



# ADS Chapter 502

## The USAID Records Management Program

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 ADS 502 – The USAID Records Management Program  
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## ADS 502 – The USAID Records Management Program

### 502.1 OVERVIEW

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

The [Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended](#), requires all federal agencies to make and preserve records containing adequate and proper documentation of their organization, function, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions. These records are public property and must be managed according to applicable laws and regulations. Agencies are also required to establish a records management program which includes a planned, coordinated set of policies, procedures, and activities needed to manage its recorded information. This includes issuing up-to-date records management directives and properly training those responsible for implementation. The Agency records management program must:

- Identify records that need to be created and maintained to conduct Agency business;
- Create and preserve records that document the organization, functions, programs, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions of the Agency. This includes records necessary to protect the legal and financial rights of the government and of persons directly affected by the Agency's activities;
- Manage records according to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved records schedules that determine where and how long records need to be maintained, and transfer permanent records to NARA; and
- Address the creation, maintenance, use, and disposition of records, including databases, email, web records, digital audiovisual materials, and records created from new and emerging technologies.

This ADS chapter provides the policies and essential procedures to ensure efficient and economical practices and effective control over the creation, maintenance, disposition, and preservation of USAID records.

### 502.2 PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Effective Date: 12/12/2019

- a. The **Administrator** is responsible for creating and preserving records that adequately and properly document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, and essential transactions of USAID. This responsibility is delegated to the **Director, Bureau for Management, Office of Management Services (M/MS)**.
- b. The **Senior Agency Official (SAO) for Managing Government Records (Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Management (AA/M))** is a Senior Official at the Assistant Secretary level or its equivalent who has direct responsible for ensuring that USAID efficiently and appropriately complies with all applicable records

management statutes, regulations, NARA policy, and the requirements of the Presidential Memorandum on Managing Government Records and its corresponding Office of Management and Budget Directive.

**c. Assistant Administrators (AAs), Independent Office Directors, and Mission Directors** appoint a Records Liaison (RL) for their Bureau/Independent Office (B/IO)/Mission and ensure that a records management program is implemented in their organization to accomplish the objectives outlined in this ADS chapter.

**d. Senior Officials** create records to document their activities and are responsible for the proper management and preservation of their records.

**e. The Agency Records Officer (Chief, Bureau for Management, Office of Management Services, Information and Records Division (M/MS/IRD))** leads and manages the Agency's records management program, by:

- (1) Establishing policy, practices, and procedures for the creation, maintenance, and disposition of Agency records;
- (2) Ensuring that Agency Senior Officials are aware of current government standards and procedures relating to records and understand their records management responsibilities;
- (3) Performing periodic evaluations of Agency records and systems to ensure compliance with applicable regulations and to assess the value and effectiveness of the Agency's program; and
- (4) Serving as the Agency point of contact with NARA.

**f. The Bureau for Management, Office of the Chief Information Officer (M/CIO):**

- (1) Coordinates closely with M/MS/IRD to ensure that the Agency's information systems make adequate provisions for the requirements of electronic records standards and that records management responsibilities are fully addressed in the new systems design and development;
- (2) Follows and documents the authorized disposition scheduling and complies with established security procedures to prevent unauthorized disclosure of the data contained in the systems developed or maintained by M/CIO;
- (3) Works with M/MS/IRD to establish and update records schedules for electronic systems; and
- (4) Maintains electronic information systems in accordance with approved records schedules and NARA requirements.

**g. Records and Information Management Specialist (RIMs) in M/MS/IRD:**

- (1) Provide records management guidance and oversight for assigned portfolios in B/IOs and Missions,
- (2) Serve as the primary point of contact and subject matter expert for records management inquiries,
- (3) Facilitate records management technical assistance and training, and
- (4) Collaborate with Agency RLs to ensure records management policies and procedures are implemented.

**h. Records Liaisons (RLs) in Washington and field Missions:**

- (1) Serve as the B/IO or Mission coordinator for the records management Program;
- (2) Develop inventories and coordinate the implementation of the office filing system;
- (3) Assist with disposition activities, including retirement of inactive records, and transfer of permanent records to the NARA and destruction in accordance with approved records schedules; and
- (4) Ensure the scheduling and disposition of all electronic records systems or electronic records.

**i. File Custodians** operate file stations in accordance with appropriate records management practices.

**j. Managers of Large Audiovisual (AV) Collections** coordinate audiovisual records system activities with M/MS/IRD.

**k. System Owners (SOs)** coordinate with M/MS/IRD to ensure compliance with electronic records standards.

**l. Agency employees:**

- (1) Serve as custodians for Agency records;
- (2) Create records needed to carry out the business of the Agency, record decisions and actions taken, and document activities for which they are responsible;
- (3) File materials regularly and carefully in a manner that allows them to be safely stored and efficiently retrieved when needed;

- (4) Carry out disposition of records under their control in accordance with Agency records schedules and federal regulations; and
- (5) When serving as a Contracting Officer/Agreement Officer Representative, ensure that contractors/grantees maintain records on USAID-funded activities in accordance with records management policies and procedures.

### **502.3 POLICY DIRECTIVES AND REQUIRED PROCEDURES**

Effective Date: 09/14/2016

USAID must establish and maintain an active continuing program for managing Agency records, commensurate with its size, organization, mission, and record keeping activities. Each USAID B/IO and Mission must establish and maintain a records program that meets the following minimum requirements:

- a. Creates and maintains official records providing adequate and proper documentation and evidence of USAID activities;
- b. Manages records (irrespective of medium) in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, and Agency guidance;
- c. Prints and files records in a paper record keeping file system when a fully compliant electronic record keeping system is not available;
- d. Maintains records according to the Agency file structure to ensure timely access and retrieval;
- e. Secures records to protect the legal and financial rights of the government and persons affected by government activities; and
- f. Implements a plan to protect essential records and assess damage to, and the recovery of, any records affected by an emergency or disaster.

#### **502.3.1 Records Management Training**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

In accordance with [Title 36, CFR, Part 1220.34\(f\)](#), all agencies must provide guidance and training to agency personnel on their records management responsibilities, including identification of federal records, in all formats and media. Accordingly, it is USAID policy that employees complete training commensurate with their records management responsibilities. All new employees must attend the records management training included in the New Employee Orientation. This training provides basic information about records management theory and specific USAID policies and procedures for records management. Newly designated RLs and File Custodians must complete the on-line Records Management Course available through USAID University. RLs and File Custodians must complete the on-line course within six months of appointment to the records management position. The on-line course is a prerequisite

to enrolling in several instructor-led records management workshops offered throughout the year in Washington and field Missions.

### **502.3.2 Official Records**

Effective Date: 03/09/2016

Official records of the Agency are all books, papers, maps, photographs, machine readable materials, electronic documents/messaging (e.g., emails) or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics that are made or received in connection with the transaction of the Agency's business. The records are preserved or appropriate for preservation as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the Agency or because of the informational value of data in them (see [Federal Records Act at 44 U.S.C. 3301](#)). There are instances where more than one copy of an official document and/or file can be considered a record if different offices use it to perform different functions. When it is difficult to determine if a file or document is a record, which needs to be preserved, the records custodian must treat this material as an official record.

#### **502.3.2.1 Non-Record Materials**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Some non-record materials appear to be official record documents because they document daily activities. However, if they do not document USAID's policies, procedures, practices, or operations, they are non-record material and must be maintained separately from official records.

The following are non-record materials which must be destroyed when no longer needed: chron files, extra copies, personal files, personal e-mails, publications, reading files, reproduced materials, routing slips, suspense files, working files, wrappers, labels, and envelopes.

