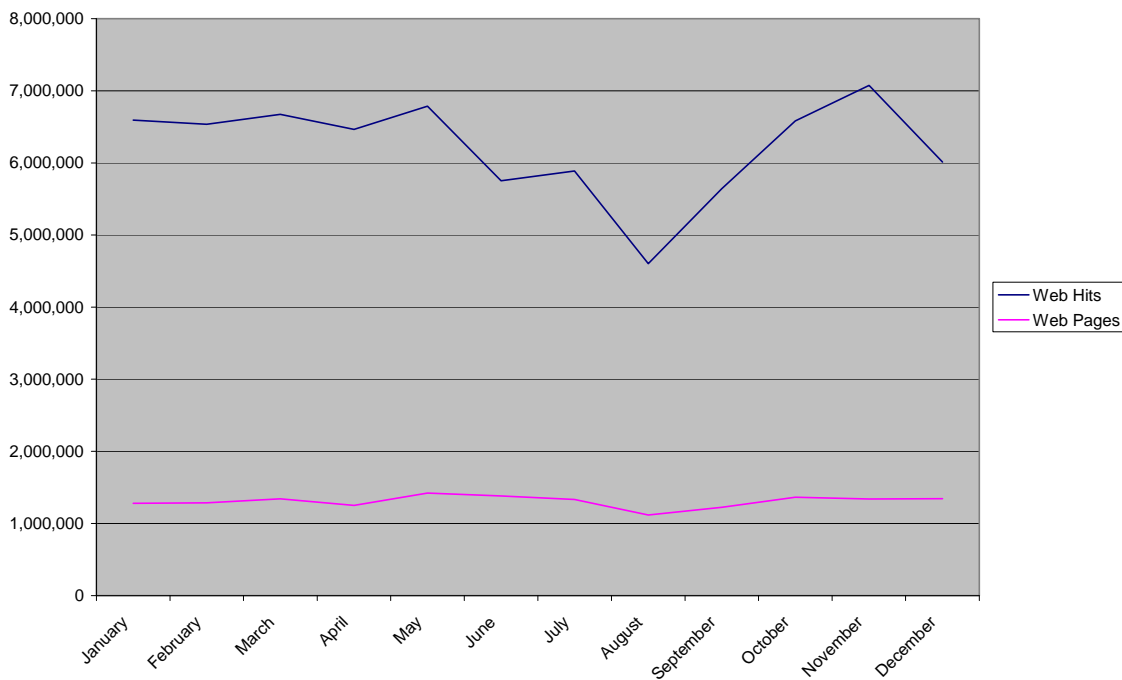
During the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival in 2008, three oral history interviews were conducted with NASA employees involved in the event held on the National Mall. These were *Claire Parkinson*, Goddard Space Flight Center; *Ron Wood*, Kennedy Space Center; and *Jim Sokolik*, Dryden Flight Research Center.

## V. NASA History Web Site

For the last several years the NASA History Division has been working to place as much information as possible on the internet. During 2008, the NASA History Division substantially increased its electronic resources, especially on the World Wide Web. Our main page has continued to be <http://history.nasa.gov>. The generic history office e-mail account for public information requests is [histinfo@hq.nasa.gov](mailto:histinfo@hq.nasa.gov). In addition to being one of the largest NASA web sites, the NASA History site continues to be one of the most popular NASA Headquarters sites, as seen from Table 3, which shows the number of hits to the History web site per month.

**TABLE 3**

**Web Hits and Pages**



**Throughout 2008 there were 74,602,318 hits and 15,688,352 page visits** on the NASA History web site. (“Hits” refers to the total number of requests made to the server; “pages” are those URLs that would be considered the actual page being requested (not all the individual items that make it up such as graphics and audio files.)

