The Creation of Wealth in Archives: Lessons from NARA's ERA Program

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NAGARA
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Assumptions

1. Archives and records management are under resourced.

2. We have the primary responsibility for the level of resources available to us.
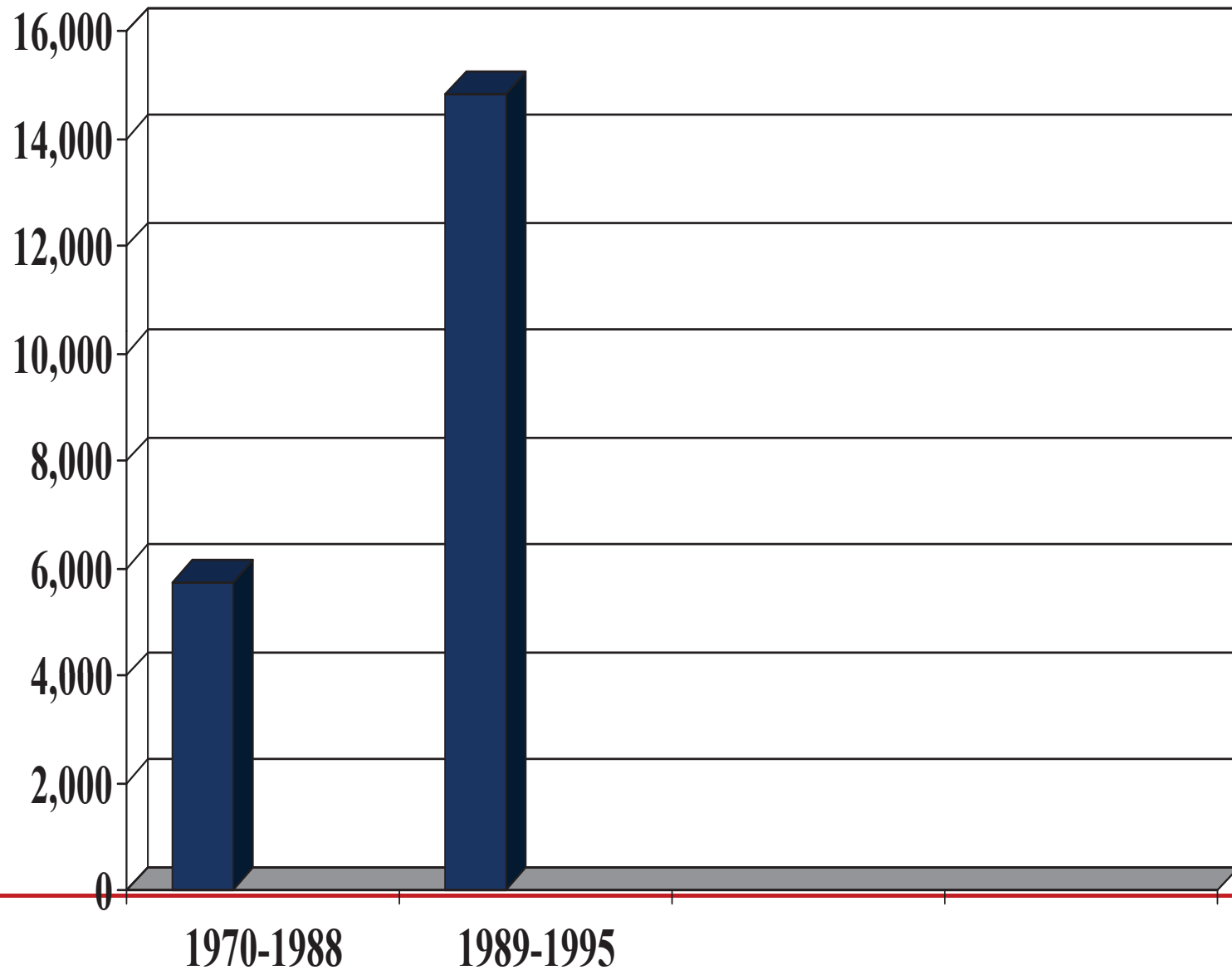
Overview of Electronic Records in the National Archives

