

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

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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.
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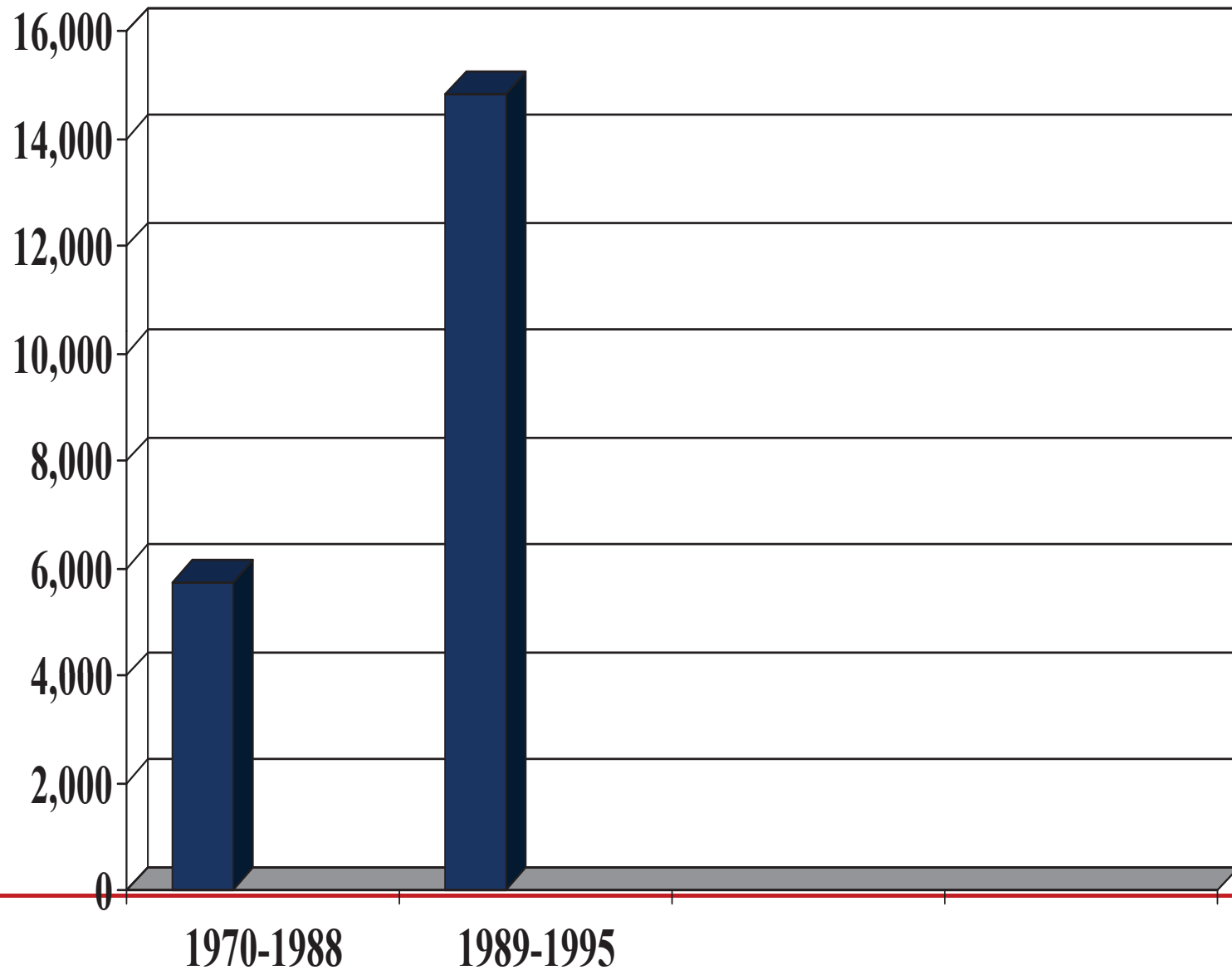
Overview of Electronic Records in the National Archives