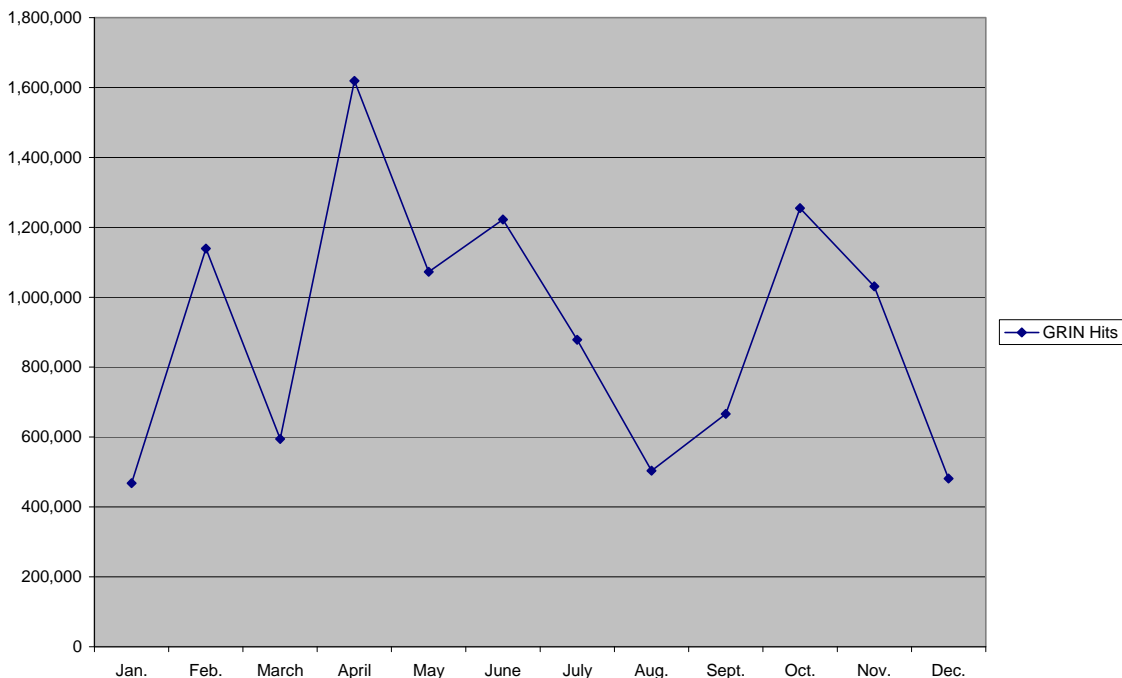
During the last year, we added several new web pages or sites. While some of these were put together and/or hosted at field centers or other NASA offices, outside volunteers take the credit for most of these new sites. These volunteers have scanned and formatted for the web a number of book-length publications that are typically out of print and thus not

easily found in hard copy elsewhere. NASA History interns and the NASA Headquarters printing and design office also made significant contributions to our web presence.

The NASA History Division continues to build its online resource for historical photos. GReat Images in NASA (GRIN) is online at <http://grin.hq.nasa.gov> and features over 1,000 historically significant black and white and color images in four resolutions ranging from thumbnail to a high resolution that is suitable for publishing. Public users may download any of these images without charge. While other somewhat similar photo databases are online, the specific format of this one is unique and attracts a steady flow of users. **GRIN received 10,929,667 hits this year. Table 4 illustrates the monthly GRIN hit breakdown for 2008.**

**TABLE 4**

**2008 GRIN Hits**



### **New Web Materials**

*The Astronautics and Aeronautics Chronologies*, a series of compendia of events in aeronautics, space science and space exploration spanning 1915-2000 are available online at <http://history.nasa.gov/series95.html#chron> online

*Women in Flight Research at NASA Dryden Flight Research Center from 1946 to 1995.* by Sheryll Goecke Powers is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/monograph6.pdf>

*Memoirs of an Aeronautical Engineer: Flight Tests at Ames Research Center: 1940-1970*, by Seth B. Anderson is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/monograph26.pdf>

Four series from the NASA Headquarters Historical Reference Collection have been digitized and made available in a new online database for use by researchers. The database, including PDFs of press kits, press releases, mission transcripts, and Administrators' speeches, is now available at <https://mira.hq.nasa.gov/history> online.

*NASA Historical Data Book, Vol. I and Vol. II*, detailing NASA Resources during 1958-1968 and compiled by Jane Van Nimmen, and Leonard C. Bruno, with Robert L. Rosholt, is available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4012v1.pdf> online. Volume II, covering the same time period and compiled by Linda Neuman Ezell, is available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4012v2.pdf> online.

*An Administrative History of NASA, 1958-1963* by Robert L. Rosholt, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4101.pdf> online.

*From Runway to Orbit: Reflections of a NASA Engineer*, by Kenneth W. Illiff and Curtis L. Peebles, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4109.pdf> online.

*Shared Voyage: Learning and Unlearning from Remarkable Projects*, by Alexander Laufer, Todd Post, and Edward Hoffman, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4111.pdf> online.

*Venture into Space: Early Years of Goddard Space Flight Center*, by Alfred Rosenthal, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4301.pdf> online.

*On the Frontier: Flight Research at Dryden, 1946-1981*, by Richard P. Hallion, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4303.pdf> online.

*Flights of Discovery: An Illustrated History of the Dryden Flight Research Center*, by Lane E. Wallace, is available in three parts at the following addresses:  
Part 1. <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4309pt1.pdf>  
Part 2. <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4309pt2.pdf>  
Part 3. <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4309pt3.pdf>

*Crafting Flight: Aircraft Pioneers and the Contributions of the Men and Women of NASA Langley Research Center*, by James Schultz, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4316.pdf> online.

