

NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í ARCHIVES

□ Wilmette, Illinois 60091

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS INQUIRING ABOUT THE NATIONAL BAHÁ'Í ARCHIVES

The National Bahá'í Archives is the archives of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States. The Archives' holdings document the history of the American Bahá'í community and include records of the National Spiritual Assembly and its committees and agencies, personal papers, photographs, tape recordings and a reference library.

The National Bahá'í Archives is located in the lower level of the Bahá'í House of Worship, 100 Linden Avenue (corner of Linden Avenue and Sheridan Road), Wilmette, Illinois. It is open by appointment to qualified researchers Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an hour closure for lunch. The Archives is closed on holidays and Bahá'í Holy Days.

Permission to examine manuscripts, photographs and printed matter held in the Archives will normally be granted to qualified researchers for specific purposes upon application to the Archivist and upon agreement to abide by the Archives reading room rules. Such permission is granted subject to whatever restrictions have been placed on specific holdings by their writers, donors or depositors or by the Archivist.

The records in the National Bahá'í Archives of the National Spiritual Assembly, its committees and agencies less than 50 years old, Local Spiritual Assemblies and members of the Continental Board of Counsellors and Auxiliary Boards, which have not already been made public, are restricted and require the permission of the National Spiritual Assembly secretary for access. Researchers desiring to see any of these records should contact the Archives staff about acquiring permission.

Before visiting the National Bahá'í Archives, the researcher should first write or call to make an appointment. The researcher should provide the Archives with the specific dates he would like to visit as the Archives may have unscheduled closings.

Only pencils are allowed to be used in the Archives - no pens. Hence researchers should bring a supply of pencils with them.

As the Archives staff is small we cannot do extensive research for researchers but instead recommend that they visit the Archives. We can do a limited amount of photocopying by mail if researchers have very specific requests for documents.

