

Case study

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library

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 AND MUSEUM

"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 a 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.

"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!" a 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."

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JFK Library Archivist

Industry

- Museum

Challenge

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

Solution

Iron Mountain Media & Archive Services digitized audio, video, and physical assets

Value

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



A great history

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.

The JFK Presidential Library enlisted the help of Iron Mountain Media & Archive 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.



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About Iron Mountain Media & Archive Services

Iron Mountain Media and Archive Services, founded in 1988 is the media and entertainment division of Iron Mountain Incorporated® and the go-to physical and digital media archiving service for the media and entertainment industries. They partner with clients ranging from the broadcast, film, music and sports sectors to brand archives and individual artists' collections and estates, to protect and activate media archives to preserve our collective cultural heritage. A global leader in media preservation, restoration and archive management, they offer industry-leading archive, storage, chain-of-custody processes and physical and digital content preservation solutions to ensure the complete protection of some of the world's most treasured and iconic assets. Visit <https://www.ironmountain.com/industries/entertainment> for more information.

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