#### **502.3.2.2 Essential Records**

Effective Date: 09/14/2016

The Agency's essential records are records essential to continued operations in cases of an emergency or disaster. Essential records must include emergency plans and related records that specify how the Agency will respond to an emergency, as well as those records that are needed to protect legal and financial rights and interests (see [ADS 511, Essential Records Program](#)).

#### **502.3.2.3 Records Management and Teleworking**

Effective Date: 03/09/2016

As defined in [ADS 405, Telework](#), telework is a work flexibility arrangement under which an employee performs the duties and responsibilities of their position and other authorized activities, from an approved worksite other than their official worksite.



Telework employees working from an approved alternate worksite have the same responsibility for managing records generated or received in the course of their work as if they are working at their official work station (for additional information, see [ADS 502sae, Records Management and Teleworking Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)).

#### **502.3.2.4 Ownership and Custody**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

No government employee is allowed to acquire proprietary interest in USAID records under their custody. When an official receives private, personal correspondence, which includes portions that relate to official business, the official must extract those portions that pertain to official business and make them a part of the official files.

- (1) Overseas: Under circumstances where USAID has residual activities, and no active USAID office exists, control of USAID records is delegated to the American Embassy.
- (2) Program records created by USAID staff must remain in USAID ownership and custody. Records pertaining to USAID personnel and to USAID administrative activities, that are created, received, and maintained by a Joint Administrative Organization (JAO) under the Department of State, are records of the Department. As such, they are kept and managed in accordance with Department of State regulations.
- (3) Contracting Officer Representatives (CORs) and Agreement Officer Representatives (AORs) must ensure that records created, received, or maintained by contractors and grantees are made a part of the official files.

#### **502.3.2.5 Access to USAID Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Official Agency records are available for use by all USAID employees, the U.S. public, participating agencies, consultants, scholars, and researchers with the following restrictions:

- (1) **Classified and Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) records:** Conditions controlling access to security classified and SBU controlled records are set-forth in [Executive Order 12958](#) and [12 FAM 540](#).
- (2) **Privileged Records:** Records with information that affects an individual's private affairs, reflects facts or opinions given in confidence, or that could prejudice U.S., private, or business interests if disclosed. These records are privileged even though they may not have security or SBU markings. Access to, and use of, these records must be restricted. Conditions controlling access to such records are set by the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, and by Agency regulations (see [ADS 507, Freedom of Information Act](#) and [ADS 508, Privacy Program](#)).

**(3) Access for public research:** It is USAID's policy to make information freely available to the public, subject only to the restrictions stated above. Any questions concerning access to USAID records must be addressed to M/MS/IRD at [foiamailbox@usaid.gov](mailto:foiamailbox@usaid.gov).

**502.3.3 Files Planning, Organization, and Maintenance: Designating Files Stations**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Each RL in USAID B/IOs and Missions must designate official file stations where official Agency records must be maintained. Official file stations must be established at locations convenient to files users. Proper maintenance and controls over the use of official records must be provided. RLs must identify and establish appropriate procedures to ensure that official records are maintained and filed at their designated file stations.

**502.3.3.1 Avoid Needless Filing**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

It is USAID's policy to keep its records holdings to a minimum by eliminating unnecessary filing of materials.

To prevent unnecessary filing, the following guidelines must be followed:

- (1)** Periodicals, circulars, and similar printed materials received for general information must be retained on a selective basis. Recipients of the material must determine whether it must be retained and for what period of time. If a particular article is of greater value than the entire publication, a copy of the article should be retained.
- (2)** Information copies of letters or forms must not be filed unless future reference to the material is likely and the document is not available in the originating office.
- (3)** Periodicals, circulars, and similar printed materials must not be interfiled with actions or transactions except when essential for complete documentation.
- (4)** Copies of routine communications that are not needed for records purposes must be eliminated or avoided by:
  - Returning routing requests for printed matter with the materials sent;
  - Returning routine requests with desired information noted at the bottom of page;
  - Using routing slips in preference to transmittal letters;

- Returning the original request with a form letter used to transmit requested information, if possible; and
- If a request must be filed, entering the date of reply and the form letter number rather than retaining a file copy of the form letter.

(5) Extra copies of non-record materials are often kept by various elements within the same office or organization. In many instances, extra copy files can be eliminated by an agreement between or within offices concerning use of record files. By following this procedure, files maintained at one file station supplement rather than partially duplicate the records at another station.

### **502.3.3.2 Assembling Papers for Filing**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

To assure sufficiency of documentation, the file custodian must assemble directly related records for filing.

(1) Case files. The file custodian must file the incoming letter, a copy of the reply, and any pertinent attachments or enclosures together.

(2) For general correspondence subject files, the files custodian must:

- Remove any earlier correspondence already on file,
- Determine if any segments of the current correspondence is lacking, and
- Assemble the complete papers in chronological order with the latest date on top.

### **502.3.3.3 Files Arrangements**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Files must be arranged in a systematic manner, according to Agency regulations. The three basic arrangements are alphabetical, numerical, and chronological. To ensure sufficiency of documentation, the file custodian must assemble directly related records for filing.

Files are to be arranged according to the procedures below, using medium weight 11-point Kraft folders, with a maximum of 200 single sheets to a folder.

(1) **Alphabetical Arrangements:** This arrangement is used to file documents by names of persons, companies, agencies, etc. in alphabetical sequence. The types of records that are often filed alphabetically include:

- Name Files.** Arrange name files alphabetically by surname and then by first name and middle initial. When identical names occur, they must be

arranged secondarily by other distinguishing features, such as date of birth or social security number.

- b. Geographic Files.** These files must be arranged alphabetically by geographic location such as region, country, or state. This arrangement is used when the geographic location is the primary means of reference. Files are arranged in alphabetical sequence first by the name of the main geographic division, such as a country, then by the next most important subdivision required for reference such as states, countries, cities, or units of local government.
- c. Organizational Files.** This arrangement must be used when the name of the organization is the primary means of reference.

**(2) Numerical Arrangements:** This arrangement is used to arrange records identified and referenced by number, such as activity files or purchase orders. Numbers must not be assigned to documents for the sole purpose of filing arrangement.

- a. Straight numerical.** Files are arranged in straight numerical sequence: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. This method is used if fewer than 10,000 papers are filed a year.
- b. Duplex numbers.** Duplex numbers consist of two or more parts separated by a dash, space, or comma (examples, 94-0001, 942-0002, 942-0003). These files must be arranged in straight numerical sequences by the first part of the number followed by succeeding parts.

**(3) Chronological Arrangements.** A chronological file is usually arranged into two separate series: incoming and outgoing, that is, one for cables and telegrams and one for correspondence (letters, memos, faxes, emails), and by sequential date or numerical order, with the latest date or highest number at the front of the folder.

#### **502.3.3.4 Filing Security Classified Papers**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Agency employees must file classified papers apart from unclassified papers in security file cabinets or secured areas as provided in Executive Order 12958 and 12 FAM 540. If the volume of classified papers is small, they may be maintained as a central security file in a common-use office or division. In overseas offices, classified papers must be stored separately (see [Executive Order 12958](#) and [12 FAM 540](#)).

When filing classified material apart from unclassified material, Agency employees must place cross reference sheets in the unclassified file to show where the related classified papers are located.

**502.3.3.5 File Equipment and Supplies**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

To promote effective use of filing equipment, the following standards for filing equipment and supplies must be used:

- (1) File equipment must be used only for record material. File equipment must not be used for stocking blank forms, stationery, office supplies, or personal effects.
- (2) Non-current records must be disposed of in accordance with records disposal standards in this ADS chapter.
- (3) Letter-sized folders and five-drawer filing cabinets must be used, whenever possible.