*Challenge to Apollo: The Soviet Union and the Space Race, 1945-1974*, by Asif A. Siddiqi, is available in two parts at the following addresses:  
Part 1. <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4408pt1.pdf>

Part 2. <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4408pt2.pdf>

*A Spacefaring People: Perspectives on Early Spaceflight*, by Alex Roland, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4405.pdf> online.

*Facing the Heat Barrier: A History of Hypersonics*, by T.A. Heppenheimer, is available in three parts at the following addresses:

Part 1. <http://history.nasa.gov/sp4232-part1.pdf> online.

Part 2. <http://history.nasa.gov/sp4232-part2.pdf>

Part 3. <http://history.nasa.gov/sp4232-part3.pdf>

*To See the Unseen: A History of Planetary Radar Astronomy*, by Andrew J. Butrica, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4218/sp4218.htm> online.

*Wallops Station and the Creation of an American Space Program*, by Harold D. Wallace, Jr., is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4311/sp4311.htm> online.

*Way Station to Space: A History of the John C. Stennis Space Center*, by Mack R. Herring, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/SP-4310/sp4310.htm> online.

*The Difficult Road to Mars: A Brief History of Mars Exploration in the Soviet Union*, by V.G. Perminov, is now available at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/monograph15.pdf> online.

*"We Freeze to Please:" A History of NASA's Icing Research Tunnel and the Quest for Safety*, by William M. Leary, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/sp4226.pdf> online.

Apollo 204 Review Board Final Report, the collection of documents investigating the Apollo I accident, is now available at <http://history.nasa.gov/Apollo204/content.htm> online.

## **VI. Societal Impact of Spaceflight**

The History Division continued its studies of the societal impact of spaceflight, in accordance with section 102c of the National Aeronautics and Space Act to provide for "long-range studies of the potential benefits to be gained from, the opportunities for, and the problems involved in the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes" [42 U.S.C. 2451 (d)(4)]. *Societal Impact of Spaceflight*, published in 2007 in the NASA History series, provides a broad overview of the effect of space exploration on the social fabric. Two more volumes are in preparation on this subject, *Cosmos and Culture*, and *Historical Studies in the Societal Impact of Spaceflight*. The latter consists of in-depth studies on the societal impact of spaceflight, including NASA's role in microelectronic mechanical systems (MEMS), integrated circuits (ICs), management techniques, medical applications, space law, applications satellites, and the



environmental movement. Again, the approach is rigorous historical study. These studies will comprise volumes 2 and 3 of the new sub-series of NASA History publications on societal impact of spaceflight.

A thorough historical examination of the societal impact of spaceflight highlights tangible and intangible returns on our national investment in space and adds a beneficial, thought-provoking chapter to American history.

## **VII. Other Activities**

Members of the History Division staff were involved at many levels in professional activities germane to aerospace history during 2008.

Chief Historian Steven Dick was involved in a variety of activities for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASA. Among these activities were coordination of the Conference "NASA's First 50 Years: A Historical Perspective," held in Washington, DC October 28-29, sponsored by the NASA History Division; working with the JSC oral history team on a volume of oral histories to be entitled "NASA at 50: Interviews with NASA Senior Leadership;" and a number of related publishing projects. In order to fill one of the large gaps in NASA history, working with the Science Mission Directorate he moved forward (with Steve Garber) on a large project on the History of the Scientific Exploration of Earth and Space (HSEES). A dozen research projects are underway as part of this program. In the area of annual fellowships and grants, working with History Division staff, he monitored the NASA-Society for the History of Technology grant for the history of aerospace technology, the AHA grant in aerospace history, and the NASA-History of Science Society grant for the History of Space Science. The Chief Historian's presentations at professional meetings included the keynote address at the international conference "Imagining Outer Space, 1900-2000," held in Bielefeld, Germany February 6-9, 2008, and the closing keynote at the NASA 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference in October. Dr. Dick received the NASA Group Achievement Award for his role as a lead editor in the large format 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary volume "America in Space: NASA's First Fifty Years."

Nadine Andreassen provided administrative support for the "NASA's First 50 Years: A Historical Perspective" conference, held in Washington, DC October 28-29, sponsored by the NASA History Division; and the History Division Annual Meeting and Training at Langley Research Center (LaRC) in April. She had a display at the NACA Reunion held at (LaRC.) The retirees were very interested in our publications. She also worked on processing multiple contracts, grants, budget, and personnel. To help improve the History Division's marketing and outreach efforts, Nadine is working on a NASA HQ History Division Book Catalog. She also was on a 2-month detail to the OER Resource Management Office, along with continuing her duties in the History Division.