- 1965 Working group
- 1970 First accession of electronic records
- 1974 Machine-Readable Archives Division
- 1981+ Retrenchment
- 1988 Center for Electronic Records
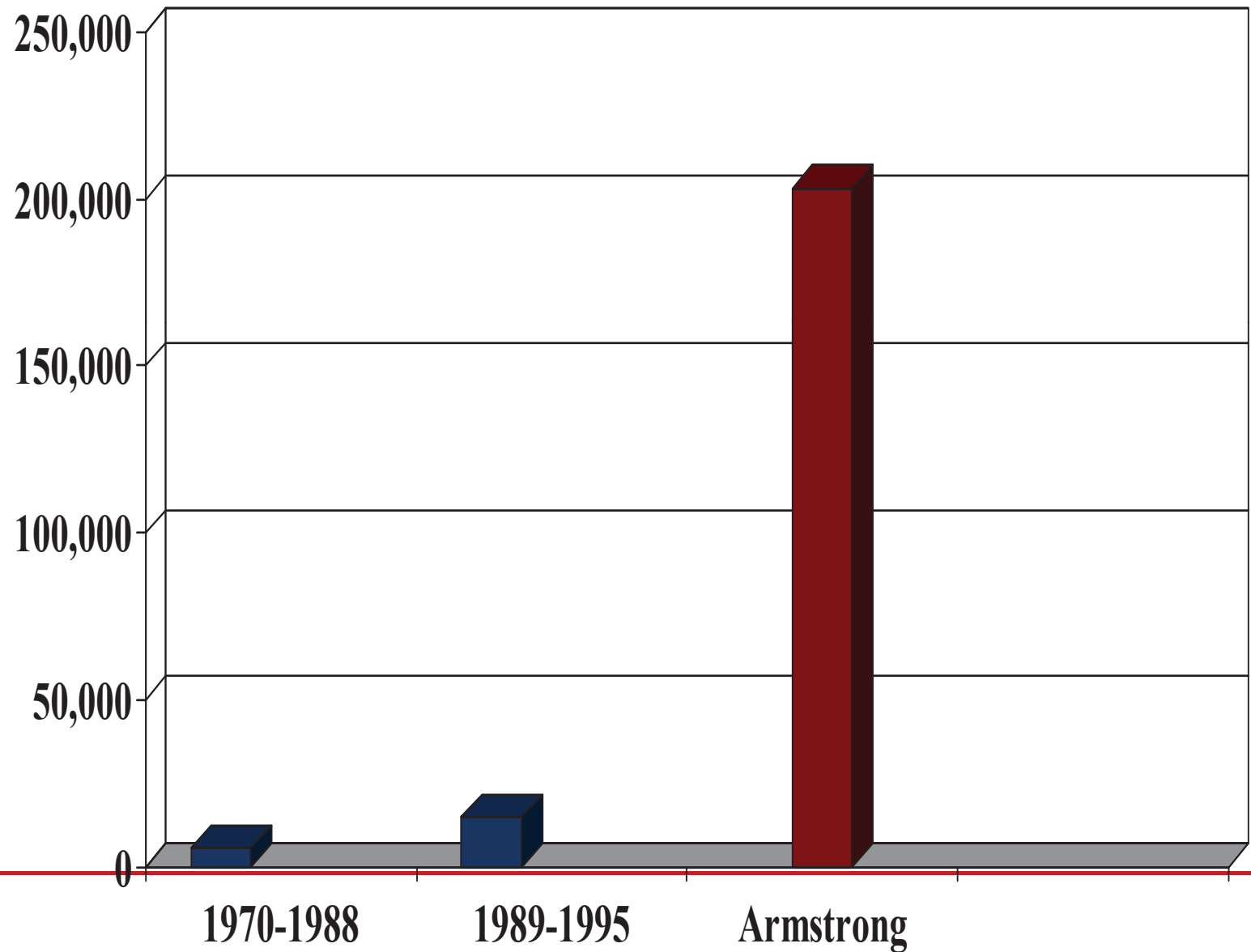- 1992 Armstrong v. EOP decision
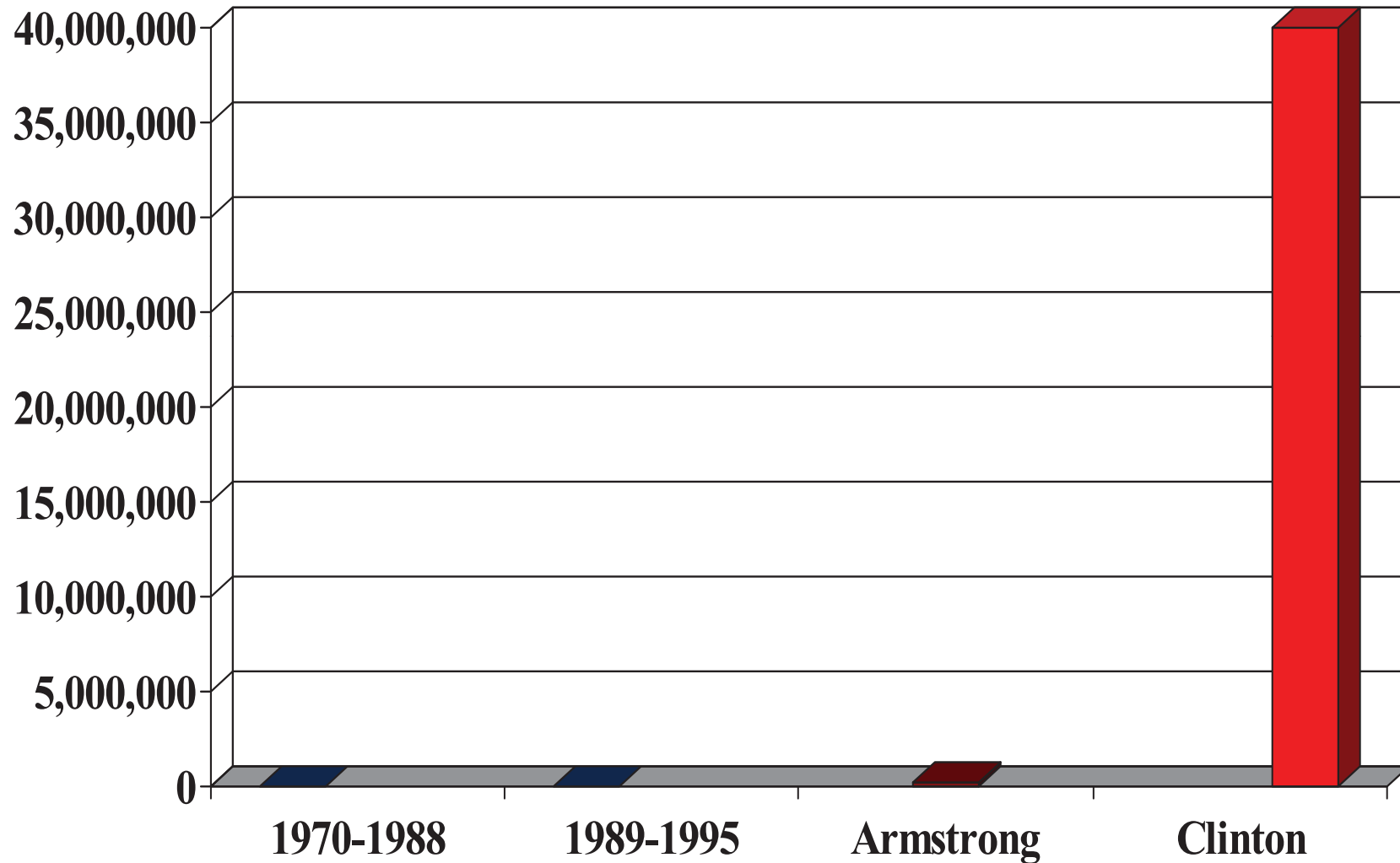
Lessons