**502.3.3.6 Subject Files and Case Files: Setting Up Subject Files and Case Files**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

The Subject Outlines provide the information needed to organize and correctly label official subject files. Record retention periods are addressed separately in the Records Disposition Schedules of this ADS chapter.

Subject Outlines are made up of subject file codes (for example, ADM, EDU, PRC), which are the primary codes. There are also secondary code breakdowns (ADM-1, EDU-12, OR PRC-3) with file classification captions such as "Health Education," "Administrative Management," etc., followed by a narrative description for each code and classification. Together these comprise a system that provides offices with a smooth and efficient means of filing and retrieving information.

- (1) Subject files. Use only the subjects in the Subject Outlines that pertain to your office when setting up subject files. If a paper involves more than one secondary topic in a primary subject file group, you must file it at the next higher classification level. Use secondary and tertiary breakdowns only if the primary subject has been used and there is a need to file ten or more documents (see [Subject Outlines Index](#)).
- (2) Case files. Case files must be maintained until final action is taken and the case is closed.

It is preferred that standard USAID Kraft file folders, square cut, scored to indicate label position be used when setting up subject files and case files.

When folders become too bulky to handle, the case file folder must be cut-off and a new folder started. The date on which material ceases to be filed in a particular folder is the cut-off date. For convenience, end of fiscal year, end of month, or end of specific date must be used as the cut-off date for folders. Folders that are bulky should be divided into one or two folders unless accordion folders are used. As a general rule, a single

folder should not be more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  thick. If using accordion folder, it should not be more than two inches thick.

### **502.3.3.7 Filing Subject File Material**

Effective Date: 06/19/2020

Papers dealing with the same subject must be filed together in the same folder. For example, the file code AGR-4 will distinguish it from papers dealing with other agricultural subjects (e.g., AGR-2, AGR-6), all of which are grouped under the parent classification "AGR," Agriculture.

Offices should select a few major subject codes that pertain to the program functions of the office, such as Loans, Guarantees and Private Enterprise (LGP), and Transportation (TRV). In addition to subject codes that reflect the program functions of the office, most offices will have codes and classifications for files dealing with general administrative office matters such as Administrative Management (ADM), Personnel (PER), and Budget (BUD), etc.

### **502.3.3.8 Arranging Documents to Be Placed in Case Files (Markings)**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Case file material must not be marked with subject file group codes.

Agency employees must arrange Official Personnel Folders (OPFs) alphabetically by last name. The information on the tab of the SF-66 must include the person's name (last name first) and the person's date of birth (month, day, and four digit year).

### **502.3.3.9 Labels on Folders**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

When preparing folder labels, Agency employees must follow these procedures:

- Yellow-banded self-adhesive labels must be used for official case files and official subject files,
- Green-banded labels must be used for working subject and case files, and
- Red-banded labels must be used for classified material (confidential and above).

Labels for working files must have exactly the same titles as the official file. Information must be as complete and concise as possible. Abbreviations may be used only if easily understood.

Agency employees must type the file group code and title on the label directly below the colored band (type them exactly as shown in the Subject Outlines). Subject files are cut-off and new files started each fiscal year, with the fiscal year typed in the lower right corner of the label.

#### **502.3.4 Electronic Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

USAID must maintain effective control over the creation, maintenance, and disposition of electronic records. Electronic records include, but are not limited to, word processing documents, electronic mail messages, Web sites, documents transmitted via Electronic Data Interchange, Internet and Intranet postings, numerical and textual spreadsheets, databases, optical images, software and electronic information systems. More specific examples of commonly used applications where electronic records may be created are:

- Social media sites like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn that are used for sharing and discussing information;
- Blogs used to exchange information and ideas;
- Cloud computing where users can access and use shared data and computing services via the Internet or a Virtual Private Network. Google Mail and other Google applications using cloud computing; and
- The SharePoint content management system where documents and events are shared in a collaborative environment.

##### **502.3.4.1 Social Media**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Social media refers to sites on the internet that contain mobile-based tools or applications that are used for sharing and discussing information (e.g., Twitter and Facebook). Currently, all social media content is a permanent record. Adherence to the following policies will mitigate the risk posed by publishing official records on social media sites:

- Avoid using any social media outlet to publish, promote, or present official federal record materials regardless of the format;
- Avoid creating new material that pertains to USAID on social networking sites. Instead, use existing material from existing Web sites or previously published documents; and
- Refrain from making comments or responding to comments on social media regarding official USAID official business unless you are a designated spokesperson.

Please consult with the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) for additional policy regarding social media sites managed by USAID.

##### **502.3.4.2 Documentation for Electronic Systems**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

System Owners must develop and maintain technical documentation for electronic information systems. System Owners must also submit the technical documentation to M/MS/IRD for review prior to implementation of the system design. System Owners can find the minimum requirement for technical requirement in [36 CFR 1236.10](#). The purpose of the M/MS/IRD review is to:

- Maintain an accurate inventory of all systems owned by USAID as mandated by NARA;
- Obtain information at the outset of the potential of systems that will generate, house, or interface with official record content in order to initiate the scheduling process and ensure appropriate records management; and
- Ensure records management best practices are considered for those information systems that will contain record content.

M/MS/IRD must schedule applications used to manage electronic record content. A records schedule provides mandatory instructions for the disposition of the records (including the transfer of permanent records and disposal of temporary records) when they are no longer needed by the agency.

System Owners must complete and submit the [AID 502-1 Form, Description of Electronic Records](#) to M/MS/IRD at [recordsinquiry@usaid.gov](mailto:recordsinquiry@usaid.gov) before developing or updating the electronic information system. The System Owner, in coordination with M/MS/IRD, must propose disposition instructions for the electronic information system and electronic medium for NARA's approval.

### **502.3.4.3 Converting Paper Records to Electronic**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

M/MS/IRD does not authorize the utilization of databases or information systems other than a fully compliant application for the purpose of managing official record content. A document/content management system (e.g., documentum) is not a record-keeping system due to the absence of a records disposition schedule, i.e., instructions on what to do with the records when no longer needed by the Agency.

If there is no electronic records management application, employees must comply with the specific requirements stated below when converting paper records to an electronic format. Agency employees must apply a diligent quality assurance (QA) process which confirms that the scanned record is 100% representation of the paper record copy to all scanned record content before destroying the paper copy. Agency employees must adhere to the following criteria:

- Scanned images of paper copies must be clear and readable;
- Temporary records must be scanned using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scanned images;



#### 502.3.4.4 Filing Electronic Documents

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Electronic documents containing essential business information are created and stored on agency servers daily. Like with paper documents, it is important to maintain good records management practices when storing electronic documents. Offices should set up an electronic filing and retrieval system on a shared drive to organize and preserve electronic files. Proper organization of these documents will facilitate easier search and retrieval capabilities. An effective filing structure should provide access to complete, accurate, and up-to-date information. The electronic filing system should mirror the paper file to some extent using standard naming conventions, but should be less complex and have no more than five to seven hierarchical electronic folders (see file organization guidance in **502.3.3**).

Below are examples of folder hierarchies and naming conventions that can be arranged within the shared drive. This is not a comprehensive list, but is meant to be illustrative. NOTE: It may be necessary to create other folders to manage and document the activities of your office based on your business needs.