- 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
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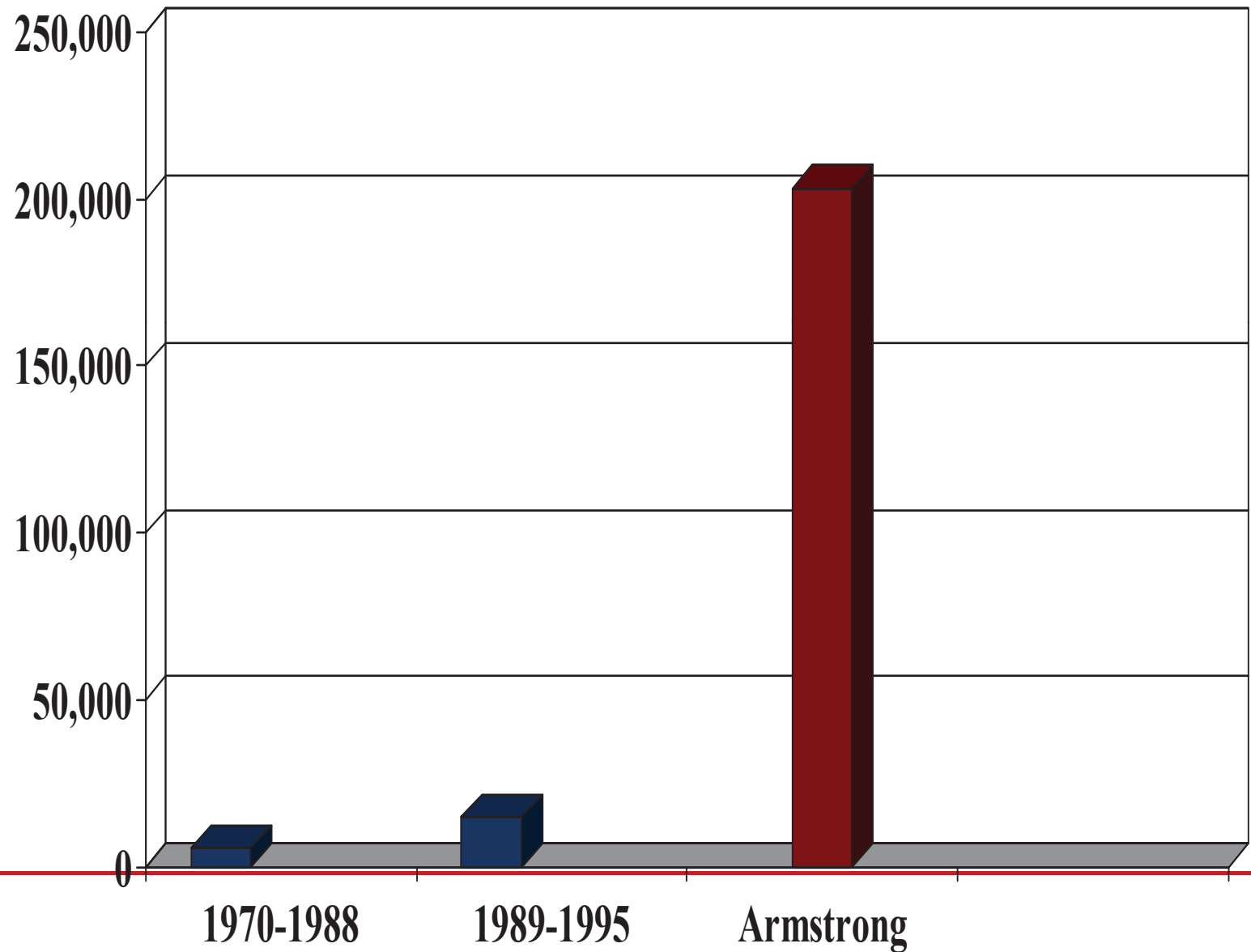
Lessons