1. Define an Objective

Transfers of Digital Files to the National Archives

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| | 40,000,000 |
| 35,000,000 |
| 30,000,000 |
| 25,000,000 |
| 20,000,000 |
| 15,000,000 |
| 10,000,000 |
| 5,000,000 |
| 0 |

| 1970-1988 | 1989-1995 | Armstrong | Clinton |

Overview of Electronic Records in the National Archives

- 1965 Working group
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- 1998 Electronic Records Archives Program

Lessons

1. Define an Objective

Overcome the technological barriers to NARA's being able to preserve and provide sustained access to the growing volumes and types of permanently valuable electronic records of the U.S. Government

Lessons

1. Define an Objective
   a. Articulate a vision of what achieving that objective would mean

   > ERA will authentically preserve and provide access to any kind of electronic record, free from dependence on any specific hardware or software, enabling NARA to carry out its mission into the future.

Vivid Description of Vision

1. We will be a leader in innovation in electronic records archiving.
2. In coordination with our Federal partners we will develop policy and technical guidance to enable responsible electronic records creation and management.
3. With help from our research partners, we will develop and maintain the technical capability to capture, preserve, describe, access and appropriately dispose of any government electronic record.
4. We will manage a coherent, nationwide, and sustainable system for permanent archival electronic records of the Federal Government.
5. We will develop the capability to manage Federal agency electronic records within the NARA records center system.
6. We will ensure that anyone, at anytime, from any place, has access to the best tools to find and use the records we preserve.
7. Our staff will be capable and consistent users of the electronic tools at every point of the life cycle.
8. We will sustain widespread support from all our stakeholders and customers by listening to their needs, meeting their requirements, and seeking their feedback.