#### **Folder Hierarchy**

##### 1. Subject Files

- Administrative Subject Files
- Program Development, Development, and Support Subject Files
- Program Subject Files
  - o FY2010
  - o FY2011
  - o FY2012
    - AGR
    - HLS

##### 2. Case Files

- Travel
- Personnel
  - o Doe, John
  - o Doe, Jane
- COR/AOR
  - o OAA-C-XX-XXXXX, ABC Vendor
  - o OAA-C-XX-XXXXX, DEF Vendor
    - Activity Development Files
    - Core Documents
    - A&A Files
    - Disbursing Authorizations

- General Correspondence
- Reports

### 3. Specific Office Function Files (ex. Human Resources)

- Benefits
- Training
- Retirement
  - o CSRS
  - o FERS

#### File Names

##### 1. **Subject File: HLS 2\_Diseases – AIDS Panama 2012.docx**

(HLS 2 = subject code, Diseases = standard subject title, AIDS = specific subject title)

##### 2. **Project File: 620-009\_Maternal Health\_Recruitment Program.docx**

(620-009 = project number, Maternal Health = project title, Recruitment Program = document title)

##### 3. **COR/AOR File: OAA-C-XX-XXXXX\_ABC\_Nigeria\_Sept Progress Report.docx**

(OAA-C-XX-XXXXX = contract number, ABC = Vendor Name, Sept Progress Report = document title)

#### **502.3.4.5 Storing Award Documents in ASIST**

Effective Date: 08/30/2019

All USAID staff in the Washington Bureaus/Mission Technical Offices, Executive Offices (EXOs), and the Bureau for Management, Office of Acquisition & Assistance (M/OAA) in Washington/Overseas that make awards, and all Agreement Officer Representatives (AORs) and Contracting Officer Representatives (CORs), are required to file award documents in ASIST. Award documents include all required post-award reports and other deliverables.

All A&A awards issued on or after April 3, 2014, must use the ASIST system to maintain the official award file in its entirety. Please see the [ASIST Policy and Training Page](#) for 24/7 ASIST training provided online, policies, and other helpful guidance.

#### **Important Dates**

The below provides effective dates for filing award documents in ASIST with older awards being optional to file in ASIST.

- **Effective April 3, 2014:** CO's/AO's are required to file all A&A awards effective as of April 3, 2014 and all active Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantities (IDIQs) and Leader With Associates (LWAs) (regardless of their award date in ASIST).

- **Effective January 1, 2017:** EXOs are required to file in ASIST.
- **Effective June 26, 2018:** AORs/CORs are required to file in ASIST.

**Note:** Filing older awards in ASIST is optional but requires that the entire A&A award be filed in ASIST; check with your AO/CO before filing older awards.

All Washington-issued IDIQs and LWAs, currently in effect with active task orders or associate awards, regardless of date of award, must be fully filed and stored in ASIST. Files completely stored in ASIST are not required to be paper-filed as well. When scanned records are placed in ASIST, precautions must be taken to prevent unauthorized access, accidental modification, or accidental deletion of record files.

Staff must ensure:

1. Documents are in the correct sections of the ASIST file.
2. Files are not “split,” or stored partially in hard copy, on a home computer or in any other storage device outside of ASIST.
3. 100 percent of the award file is in ASIST, in accordance with the date requirements listed below:
  - February 15, 2019: All awards above \$5 million.
  - April 15, 2019: All awards above \$1 million.
  - June 30, 2019: All awards below \$1 million.
4. If a document does not apply and is showing in the missing report, staff should make a note in ASIST using the “text box” next to the missing section being reported or upload a Word document stating it is not applicable (see [ASIST QAs](#) for examples and guidance).
5. The entire award file is maintained for six years after closeout of the award, in accordance with the approved records retention and disposition authority, prescribed by the National Archive and Records Administration (NARA) (see further guidance on the [ASIST page](#)).

**Training/Policies/Access:** For 24/7 ASIST training provided online, policies, and other helpful guidance, please see the [ASIST Policy & Training page](#). Please see additional guidance in [ADS 302](#), [ADS 303](#), [ADS 308](#), and the [ASIST File Standardization Guide](#).

#### **502.3.4.6 Storing Agency Records on Compact Disk**

Effective Date: 12/12/2019

Compact Disc-Read Only Memory (CD-ROM) is a type of optical disk capable of storing large amounts of data. A single CD-ROM has the capacity to store about 300,000 text pages. A Digital Versatile Disc or Digital Video Disc (DVD) is a type of optical disk technology similar to the CD-ROM. DVDs are commonly used as a medium for digital representation of movies and other multimedia presentations that combine sound and graphics. Agency employees must follow these procedures if storing records on a CD or DVD:

- All records content stored on CD or DVD media must be filed according to the proper record series as if it were a paper filing system;
- Use only high quality disks capable of storing large amounts of data – up to 1 gigabyte;
- Electronic records stored on CD-ROM must include complete record files;
- Each CD-ROM must include a shelf list and records must be arranged on the CD according to series;
- Paper records transferred to CD-ROM must be scanned in OCR and PDF/A for permanent records;
- Ensure that all images on CD-ROM meet quality control for best quality reproduction of the record content;
- Do not mix record and non-record materials on the same CD;
- CD or DVD submissions must be submitted in same box containers that are used with paper record submission; and
- When transferring records on CD to the records retirement vault in the Ronald Reagan Building (RRB), contact M/MS/IRD at [recordsinquiry@usaid.gov](mailto:recordsinquiry@usaid.gov) for guidance prior to submission.

#### **502.3.4.7 Electronic Messaging**

Effective Date: 03/09/2016

The Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014 ([44 USC 2911](#)) defines electronic messages as “electronic mail and other electronic messaging systems that are used for purposes of communicating between individuals”. As defined in [NARA Bulletin 2015-02](#), electronic messaging (EM) includes all forms of email (electronic mail), texts, instant messages/chats, social media messaging systems, and voice message platforms. USAID further defines electronic messaging systems as tools, platforms, applications, or other systems used to conduct official business.

The table below (taken from [NARA Bulletin 2015-02](#) and expanded to include Agency specific information) provides several examples of EM, but should not be considered a complete listing of all EM categories.

Types of EM	Examples
Email	Gmail or Yahoo Mail
Chat/Instant messaging	Google Hangouts, Facebook Messaging, or MyUSAID Messaging
Text messaging, also known as Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) and Short Message Service (SMS)	iMessage, devices such as Windows or Apple
Voicemail messaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can have voicemail sent to email as an attachment.</li> <li>• Messages can be sent or received from landlines or mobile phones.</li> </ul>	Google Voice or voice to text conversion
Other messaging platforms or applications (apps), such as social media or mobile device apps. These include text, media, and voice messages.	Twitter Direct Message, Huddle, or other collaboration networks

Electronic messaging systems allow users to send communications in real-time or for later viewing, from one account to another. Some systems allow the use of attachments. USAID authorizes the use of official EM accounts and systems on the Agency network and/or Agency-owned devices/equipment, that are within the USAID.gov domain (see [ADS 545, Information Systems Security](#) and [ADS 549, Telecommunications Management](#)).

USAID EM systems are divided into two (2) categories:

Category	Description	Examples
Official EM Systems	Owned by USAID  Approved by USAID to conduct Agency business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• usaid.gov email account</li> <li>• text messages from government furnished devices</li> <li>• MyUSAID</li> <li>• USAID Google Hangouts account</li> </ul>
Non-official EM Systems	Owned by the employee, or others, not USAID  Not approved by USAID to conduct Agency business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non-official (personal and private) email accounts and servers</li> <li>• text messages from personal devices</li> <li>• non-MyUSAID social media sites</li> </ul>

Category	Description	Examples
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>other commercial vendor accounts, systems, tools, or applications</li> </ul>

USAID employees, regardless of labor category, must use Agency EM systems to conduct official business. The use of non-official EM systems is not permitted. Such use not only compromises the Agency’s ability to preserve and protect Agency records, but could potentially lead to the mismanagement of Agency records and/or the unauthorized disclosure of non-public information. However, in limited exceptional circumstances, use of non-official EM systems may be necessary. To the extent that such use occurs in limited exceptional circumstances, the individual creating, sending, or receiving the record from a non-official electronic messaging system must copy/forward all records to an official USAID electronic messaging account.