1. Define an Objective

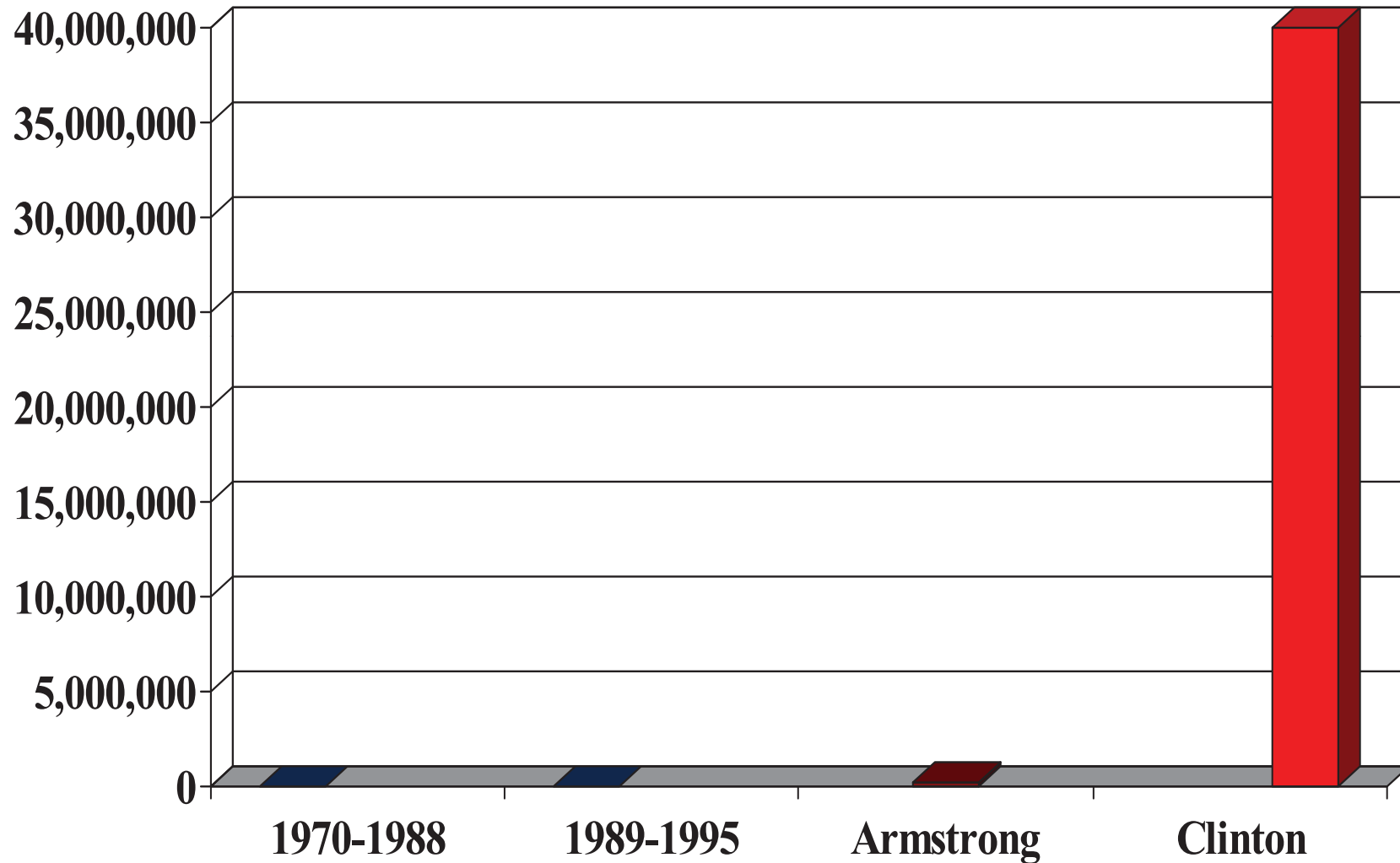
Transfers of Digital Files to the National Archives



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 - 1998 Electronic Records Archives Program
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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.
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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

-
-
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
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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

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3. Make friends

Communicate, communicate, communicate

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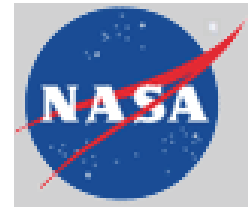
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- a. Make allies