Steve Garber and his coauthor Glen Asner completed writing a draft manuscript of their study on policy development of the Decadal Planning Team and the Vision for Space Exploration. Steve completed an excellent week-long Leading Through Influence class at Wallops Flight Facility in November 2008. Steve is also pleased to report a renewed partnership with the Government Printing Office that has led to several NASA History Series titles being listed for sale on Amazon.com. He has continued to supervise the office's successful intern program and in 2008, oversaw the work of interns Nicole Herrmann, Amelia Lancaster, Nicole Bucchino, and Josh Sonstein. Steve also continued work on numerous book projects and with Colin Fries' great help, updates for the NASA history website.

Jane Odom attended the Society of American Archivists' Annual Meeting in August in San Francisco. She attended sessions on confronting the challenges of digital preservation, archival meaning and values, the legal and ethical perspectives of returning displaced archives, a presentation of case studies by individuals from several academic institutions on archiving digital manuscripts, and section meetings on government records and on reference, access, and outreach. Jane, along with archivists John Hargenrader and Liz Suckow attended in the Annual History Program Review at Langley Research Center in April 2008. Jane gave a PowerPoint presentation on management of the NASA HQ Historical Reference Collection.

John and Liz successfully completed the Modern Archives Institute offered by the National Archives. MAI is an intensive two-week training course in the principles and practices of archival management. Colin Fries attended the Society of American Archivists' Annual Meeting in San Francisco in August 2008. Earlier in the year he took an HTML Basics class at HQ which better prepared him to help Steve Garber with history web page work. And finally, Colin and John received a NASA Group Achievement Award as part of team that fact-checked the book, "America in Space: NASA's First Fifty Years."

## **VIII. NASA History Program Review, 2008**

Participants in NASA's History Program gathered at Langley Research Center from 29 April to 1 May to review activities of the past year and discuss mutual concerns. Historians from the Air Force's Air Combat Command and 1st Tactical Wing at Langley Air Force Base joined the conference, as well as folks from NASA's Historic Building team. Mark Shuart, Senior Advisor for Composite Materials, welcomed attendees and provided a brief overview of Langley Research Center, the nation's first civilian aeronautical laboratory. Steve Dick, NASA Chief Historian, then detailed the History Division budget and strategic plan. Included in the presentation were accomplishments associated with each of the History program's eight goals. It was noted that the NASA History Division's Web site (<http://history.nasa.gov>) had had a total of 77,574,617 hits in 2007 and that GRIN, the historic images Web site, had had 7,966,850 hits.

Jane Odom, Chief Archivist, reported that approximately 240 researchers had visited the NASA Headquarters Archives in the past year. These researchers included representatives from institutions like the Library of Congress, the Leichhardt Library in Australia, and the University of Cumbria in the United Kingdom. Thirty-five cubic feet of material was added to the archive, including an audio recording and transcript of an interview with Wernher von Braun. Over 100 cubic feet of material was processed by the History Division staff in order to make this material more accessible to staff and visitors. Digitization of all Current News articles has been completed, and work is beginning on the speeches of NASA's senior leaders.

Approximately 44 manuscripts are in process in the History Division's various publication series. Series such as *Exploring the Unknown* and the *Historical Data Book* have long-awaited volumes near the end of the publication process. A new publication classification system was presented at the conference. The new system will make it easier for readers and researchers to locate materials.

Joel Levine discussed the scientific and engineering legacy of the Viking missions to Mars. The Viking spacecraft were the first and second to land successfully on Mars. The Orbiters imaged 97 percent of the Red Planet and sent back over 50,000 images. Glenn Bugos presented a paper that examined NACA-style organizations with an eye toward recommending NACA business practices that may be helpful to current space industry entrepreneurs.

Lynn Heimerl presented an overview of the NASA Scientific and Technical Information program. The History Division has an agreement with the NASA Center for Aerospace Information to make history publications available to the public.

In addition to the presentations and discussion, the group took two tours. The Langley Research Center tour began at the historic and photograph archives. Stops included the historic 30-by-60-foot tunnel, built in the 1930s; the National Transonic Facility, NASA's newest large wind tunnel; the Landing and Impact Dynamics Facility, where Neil Armstrong practiced for his eventual landing on the Moon; and the Structures and Materials lab, where visitors viewed a concept for a lunar habitat. A tour of the Jamestowne archaeological dig featured a stop at the Archaearium, which displays items uncovered by Dr. William Kelso and his team. Dr. Kelso rediscovered the site of the Jamestowne fort, where approximately 100 Englishmen settled in 1607. On display in the Archaearium is a 400-year-old metal shipping tag stamped "Yamestowne," rediscovered in an abandoned well at Jamestowne. The tag was flown on STS-117 and returned to the site after its 14-day spaceflight.