These limited exceptional circumstances may include:

- Emergency situations resulting from disruptions to or loss of power that would impede an individual’s access to the USAID network;
- The lack of access to or the inadvertent loss, theft, or malfunction of government furnished equipment (GFE);
- Forces of nature such as a catastrophic natural disaster;
- Severe extreme weather conditions such as floods or tornadoes;
- National security events or threats to personal safety; and
- The need to conduct official business during an emergency situation.

**Note:** Employees must properly document any use of an exceptional circumstance. Any such use must be temporal in nature and discontinued once the exceptional circumstance no longer exists. Non-official EM systems must not be used to conduct official business as a matter of convenience, or as an ordinary course of business. As required by [44 U.S.C §2911\(a\) of the Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014](#), USAID employees must not create or send a record using a non-official electronic messaging account unless the employee:

- (1) Copies an official electronic messaging account of the employee in the original creation or transmission of the record; or
- (2) Forwards a complete copy of the record to an official electronic messaging account of the employee no later than **20 days** after the original creation or transmission of the record.

Forwarding emails from the employees' USAID account to their non-official email account is prohibited except under limited exceptional circumstances such as those referenced above. Actions such as these create records management challenges and cyber security vulnerabilities (see [ADS 545](#)).

The intentional violation of [44 U.S.C §2911\(a\) of the Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014](#) (including any rules, regulations, or other implementing guidelines), as determined by the appropriate supervisor, will be a basis for disciplinary action in accordance with subchapter 1, 11, or V of chapter 75 of title 5, and may include:

- Suspension for 14 days or less; and/or
- Removal, suspension for more than 14 days, reduction in grade or pay, or furlough.

As with all official records ([18 USC 2071](#)), including electronic messages, there are criminal penalties for the unlawful removal, defacing, alteration, alienation, or destruction of federal records.

Agencies are required to capture and manage electronic records in compliance with federal record keeping regulations ([36 CFR 1236.22](#) – [36 CFR 1236.28](#)). Electronic messages must be captured into an identifiable recordkeeping system to ensure effective records management practices. Additionally, electronic messages are official records and must be handled according to retention and disposition schedules.

**Note:** The creation, transmission, or distribution of classified information across an unofficial system is prohibited at all times. Any violation of this policy could result in adverse administrative actions and/or criminal penalties against the employee.

#### **a. Additional Standards for Managing Electronic Mail (email) Records**

Email records of Agency users must retain information about the receipt of messages if users consider it necessary for documenting Agency activities (i.e., metadata which includes the internal and external email message, any attachment, and essential transmission data such as, who sent the message, the addresses and any other recipients, and when it was sent). Additionally, draft documents, calendars, and task lists that are circulated on email systems can also be considered official Agency records and must be managed accordingly.

Agency employees must not dispose of email records unless the records have met retention requirements and are no longer needed for business use. If emails are ready for removal or destruction (also known as disposition), Agency employees may delete the email message. Alternatively, emails that have not served their retention and are still needed for business use can be moved to an Agency document management system for recordkeeping purposes (e.g.,

Huddle, Google Drive, Documentum, etc.). Agency employees must manage emails in accordance with the following guidelines:

- **Transitory or personal:** Retention of 90 days or destroy when no longer needed, whichever comes first.
- **Non-Records:** Retention of three years or destroy when no longer needed, whichever comes first.
- **Official record:** Retain as per disposition schedules. Do not destroy early or prior to that period, nor keep longer than the specified retention period as indicated by the disposition schedule.

**b. Additional Standards for Managing Electronic Mail (email) Records for Senior Officials**

Senior Officials at USAID are individuals occupying executive positions who are responsible for oversight, management, and decision making. By virtue of their position these individuals will frequently have accountability to the Congress of the United States of America and the American Public.

Senior Officials are responsible for creating records to document their activities and for the proper management and preservation of their records. These responsibilities are applicable to all records made or received in the conduct of Agency business, regardless of physical format or media. While all Agency employees, regardless of labor category, must preserve records that meet the definition of a record under the Federal Records Act, Senior Officials' records are generally the most important documents created within the Agency and are some of the most valued documents. It is important to capture the email of Senior Officials. Emails are more likely to contain substantive information and are likely to require retention for several years, and in case of Senior Officials, permanently.

The USAID email accounts of Senior Officials must not be cleared, deleted, or wiped for any reason during the tenure of the Senior Official. Emails of Senior Officials will be retained and transferred to NARA for permanent preservation.

While Senior Officials may delete personal emails, they should be aware that the definition of a personal email is very narrow. The only emails that are personal are those that do not relate to or affect the transaction of Agency business.

In addition, non-record material may be deleted when no longer needed. Non-record material may include:

- Working files that consist of rough notes, drafts, or calculations that are not needed to support the decision trail, in other words papers that lose all value after the work is finalized;



- Extra copies of records kept only as convenience copies;
- Personal papers that are documents unrelated to or having no effect upon the conduct of Agency business;
- Library materials intended only for reference; and/or
- Presentations or papers of a professional nature not representing Agency opinion or policy.

As required by [44 U.S.C §2911 subsection \(a\) of the Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014](#), Senior Officials may not create or send a record using a non-official electronic messaging account to conduct Agency business. However, in exceptional circumstances, the use of non-official EM systems may occur (see **502.3.4.6**).

The following positions reflect NARA guidance and satisfy the Presidential Directive on retaining email for Senior Officials for the purposes of records management:

- Administrator;
- Deputy Administrator/Chief Operating Officer;
- Associate Administrator;
- Assistant Administrators;
- Assistants to the Administrator;
- Mission Directors;
- Chief Human Capital Officer;
- Chief Financial Officer;
- Chief Information Officer;
- Senior Procurement Executive;
- Chief Real Property Officer;
- Director, U.S. Global Development Lab;
- Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization;
- Director, Office of Budget and Resource Management;
- Director, Office of Security;
- Director, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity;
- Agency Counselor;
- Chief Economist;
- General Counsel;
- Inspector General;
- Chief Strategy Officer;
- Chief of Staff;
- Executive Secretary;

- All individuals formally designated as "Acting" in the above listed positions; and
- Applicable Special Assistants and Staff Assistants to the above listed positions, when they receive and respond to emails on the Senior Official's behalf.

Beyond this list, the Administrator, Senior Agency Official for Managing Government Records, or Agency Records Officer may determine which individual positions would be considered "Designated Senior Official Positions" for the purposes of email preservation.

#### **502.3.4.8 Additional Standard for Text Messages on Government Furnished Mobile Devices**

Effective Date: 03/09/2016

USAID defines a text message as a mobile communication, which may also include multimedia content such as pictures, video, or audio (see [ADS 545.6](#) for additional information on types of text messages). These guidelines apply to any records created on any government furnished equipment (GFE) owned or provided by USAID (e.g. tablets, laptops, blackberries, iphones, or androids).

Text messaging, and the like, are typically captured via a third party service provider, and are not stored on the Agency network. Therefore, USAID does not encourage the use of text messaging to conduct official Agency business. However, if an official record is created, sent, or received via text to conduct Agency business, it is the responsibility of the USAID employee to ensure that any federal records of the Agency are appropriately captured within an official USAID recordkeeping system (see [502.3.4.6](#)). To accomplish this, the employee must forward the communication to an official electronic messaging account of the employee no later than **20 days** after the original creation or transmission of the record.