Communicate, communicate, communicate



Research Partners



National
Science
Foundation



San Diego
Supercomputer
Center



National Computational
Science Alliance



Global
Grid
Forum



The Library of Congress



Army Research
Laboratory



National Agricultural Library



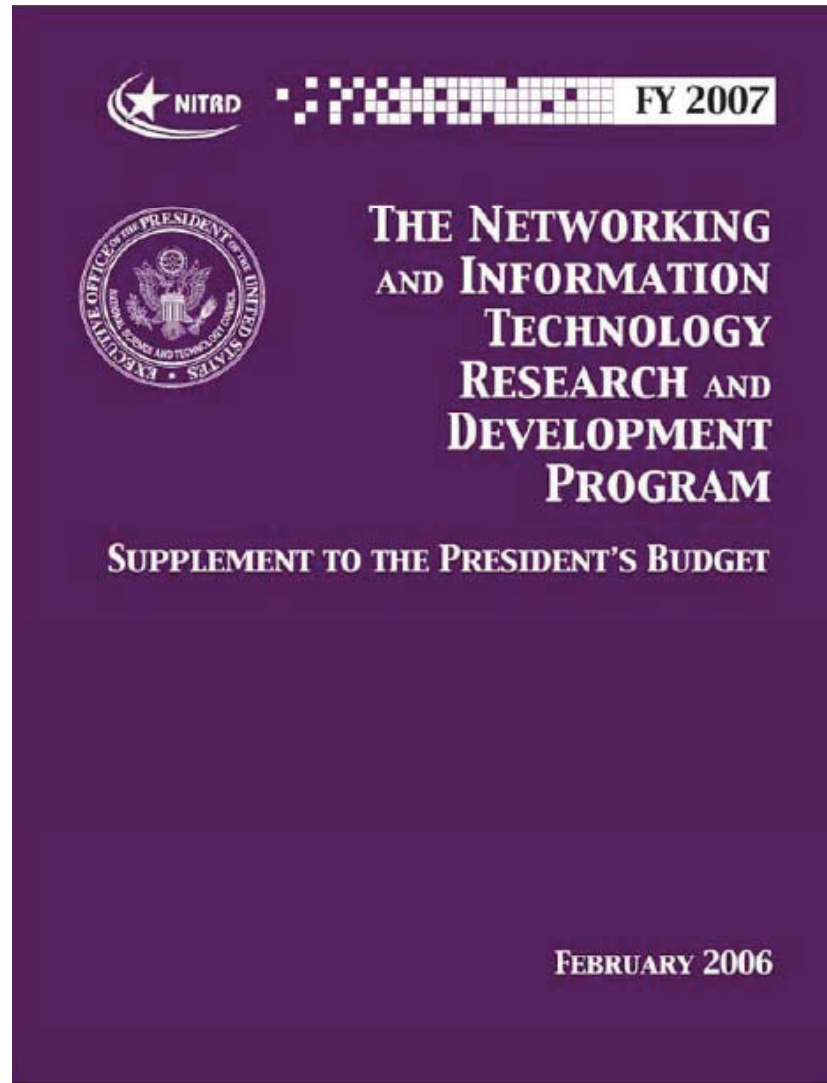
National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure



Blue Books: White House Plans for IT Research



White House Plans for IT Research



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www.archives.gov/electronic_records_archives/index.html

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the NARA Electronic Records Archives website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: http://www.archives.gov/electronic_records_archives/index.html. The website header features the NARA logo, the text "...ready access to essential evidence...", and the date "May 31, 2005". A search bar is located in the top right corner with the text "Where Is...? / How Do I...?". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is a dark blue sidebar with white text listing various sections: WELCOME, ABOUT US, RESEARCH ROOM, RECORDS MANAGEMENT, RECORDS CENTER PROGRAM, FEDERAL REGISTER, NHPRC & OTHER GRANTS, EXHIBIT HALL, DIGITAL CLASSROOM, RECORDS OF CONGRESS, PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES, SEARCH, and SITE INDEX. The middle column is titled "Sections" and lists: > [ERA Main Page](#), [Welcome Message](#), [About ERA](#), [Program Management Information](#), [ERA Research](#), [ERA Acquisition Information](#), and [What's New](#). Below this is a "Resources" section with links to [NARA Papers and Presentations](#), [Electronic Records and NARA](#), and [Electronic and Special Media Records Services](#). The right column is titled "ERA News and Events" and contains two bullet points: "The [Records Management Service Components Requirements Development Project Final Report](#) is available online." and "The [Records Management Service Component \(RMSC\) Program's materials and schedule](#) are now available online." Below this is a "NARA News and Events" section with three bullet points: "The National Archives and Records Administration became an independent agency in 1985. [See the webcast of our panel discussions](#) celebrating this event!", "Customhouse records for four ports in Louisiana and Texas are closed while being moved to NARA's Southwest Region. [More...](#)", and "['Americans in Paris'](#): During the month of May, the National Archives in Washington, DC, offers special programs and a new exhibit." At the bottom of the right column is a "What's New with ERA" section with a link to [New ERA Website content](#). The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and "Internet".



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 5. Commit and make it obvious
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