Finally, for his contributions to NASA history, Jack Boyd was awarded the 2008 NASA Headquarters History Division Award. Among his many jobs, Jack has served as the NASA Ames Research Center Senior Advisor for History since 2003. The award citation commends him for "Energetic outreach and promotion of NASA history and for making history relevant to NASA's present and future." NASA Chief Historian Steven Dick presented the award at the annual NASA History Program Review at NASA Langley

Research Center. He commended Jack for his vigorous lecture and outreach schedule and his ability to describe NASA's present and its future in terms that showed that its past truly mattered. He noted how NASA benefits when those with institutional memory, like Jack's, participate so actively in conversations about shaping its vision.

In thanking the NASA history community for the award, Jack called it a pleasure to work for an agency that has taken its history seriously. He thanked them all for building a professional history and archive function within NASA that is consistently relevant, remains cutting-edge, and works to high academic standards. He paraphrased a favorite quote, saying that "historians never finish their work; for various reasons they simply abandon it." Jack also shared one instance of a brush with greatness when, as a young researcher, he presented his work at a 1950s NACA conference while Theodore von Karman sat in the front row. To him, this was a great example of how NASA and its predecessors have always enjoyed attention from great minds and of the power of personal contacts to share experience.

Jack has had a long and distinguished career of contributions to the Agency, beginning in 1947 and extending through today. Throughout NASA, he has been a very persistent and vocal advocate of the value of the past in planning for the future.

## **IX. Personnel**

### **Interns**

The NASA History Division was fortunate to have the assistance of four capable interns in 2008. Nicole Herrmann, a history and astronomy double major, worked in our office from Fall 2007 through Spring 2008 and then continued working at NASA HQ, in the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate. Amelia Lancaster, an economics major from the University of California at Davis, contributed a great deal during her Spring 2008 quarter. Nicole Bucchino, an anthropology major from the University of Central Florida, was a great help during Summer 2008. Josh Sonstein, a history major from American University, helped out in Fall 2008.

Appendix A  
History Division  
Office of External Relations  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2005-2009  
Original April 2005  
Revised March 2007

## **I. Foreword**

The NASA History Division, Office of External Relations, NASA Headquarters, records and preserves the history of the Agency through historical studies based on primary research. It maintains the NASA Historical Reference Collection, and provides responses to historical inquiries. It provides Headquarters leadership with information, analysis, and perspective essential for informed planning, policy development, and decision making. It supports and coordinates history programs at the NASA Centers. The History Division also studies the societal impact of NASA's work through rigorous historical methods.

T. Keith Glennan, the first Administrator of NASA, established the NASA history program in 1959, the year after NASA's founding.<sup>1</sup> This action was an early recognition of the need to record and analyze NASA's historic mission. The publication of historical research is one of the ways NASA responds to the provisions of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, that requires NASA to "provide for the widest practicable and appropriate dissemination of information concerning its activities and the results thereof" [42 U.S. C. 2473 (a)(3)], and to provide for "long-range studies of the potential benefits to be gained from, the opportunities for, and the problems involved in the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes" [42 U.S.C. 2451 (d)(4)].

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Space Age in 2007, and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASA in 2008, history should play an important role both in the celebration of the events of the past 50 years and in their scholarly analysis and societal impact.

## **II. Vision and Mission, and Core Values**

### **Vision**

Expert historical knowledge is essential for an understanding of NASA's accomplishments, and is vital for lessons learned and informed and effective decision making. The research, writing, and publications of the NASA History Division will serve

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<sup>1</sup> The history of the NASA History Office is given in Roger D. Launius, "NASA History and the Challenge of Keeping the Contemporary Past," *The Public Historian*, 21, no. 3 (1999), 63-81.

as vital resources for these purposes, as well as providing historical facts and perspective to the general public.

### **Mission**

To ensure, through research, writing, and the strategic goals herein, a sound and thorough understanding of the history of NASA in carrying out its mission, as well as the impact of NASA's work on society.

### **Core Values**

In addition to striving for the personal attributes expected of every NASA employee, History Division personnel aim for excellence in providing objective, constructive, accurate and in-depth historical research, writing, and analysis.