All messages sent or received on a government-furnished mobile device is the property of the Agency and not the employee.

All employees, regardless of labor category, must forward any text messages relating to Agency business to their official USAID account for permanent retention.

#### **502.3.4.9 Judicial Use of Electronic Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

M/MS/IRD must conduct reviews in conjunction with Agency offices to ensure implementation of procedures to enhance the legal admissibility of electronic records if electronic records must be submitted to Federal Court.

System Owners, in consultation with M/CIO, must establish the procedures for documenting the record keeping operation and the control imposed on it in order to enhance admissibility of electronic records (see [36 CFR 1251.18](#)).

**502.3.4.10 Security of Electronic Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

The System Owners and Agency offices, in coordination with M/MS/IRD, must implement and maintain an effective security program for electronic information systems and electronic media (see [ADS 508](#), [ADS 545](#), and [36 CFR 1236.14](#)).

**502.3.4.11 Electronic Records Storage Media**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Agency offices and the System Owners must coordinate with M/MS/IRD and M/CIO in selecting appropriate media and systems that are acceptable to NARA for storing electronic records throughout their life cycle and for archival purposes (for minimum requirements, see [36 CFR 1236.28 \(a\)](#)).

System Owners and Agency offices must ensure that information is not lost because of changing technology or deterioration by converting storage media to provide compatibility with the Agency's current hardware and software. Before conversion to a different medium, System Owners, in coordination with M/MS/IRD, must determine that the authorized disposition of the electronic records can be implemented after conversion.

If the medium does not have an authorized disposition for its system, the System Owners and Agency offices must propose a disposition schedule and submit it to M/MS/IRD at [recordsinquiry@usaid.gov](mailto:recordsinquiry@usaid.gov) for NARA's approval.

**502.3.4.12 Retention and Disposition of Electronic Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

The Agency offices and System Owners must work with M/MS/IRD to establish a proper disposition schedule for retention of electronic information systems and electronic records as well as related documentation and indexes by applying General Records Schedules as appropriate or submitting an [SF 115, Request for Records Disposition Authority](#) to NARA. The information in electronic information systems, including those operated for the Agency by a contractor, must be scheduled as soon as possible but no later than one year after implementation of the system.

The System Owners and Agency offices must complete the [SF 258, Agreement to Transfer Records to the National Archives](#) and submit it to M/MS/IRD at [recordsinquiry@usaid.gov](mailto:recordsinquiry@usaid.gov) or take it to room 2.07-070 in the RRB for those electronic records that are eligible for transfer to the Washington National Records Center or NARA.

Users of electronic mail systems must delete the email records after the email record is preserved in a paper record keeping system (printed out in hard copy) along with all appropriate transmission data.

**502.3.4.13 Destruction of Electronic Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Electronic records must be destroyed in accordance with the USAID Electronic Records Disposition Schedule approved by NARA.

The Agency offices must establish proper procedures for destruction. The procedures must ensure protection of any sensitive proprietary or national security information (see [36 CFR 1226.24 \(a\) 2](#)).

**502.3.5 Audiovisual: Reviewing Existing Productions**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Prior to authorizing any type of audiovisual production, employees must determine if existing productions are available to satisfy its needs. If there are no existing or commercial productions available, the Agency may produce, within existing budget limitations, additional productions to support program responsibilities.

The Agency must use the resources of the National Audiovisual Center (NAC) to request subject searches to determine what Federal productions exist. Agency employees must use the [Standard Form 282, Mandatory Title Check](#), for this purpose.

Employees must review commercial media collections, either through catalogs or computer-based resources, to determine whether commercial productions exist.

Employees must prepare a Federal Audiovisual Production Report (SF-202) for all Agency productions, after consulting with the USAID Records Management Officer. Prior to production, applicable sections of SF-202, with information about materials planned or in process must be completed by the employee producing the materials and sent to NAC. Upon completion of an audiovisual production, the post-production section of the Standard Form 202 must be handled similarly.

**502.3.5.1 Materials for Audiovisuals Productions**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

- a. Still Photos and Motion Pictures.** When ordering photographic materials to create unscheduled or permanent records, Agency employees must ensure that still photo negatives and motion picture preprints (negatives, masters, etc.) are composed of cellulose triacetate on polyester bases and are processed in accordance with ANSI/ASC industry standards (see [36 CFR 1237.16 \(c\)](#)).
- b. Audio Recordings.** Permanent records or unscheduled audio recordings must be on 1/4-inch open-reel tapes at 3 3/4 or 7 1/2 inches per second, full track, using professional unrecorded polyester splice-free tape stock.
- c.** Agency employees must use only professional format video tapes (for example, 1-inch, 3/4-inch) for record copies of permanent or unscheduled recordings.

**502.3.5.2 Storage, Maintenance, and Preservation of AV Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

- (1) Only trained staff is allowed to handle master copies of AV records.
- (2) If approved by the appropriate officials within the B/IO or Mission, Agency employees may lend copies outside the Agency if the original copy is retained by the Agency.
- (3) Removal or alteration of magnetic recordings must be prevented. One way to accomplish this is to disengage the recording mechanism on the playback equipment.
- (4) Motion pictures in a final A&B format for the reproduction of excerpts or stock footage must be used.
- (5) Environmental controls must be set for storage at 70 degrees F or cooler with 40 to 60 percent relative humidity. Even colder and drier storage conditions are recommended for color film, which is very sensitive to heat, humidity, and light.
- (6) Negatives must be stored from prints and magnetic masters, separately from viewing or listening copies. Negatives are stored in a photography or film laboratory and working copies are stored in a media library.
- (7) The storage area for master copies must be secured against unauthorized access and protect records from fire, water, and chemical damage.
- (8) Jacket cut film negatives must be stored individually in acid-free envelopes. Store other audiovisual masters in non-corroding metal or inter plastic containers.
- (9) Nitrate and diacetate type films must be stored separately and M/MS/IRD must sent them to NARA immediately.
- (10) If different versions of the same production are prepared (for example, foreign-language versions), an unaltered copy of each version must be kept for record purposes.

**502.3.5.3 Filing and Identification of AV Records**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Agency employees must follow these procedures when filing and identifying AV records:

- (1) Unimportant records must be separated from records of historical value to the Agency.
- (2) Masters and working copies, such as negatives and prints, must be filed separately in order to permit more convenient use of each and to make it easier

to take special care of the film negative or magnetic master, which is the most valuable copy of any audiovisual record.

- (3) Captions or their equivalent must be provided on the records. Audiovisual records are not useful for retrospective research unless they are identified. For still photographs, the Agency-wide format for recording captions includes the date, location, names of people, event, copyright owner (if applicable), and unique identification number. Similar identification must be recorded in a standardized format for every reel of motion picture film, videotape, and audio recording. Photographic captions must be stored separately to eliminate the damage that may result from trying to attach them to photographs.
- (4) Unique identification numbers must be recorded on every negative jacket or storage container as well as corresponding prints or other working copies. By assigning unique numbers to each item, masters can be stored safely and be easily retrieved miles away from the working copies. Additionally, every container of motion picture film, videotape, and audio recording must have the generation clearly labeled--for example, A&B rolls, original camera negative, internegative, soundtrack, project print, video master, audio master--so that a negative or master is not inadvertently used for reference purposes.
- (5) With videos, consumer formats must be used solely for distribution, reference copies, or subjects scheduled for disposal.
- (6) An association between AV records and the finding aids for them such as listings, published and in-house catalogs, indexes--manual or automated systems must be maintained.
- (7) Scheduling of most AV records in the Agency has already been accomplished by USAID in conjunction with NARA and can be found in the [Records Disposition Schedule](#)--USAID/W of this directive. The timeframes for retention and disposition carry the weight of the law, for which all employees are accountable.
- (8) Per 36 CFR 1237, agencies must offer trims, and other unedited motion picture footage accumulated in the production of audiovisual products to the Special Archives Division (NNS) and NARA-Motion Picture Outtakes. Video raw footage must also be appraised by NARA at some time before disposal. Also, a [SF-115 form](#) must be submitted to and approved by NARA if schedules for disposal changes need to be made (see [36 CFR 1237.12 \(a\) 3](#) and [SF-115](#)).

