Extent

2,778 assets

Summary

This collection consists of records related to the digital divide and National Information Infrastructure. In 1993 the Clinton Administration announced the National Information Infrastructure initiative to combine communications networks, computers, databases, and consumer electronics to deliver information services to all U.S. citizens. This was commonly referred to as the “information superhighway.” The “digital divide” refers to a technological gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. The increasing prevalence and availability of the internet and home computers during the 1990s and early 2000s led to the Clinton Administration focusing on narrowing the growing digital divide between those with access to the internet and computers and those who did not, and those who had difficulty using computers. Materials responsive to this FOIA request include emails regarding Clinton Administration efforts to reduce the digital divide.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2019-0203-F (Segment 3) are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related material. 2019-0203-F (Segment 1) was processed before the Clinton Presidential Library began processing email records in a new electronic records system. 2019-0203-F (Segment 1) consists of paper copies of ARMS email containing the terms “digital divide,” “National Information Infrastructure,” or “NIIAC” in the subject line. ARMS email in Segment 1 dates from January 1993 through March 2000. 2019-0203-F (Segment 2) contains textual records and National Security Council records pertaining to the digital divide or National Information Infrastructure. 2019-0203-F (Segment 3) consists of responsive ARMS email from April 2000-January 2001 and responsive TRP email from 1993-2001. All email processed in

Segment 3 is available for research in an electronic format. In 1993 the Clinton Administration announced the National Information Infrastructure initiative to combine communications networks, computers, databases, and consumer electronics to deliver information services to all U.S. citizens. This was commonly referred to as the “information superhighway.” The “digital divide” refers to a technological gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. The increasing prevalence and availability of the internet and home computers during the 1990s and early 2000s led to the Clinton Administration focusing on narrowing the growing digital divide between those with access to the internet and computers and those who did not, and those who had difficulty using computers. Responsive materials in Segment 3 of this FOIA request include emails regarding NIIAC (National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council) meeting summaries, expansion of internet access in homes, closing the digital divide in rural communities, expanding access to broadband internet, President Clinton’s April 2000 Digital Divide New Markets Tour trips to North Carolina, California, and New Mexico, technology in schools, National Call to Action challenging corporations and nonprofits to help bridge the digital divide, AmeriCorps/Corporation for National and Community Service, computer and internet accessibility/usability for Americans with disabilities, and President Clinton’s Flint, Michigan digital divide disabilities trip in September 2000. The bulk of the emails concern the activities of Thomas “Tom” Kalil (National Economic Council, Special Assistant to the President for Technology and Economic Policy) and Jonathan Young (Office of Public Liaison, Associate Director for Disability Outreach) in coordinating Clinton Administration efforts to reduce the digital divide.

Record Type

Electronic Records

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas— Clinton Presidential Records: (SAS) Automated Records Management System [Email] and Clinton Presidential Records: (SAS) Tape Restoration Project [Email]. The Executive Office of the President (EOP) subsystem of the Electronic Records Archive

(ERA) contains electronic records created or received by Clinton Administration officials. These records are stored in Search and Access Sets (SAS) that represent their originating computer program. Search strings are used to locate electronic records responsive to FOIA requests, and responsive assets are placed into Search Results Lists (SRLs). Depending on the complexity of the search, there may be multiple SRLs within each SAS. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The Tape Restoration Project (TRP) is a database consisting of restored emails from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) from July 1994 through June 2000. The TRP is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. Chapter 22, as amended) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 U.S.C. Chapter 1) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Subject Headings

Electronic mail messages
Digital divide--Government policy
Information superhighway

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2024. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released.

Last Modified Date

2024-11-20

Container List

The following is a list of Search and Access Sets processed in response to FOIA 2019-0203-F (Segment 3):
Clinton Presidential Records: EOP Search and Access Sets (SAS)
(SAS) Automated Records Management System [Email] contains 2,729 assets.
(SAS) Tape Restoration Project [Email] contains 49 assets.