Lessons

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   a. Articulate a vision of what achieving that objective would mean
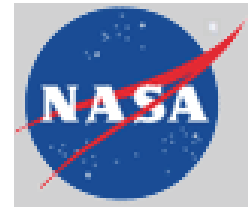2. Develop a workable plan for achieving the vision, and refine it continuously

Communicate, communicate, communicate

Development of the ERA Plan

1. Determine if it is possible to develop an archival system that won't become obsolete
   - Research
2. Achieve Objective
   - Research
   - System acquisition
   - Organizational change

Lessons

1. Define an Objective
   a. Articulate a vision of what achieving that objective would mean
2. Develop a workable plan for achieving the vision, and refine it continuously
3. Make friends

Communicate, communicate, communicate

Lessons

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3. Make friends
   a. Make allies

Communicate, communicate, communicate

Research Partners

ERA Electronic Records Archives

NASA

IEEE

INTERNET2

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND 1856

MIT

SDSC — San Diego Supercomputer Center

National Science Foundation

OMG — OBJECT MANAGEMENT GROUP

NIST

NCSA

National Computational Science Alliance

GGF — Global Grid Forum

PDES, Inc.

The Library of Congress

ARL — Army Research Laboratory

NNSA — National Nuclear Security Administration

Georgia Tech Research Institute

InterPARES Project — International Research on Permanent Authentic Records in Electronic Systems

DIGITAL LIBRARY FEDERATION

National Agricultural Library

CDL — CALIFORNIA DIGITAL LIBRARY

NPACI

National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure

Blue Books:
White House Plans for IT Research

"Strategies for ensuring the long term preservation of electronic records constitute another pressing issue for research... ".

White House Plans for IT Research
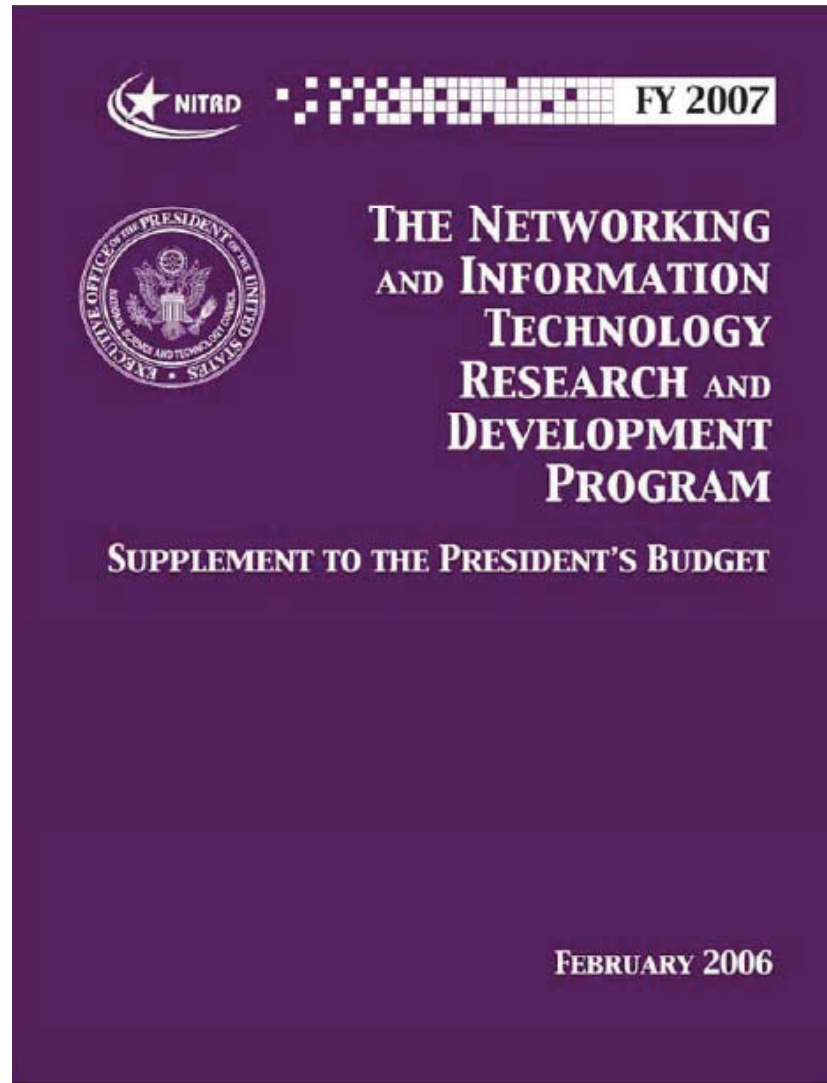
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www.archives.gov/electronic_records_archives/ index.html

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   a. Make allies
4. Communicate, communicate, communicate
   a. Listen

Lessons

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   a. Articulate a vision of what achieving that objective would mean
2. Develop a workable plan for achieving the vision, and refine it continuously
3. Make friends
   a. Make allies
4. Communicate, communicate, communicate
   a. Listen
5. Commit and make it obvious