### 502.3.6 Scheduling Records

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

A records schedule is a document that provides mandatory instructions for the disposition of records when they are no longer needed by the Agency. Disposition is a comprehensive term that includes both destruction and transfer of records to the National Archives of the United States. Records are scheduled to determine how long

they can be legally kept. If it is determined that the record is not permanent the schedule will provide information about when and how to destroy the record(s). All record schedules must be approved by NARA. M/MS/IRD must submit record schedules to NARA. USAID has records schedules for USAID/W and Missions.

#### **502.3.6.1 Records Disposition - USAID/W and Overseas Missions: Annual Records and Personally Identifiable Information (PII) Inventory**

Effective Date: 12/12/2019

Assistant Administrators, Independent Office Directors, and Mission Directors must ensure that an active continuing program for managing Agency records is established and maintained, commensurate with the size, organization, mission, and record keeping activities of the unit.

The Annual Records and PII Inventory consolidates requirements from prior OMB records management guidance to ensure consistent, Agency-wide policy practices. The tool is consistent with OMB Memorandum M-19-21, in that it ensures that all Federal records are created, retained, and managed appropriately. It is an instrument for managing official and essential records in each office. The file custodians complete the inventory for their section/office illustrating the title or description of the types of active records, the disposition, format, and location for those records, as well as identifying if those records are essential. The RLs are responsible for reviewing the inventory of each section in their B/IO or Mission for accuracy before the inventory is submitted to M/MS/IRD. Inventories are due annually on November 30. The inventory should be submitted on [AID Form 502-4](#).

#### **502.3.6.2 Records Unidentified by Specific Disposition Instructions**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Whenever a record series cannot be identified with a specific disposal instruction, the office accumulating the records must request establishment of maintenance and disposition instructions. These requests must be forwarded to the Records Management Liaison Officer (RMLO) for review, and must include a complete description of the new file. Requests should be emailed to [recordsinquiry@usaid.gov](mailto:recordsinquiry@usaid.gov) (see **502.3.6.3**).

#### **502.3.6.3 Disposal Authorizations**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Records pertaining to claims and demands by the United States Government (USG) or against it, or to any accounts in which the USG is concerned, either as debtor or creditor, must not be destroyed under any disposal authorization until such claims, demands or accounts have been settled and adjusted by the Government Accountability Office, except upon written approval of the Comptroller General of the United States.

- (1) Exceptions. Records having value in connection with any pending or prospective litigations must be retained until such litigations have been terminated. B/IO's receiving requests for records or information in connection with litigations must

inform the Assistant General Counsel for Litigation and Enforcement (GC/LE) immediately.

- (2) Assistant Administrators, Independent Office Directors, and Mission Directors are responsible for insuring against inadvertent destruction of any records of the types described above by having them segregated from other files that are destroyed under normal disposal procedures.

The RL or File Custodian must ensure that:

- a. SBU records are destroyed in accordance with [Executive Order 12958](#) and [12 FAM 540](#); and
- b. A brief record is made of the volume of files destroyed.

The disposal authorizations contained in this ADS chapter apply to all records of the types described regardless of their physical location, e.g., central files, decentralized files, or working files at an individual's desk. This authorization applies to both classified and unclassified records unless otherwise specified.

#### **502.3.6.4 Method of Destruction**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

All National Security Information and SBU authorized for destruction must be destroyed in accordance with the provisions cited in **502.3.6.5** through **502.3.6.6**.

Records containing detailed biographical data or any other records that might prove embarrassing or detrimental to operations if they were to fall into unauthorized hands must be treated as SBU.

#### **502.3.6.5 Records of Destruction**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Each RL is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Records Disposition Schedules and ascertaining that all records of the organization are covered by appropriate disposal instructions.

The office destroying the records must maintain a brief record showing the records destroyed. The staff member responsible for the records must maintain a record of the volume of material destroyed.

#### **502.3.6.6 Emergency Destruction**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Missions are authorized to destroy records in the event of extreme emergency or evidence of the possible development of such an emergency in accordance with instructions governing emergencies stated in [36 CFR 1229, Emergency Authorization to Destroy Records](#).



**502.3.6.7 Retiring Files**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

In USAID/W, Agency employees must send retired records through the USAID Records Depository staging area in the RRB, room B2.06-C. The USAID Records Depository Team in M/MS/IRD will make arrangements for retired records to be shipped to Federal Records Center or commercial offsite storage facility. The USAID Records Depository Team will provide a copy of the approved shelf list with lot and/or accession numbers for retrieval of files, if needed. RLs must keep this amended copy in a safe location as it is the only key to finding records that have been retired.

Temporary records eligible for retirement in Missions must be sent to a local storage facility unless the disposition specifically says to transfer them to USAID/W. Eligible permanent records in Missions must be sent to USAID/W after completing their required in-office retention times. If no local facility is available these records must be shipped, at Mission expense, to the USAID/W Records Depository Office for retirement. Missions in high-threat environments where threat of emergency exists must keep files covering no more than one fiscal year, in addition to the current fiscal year in their office space. All other files must be sent to USAID/W for retention or destruction. The following are guidelines for packing files:

- (1) Use standard one-piece cardboard records storage and shipping boxes, 10" x 12" x 15". These boxes will not be repacked at the USAID Records Depository unless they are damaged in shipment from overseas.
- (2) Group files of the same Disposition Item Number together and place them into official retirement boxes. Files must not contain a mix of classified and non-classified documents. Place the files into the least possible number of boxes – only the last box can be less than full.
- (3) Face all folder labels in the same direction. All letter-sized folders must face the front of the box, and legal-sized folders must face the left when you look at the box from the front.
- (4) Label boxes with their corresponding box numbers (ex. 1 of 3, 2 of 3, etc.) in the top right corner and the Lot number in the bottom right corner of the face of the box with a felt tip pen.
- (5) Place a copy of the approved shelf list in Box #1 of the series that has that particular disposition.
- (6) Wrap oversized documents such as accounting ledgers, rolls of maps, or engineering drawings with heavy kraft paper. Double wrap and seal to provide protection during shipment from overseas.

**502.3.6.8 Review of the Schedule**

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

Each B/IO is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Records Disposition Schedules and ascertaining that all records of the organization are covered by appropriate disposal instructions.

RLs must initiate an annual review of the files to determine whether the applicable items on the schedules are adequate and being followed.

### **502.3.7 Exit Policy**

Effective Date: 03/09/2016

As stated in [ADS 451, Separations and Exit Clearance](#), USAID employees must follow these procedures when departing or transferring from USAID.

USAID employees must complete [AID Form 502-2, USAID Records Management Exit Checklist for Employees](#) or [ADS 502-3 for Senior Officials](#) before separating from USAID. The Records Liaison (RL) and supervisor must verify that records have been handled properly according to USAID's records management policies (see **502.3.2** for official records definition). This ensures that all records and non-public material created, received, or maintained during the exiting employee's tenure remains in the Agency's custody upon separation or transfer.