## **III. Strategic Goals**

- 1. Research, Writing and Publication.** Record, research, publish, and disseminate NASA history based on primary and secondary research. These historical materials should be prepared in accordance with the highest scholarly standards but also be accessible to the educated lay reader.
- 2. Archival Management.** Maintain and provide access to the Historical Reference Collection in order to fulfill the mandate of the National Aeronautics and Space Act calling for the widest possible dissemination of information on aeronautics and astronautics.
- 3. Leadership Support.** Provide NASA leaders historical information, analysis, and perspective vital to their planning, policy development, and decision making efforts, including lessons learned.
- 4. Development, Support and Coordination of Center History Programs.** Support, enhance and coordinate those history and archival programs already in existence at NASA Centers, and encourage the development of history and archival programs at those Centers that lack them.
- 5. Societal Impact Studies.** Undertake historical studies of the impact of NASA's programs, and aeronautics and space flight in general, on society, including its commercial, economic, philosophical, educational, cultural and local impacts.
- 6. Advancement of Knowledge and Professional Development.** Contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the professional development of students and scholars in the social sciences and humanities through conferences, fellowships, exchange programs, internships, and research, and by maintaining strong relations with professional societies, academic departments, and other federal history offices.

**7. Communication and Outreach.** Facilitate internal communications and public outreach related to NASA history.

**8. Queries and Reference:** Respond to reference requests for historical information in a timely and effective manner. Reference requests come from NASA staff, scholars, academics, government employees, and the general public. In compliance with the Agency's strategic plan to communicate knowledge to the public in a timely manner, responses to queries will meet or exceed a 15-day response turnaround 90% of the time.

## **IV. Objectives**

### **Strategic Goal 1: Research, Writing and Publication**

Record, research, publish, and disseminate NASA history based on primary and secondary research. These historical materials should be prepared in accordance with the highest scholarly standards but also be accessible to the educated lay reader.

#### Objective 1.1

Support the NASA mission by maintaining and expanding the NASA History Series of publications including books, monographs, and electronic media.

#### Objective 1.2

Maintain and expand the NASA History Web sites.

#### Objective 1.3

Base historical studies produced by the NASA history office on primary documents, including oral histories, to the greatest extent possible. Support a robust oral history program consistent with available funding.

#### Objective 1.4

Oversee the production of these historical studies, from research to writing, peer review, editing, typesetting, publishing, and distribution. Streamline and improve the production processes.

#### Objective 1.5

Strive for accuracy, objectivity, candor, and the highest standards of writing, editing, and historical methods.

#### Objective 1.6

Seek out topics for historical research that have not been heavily covered already and that can inform and enlighten our internal and external audiences.

#### Objective 1.7

Seek out innovative methods for distribution of publications to the widest possible audience (see also Strategic Goal 7).

## **Strategic Goal 2: Archival Management**

Maintain and provide access to the Historical Reference Collection in order to fulfill the mandate of National Aeronautics and Space Act calling for the widest possible dissemination of information on aeronautics and astronautics.

### **Objective 2.1**

The Chief Archivist, in consultation with the Chief Historian, will determine archival policies on the management of the Historical Reference Collection. Upon request, the Archivist and/or Historian will participate in the review of draft records schedules.

### **Objective 2.2**

Acquire historically significant materials to support the Agency and, more broadly, the national and international communities with interests in space history. Collect documents, oral histories, books, and other materials, in accordance with NASA records management policy. Work cooperatively with the Headquarters Records Manager to preserve historically valuable materials. Refer potential non-NASA donors to suitable external repositories.

### **Objective 2.3**

Appraise collections for historical value, eliminating material with little or no value to researchers.

### **Objective 2.4**

Arrange, describe, and catalog all materials held in the Historical Reference Collection, providing preliminary descriptions of all newly acquired and unprocessed materials. Add descriptive information to the History Division Online Catalog (database).

### **Objective 2.5**

Provide timely and effective reference service to NASA staff and visitors and in response to mail, email, and telephone requests. Provide copies of historically significant documents and oral histories to researchers. Facilitate access to complementary collections at other institutions.

### **Objective 2.6**

Digitize selected historical collections in an effort to increase their accessibility.

### **Objective 2.7**

Intensify preservation efforts for materials with high research and historical value.

### **Objective 2.8**

Provide read only database access to historians and archivists at the Centers.



### **Strategic Goal 3: Leadership Support**

Provide NASA leaders with historical information, analysis, and perspective vital to their planning, policy development, and decision making efforts, including lessons learned.

#### **Objective 3.1**

Research and write/sponsor special studies and events for NASA managers to learn from the past, both from NASA's successes and failures as well as from other relevant outside experiences.

#### **Objective 3.2**

Select and prioritize research and writing subjects, in consultation with senior leadership, to ensure that the historical research and writing efforts meet the needs of current and future NASA policy makers.

#### **Objective 3.3**

Maintain and expand the NASA oral history program. Much history is in the minds of participants and not simply in the available documents. Oral histories are an important part of any history program and should be used to supplement or fill in gaps in the written record.

