

CASE STUDY

Preserving a Presidential Historical Archive

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, enlisted Iron Mountain's help in its effort to build and operate a digital archive—the largest of its kind among presidential libraries. This major undertaking is perfectly aligned with Iron Mountain's mission to protect information and help organizations to better access and utilize documents.

The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation's goals were to provide worldwide accessibility to the collections of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library via the Internet, to minimize wear and tear on these treasured and irreplaceable physical assets, and to enhance the capability to search the collection using metadata.

PRESERVE THE PAST, PROTECT THE FUTURE

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library decided, a few years ago, to take on this ground breaking initiative to make the records, documents, photos and videos from the Kennedy era, available to a world wide audience beyond their physical location. This library, like other libraries, struggled with how to make these documents available beyond the physical level. Iron Mountain's digital project was highly innovative.

JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

CHALLENGE:

Assess, collect and digitize all records, documents, videos and photos, from The JFK Presidential Library.

SOLUTION:

Iron Mountain digitized, audio, video and physical assets

RESULTS:

- Preserved JFK's archival legacy
- Provide a state-of-the-art, internet experience
- Enhanced the capability to search the collection

"President Kennedy himself said 'no technology challenge is to hard to solve, and through scientific means of reproduction, it is possible to make documents available generally,' and so this was an archival and technological

challenge to us. How do we take these vast resources here in this library and make them available to people on the internet?" said JFK archivist.

Iron Mountain helped create an ideal situation where scholars who deal with these subjects in detail, could find a central place to get the multiple documents they needed. It also provided the perfect home.

A GREAT HISTORY

"Being able to make available the great history of the John F. Kennedy library and legacy as well as its effect on society, that's tremendous!" JFK archivist acknowledged. "We now have assets that can be leveraged throughout history. Millions can access this wonderful archive without having to travel to Boston to experience this amazing legacy."

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library's holdings include the papers of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Joseph P. Kennedy, and Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, as well as more than 400 other collections of personal papers and institutional records: those of other Kennedy family members; Kennedy administration officials, staff, and associates; and relevant individuals, authors, and institutions.

In addition, the Kennedy Library houses a large audiovisual collection, the Ernest Hemingway Collection, the John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Oral History collections, a print materials collection, and the Museum collection.

PROTECT, PRESERVE AND PROMOTE CONTENT

The JFK Presidential Library enlisted the help of Iron Mountain Entertainment Services to restore and digitize copies of video tapes and audio recordings as well as to provide a safe home for a backup copy of the digital archive files. Iron Mountain will preserve master copies of the digital archive files in one of its underground facilities in the event a disaster damages or destroys the originals. These copies will serve to protect and preserve the Kennedy legacy.

"This is a groundbreaking initiative. We now have assets that can be leveraged throughout history. Millions can access this wonderful archive without having to travel to Boston to experience this great history."

— JFK LIBRARY ARCHIVIST