#### **Objective 3.4**

In all History Division products and consultations, provide accurate information and analyses for NASA managers (both political and civil service leaders) for decision making and policy formulation.

### **Strategic Goal 4. Development, Support and Coordination of Center History Programs.**

Support, enhance and coordinate those history and archival programs already in existence at NASA Centers, and encourage the development of history and archival programs at those Centers that lack them.

Objective 4.1. Write and implement a NASA Policy Directive (NPD) on the NASA History Program that encourages a permanent position for at least one historian and one archivist at every NASA Center, and provides guidance about their duties and functions.

Objective 4.2. Ensure the coordination and free flow of information between NASA HQ and history programs at NASA Centers via quarterly telecons, the Annual History Review Meeting (held at a different Center each year), and access to the History Division Online Database (see objective 2.8).

Objective 4.3. Promote archival management at the Center level with the same objectives as Strategic Goal 2 at the Headquarters level.

Objective 4.4. Encourage Center history programs to promote awareness of Center history and impact at the local level.

Objective 4.5. Encourage Center history programs to provide to Center managers leadership support and lessons learned, with the same objectives as Strategic goal 3.

Objective 4.6. Promote study and understanding of Center cultures and their relationship to Headquarters.

### **Strategic Goal 5. Societal Impact Studies.**

Undertake historical studies of the impact of NASA's programs, and aeronautics and space flight in general, on society, including its commercial, economic, philosophical, educational, cultural and local impacts.

Objective 5.1. Sponsor conferences on the societal impact of space flight.

Objective 5.2. Sponsor focused published studies of NASA's impact in specific subject areas using rigorous historical methods.

Objective 5.3. Encourage studies of the impact of aeronautics and space flight on international cooperation.

### **Strategic Goal 6. Advancement of Knowledge and Professional Development**

Contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the professional development of students and scholars in the social sciences and humanities through conferences, fellowships, exchange programs, internships, and research, and by maintaining strong relations with professional societies, academic departments, and other federal history offices.

Objective 6.1

Sponsor and attend conferences, symposia, seminars, and special events to disseminate knowledge and to encourage scholarship in all aspects of aerospace history.

Objective 6.2

NASA Historians should assume leadership roles in one or more subject areas of space history through research, publications, lectures, and participation on the committees and boards of institutions and professional societies that support aerospace history.

Objective 6.3

Host Presidential Management Fellows to support the professional development of future NASA leaders. Encourage greater awareness of NASA history among NASA employees and assure that NASA historians remain aware of contemporary agency issues and concerns through the short-term exchange of personnel.

Objective 6.4

Encourage leading scholars in the social sciences and professionals outside of NASA to conduct research in NASA historical archives.

Objective 6.5

Maintain an active internship program to facilitate explorations of NASA and aerospace history among graduate and undergraduate students at a broad range of academic institutions in the United States.

Objective 6.6

Sponsor graduate fellowships to broaden the pool of historians and social scientists engaged in the study of aerospace history.

Objective 6.7

Pursue positive relations with professional societies, academic departments, and government history offices to maintain channels for the promotion of NASA and aerospace history and to assure that the History Division remains at the cutting-edge of the historical profession in terms of methods, technology, and knowledge.

**Strategic Goal 7. Internal Communications and Public Outreach**

Facilitate internal communications and public outreach related to NASA history.

Objective 7.1

Devise new and innovative ways to distribute NASA history publications, both within NASA and to scholars and the general public.

Objective 7.2

Expand and enhance the History Division web site as a means of disseminating historical information and reference material.

Objective 7.3

Maintain and enhance the quarterly Newsletter as a means of disseminating information about historical activities at Headquarters and the Centers. Seek innovative methods of dissemination to widest practicable audience, including NASA, interested members of the public, historians and archivists, colleges and universities, and NASA retirees.

Objective 7.4

Encourage improved international relations and understanding through translation of historically significant works related to space exploration.

Objective 7.5

Undertake public and scholarly lectures about NASA history among a wide variety of audiences.

Objective 7.6

Sponsor conferences that bring NASA history to the general public, in particular for the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Space Age and NASA.

Objective 7.7

Make NASA employees aware of NASA's rich history, beginning with new employee orientation.

**Strategic Goal 8. Queries and Reference**

Respond to reference requests for historical information in a timely and effective manner.

Reference requests come from NASA staff, scholars, academics, government employees, and the general public. In compliance with the Agency's strategic plan to communicate knowledge to the public in a timely manner, responses to queries will meet or exceed a 15-day response turnaround 90% of the time.

Objective 8.1

Uphold our legal obligation to assist the FOIA Officer in responding to Freedom of Information Act requests.

Objective 8.2

Work cooperatively with the Headquarters Records Manager to locate historically valuable information for NASA staff and other researchers.

Objective 8.3

Respond to people around the world who contact us via a generic email account on our history web site. Provide them with a form letter response containing useful information as well as links to web sites on their topic.

Objective 8.4

Refer researchers to our history web site which contains thousands of pages of information on just as many topics. Maintain and continue to build upon the History Division's web site.

Objective 8.5

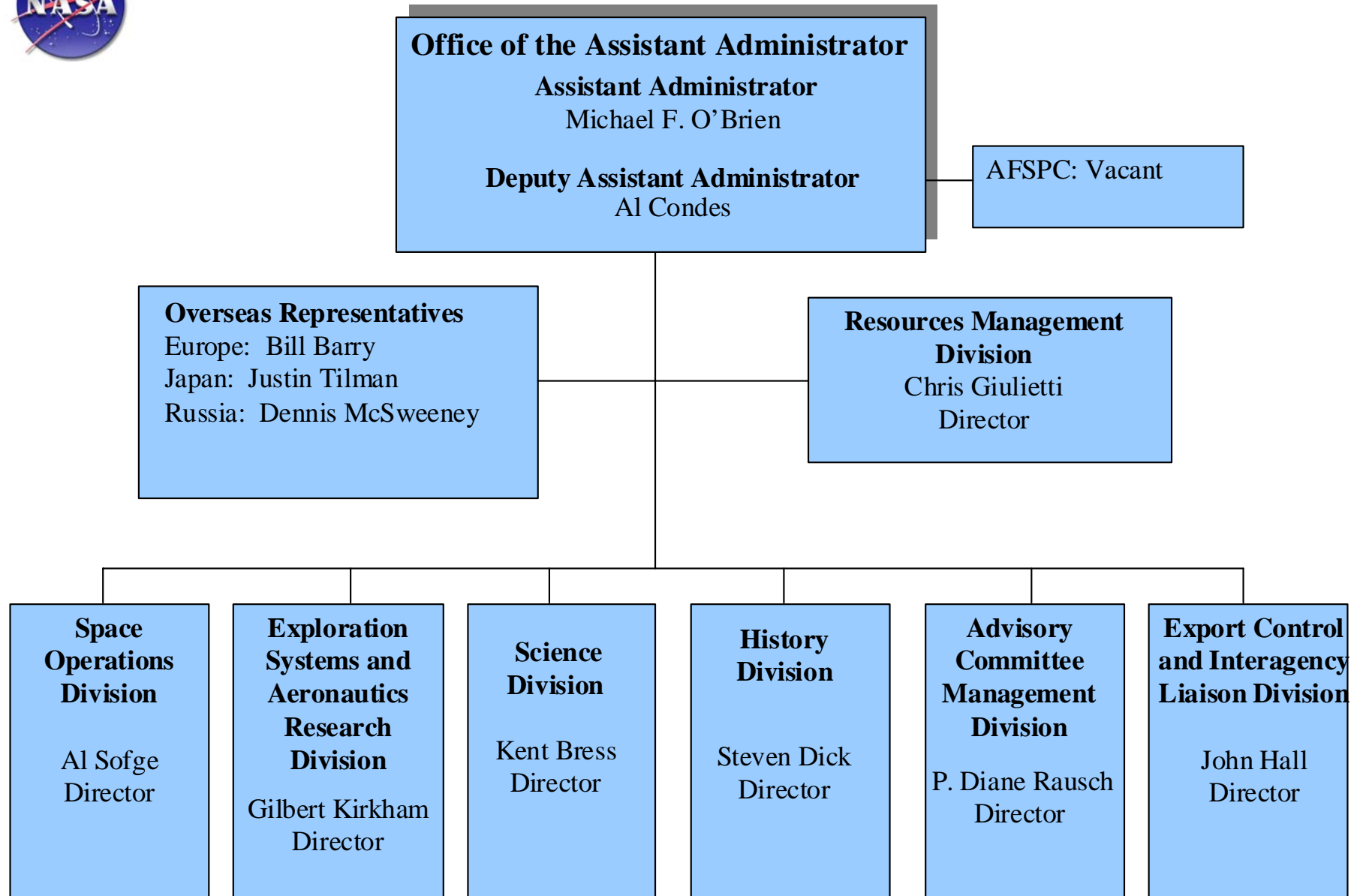
When appropriate, refer researchers to NASA Center history offices, external academic institutions, and the National Archives.

Objective 8.6

When necessary, provide reference assistance to Center history offices.



# Office of External Relations





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*April 2009*

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