The exit policy procedures apply to all USAID employees, regardless of labor category, when the employee separates from the Agency due to:

- Resignation,
- Retirement, or
- Transfer to another government agency.

Employees transferring within the Agency must ensure that official records within their custody are accessible to office RL or supervisor, if the RL is not available.

Any records that USAID employees create or receive during their employment are the property of USAID. It is the responsibility of every USAID employee to protect records in their custody. Per the [Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended](#), USAID employees are reminded that official records may not be removed from government custody, and may not be destroyed, unless they have met the requirements of a records disposition schedule.

**Note:** USAID employees designated as Senior Officials will follow supplemental exit policy requirements outlined in **502.3.7.1**.

**(1)** The Authorizing Official must:

- a. Consider and identify records in their custody. Records may be stored in more than one location and in more than one format. The media types outlined below must be considered<sup>1</sup>. The supervisor must be made aware of any records stored in these locations and must receive a list, as well as storage locations, of the records.

Media types to consider:

- Paper
- Electronic Messages (e.g. email, chats, IM)
- CD-ROMs
- Collaboration tools

More specifically:

- Hard Drive or Personal Drive
  - Shared Drive
  - Email System
  - Text Messaging, Chat/Instant Messaging
  - Laptop or other Government Furnished Equipment (GFE)
  - Web or Social Media Sites
  - Huddle, Google Drive
- b. Separate all official records from non-record materials (see **502.3.2.1** for a definition of non-record materials).
- c. Either transfer electronic records located on any of the device locations identified above to an accessible recordkeeping system, supervisor, and/or successor, or make the records available to a supervisor and/or successor.
- d. Provide a list of any record and its location undergoing any of the following: FOIA request, audit, litigation hold, or Congressional inquiry.
- e. Dispose of and/or remove any non-record materials.
- f. Remove or provide any passwords to a supervisor and/or successor.
- g. Certify and inform supervisor of all records created or received and certify that non-public or official record content of the Agency is not removed without proper approval.

**(2)** The supervisor must:

- a. Ensure that records needed for work-in-progress are reassigned to another employee.

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<sup>1</sup> This list is not all inclusive but provides examples of what to consider.

b. Certify and verify the information completed on the Exit Checklist and certify that the employee is not removing any non-public or official record content of the Agency without proper approval.

c. Retain certified checklist per the records disposition schedule.

(3) The RL must certify and verify the information completed on the Exit Checklist and that the employee is not removing any non-public or official record content of the Agency without proper approval. In the event the RL is not available, an Authorizing Official may certify the checklist. The Authorizing Official may be the employee's supervisor, the Agency Records Officer, or designee.

(4) Exiting employees are prohibited from:

a. Removing any non-public or official records without proper approval.

b. Destroying or transferring records, except per records disposition schedule instructions. **Note:** Dispositioning authority is trumped when records are the subject of a FOIA request, audit, litigation, and/or Congressional inquiry. Exiting Senior Officials must identify all such records and provide a list of titles and locations on the checklist for their Authorizing Official.

#### **502.3.7.1 Exit Policy for Senior Officials**

Effective Date: 03/09/2016

Exiting Senior Officials will follow the guidance stated in [ADS 451, Separations and Exit Clearance](#) and section **502.3.7.1** when separating from USAID (see **502.3.4.6** for a list of Senior Officials).

Senior Officials must complete [AID Form 502-3, USAID Records Management Exit Checklist for Senior Officials](#), before separating from USAID.

The exit policy procedures apply to all USAID Senior Officials separating from the Agency due to:

- Resignation,
- Retirement, or
- Transfer to another government agency.

The Authorizing Official and RL must verify that the Senior Official's records have been handled properly according to USAID's records management policies to ensure that all records and non-public material created, received, or maintained during the exiting Senior Official's tenure remains in the Agency's custody upon separation (see **502.3.2**

for the definition of official records). The Authorizing Official may be the Senior Official's supervisor, the Agency Records Officer, or designee.

**Note:** USAID employees NOT designated as Senior Officials will follow the exit policy requirements outlined in **502.3.7**.

**(1) USAID Senior Officials must:**

- a.** Consider and identify records in their custody. Records may be stored in more than one location and in more than one format. The media types outlined below must be considered<sup>2</sup>. Additional consideration should be given to drafts that have been created during the Senior Official's tenure. The final version of the draft should be deemed the official copy and preserved. The Authorizing Official must be made aware of any records stored in these locations and must receive a list, as well as storage locations, of the records.

Media types to consider:

- Paper
- Electronic (including email)
- CD
- Collaboration tools

More specially:

- Hard Drive or Personal Drive
  - Shared Drive
  - Email System
  - Text Messaging, Chat/Instant Messaging
  - Laptop or Government Furnished Equipment (GFE)
  - Web or Social Media Sites
  - Huddle, Google Drive
- b.** Separate all official records from non-record materials (see **502.3.2.1** for the definition of non-record materials).
- c.** Either transfer electronic records located on any of the device locations identified above to an accessible recordkeeping system, supervisor, and/or successor, or make the records available to a supervisor and/or successor.
- d.** Provide a list of any record and its location undergoing any of the following: FOIA request, audit, litigation hold, or Congressional inquiry.
- e.** Dispose of and/or remove any non-record materials.

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<sup>2</sup> This list is not all inclusive but provides examples of what to consider.

- f. Remove or provide any passwords to a supervisor and/or successor.
- g. Certify and inform supervisor of all records created or received during Senior Official's tenure and certify that non-public or official record content of the Agency is not removed without proper approval.

(2) The Authorizing Official must:

- a. Ensure that records needed for work-in-progress are reassigned.
- b. Certify and verify the information completed on the Exit Checklist and certify that the Senior Official is not removing any non-public or official record content of the Agency without proper approval.
- c. Retain certified checklist per the records disposition schedule.

(3) The RL must certify and verify the information completed on the Exit Checklist and certify that the Senior Official is not removing any non-public or official record content of the Agency without proper approval.

(4) Exiting Senior Officials are prohibited from:

- a. Removing any non-public or official records without proper approval.
- b. Destroying or transferring records, except per records disposition schedule instructions. **Note:** Dispositioning authority is trumped when records are the subject of a FOIA request, audit, litigation, and/or Congressional inquiry. Exiting Senior Officials must identify all such records and provide a list of titles and locations on the checklist for their Authorizing Official.

## 502.4 MANDATORY REFERENCES

### 502.4.1 External Mandatory References

Effective Date: 09/11/2012

- a. [5 FAH-4 Records Management Handbook](#)
- b. [5 FAM 400, Records Management](#)
- c. [12 FAM 540 - SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION \(SBU\)](#)
- d. [36 CFR 1220.18; 1222; 1225; 1228.184; 1229; 1232; 1235.46; 1230.12; 1236; 1236.10; 1237.16\(c\);1251.18](#)
- e. [44 U.S.C 2904; 3101; 3301](#)
- f. [E-Government Act of 2002](#)

- g. [Executive Order 12656](#)
- h. [Executive Order 12958 - Classified National Security Information](#)
- i. [Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended](#)
- j. [Federal Information Resources Management Regulation \(FIRMR\)](#)
- k. [Federal Rules of Evidence \(Rules 803\(6\) and \(8\)\)](#)
- l. [General Records Schedules issued by Archivist of the U.S.](#)
- m. [NARA Bulletin 2015-02](#)
- n. [NARA General Records Schedules](#)
- o. [NARA Records Schedule for USAID](#)
- p. [Office of Management and Budget in Circular OMB-130](#)
- q. [Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended](#)
- r. [Presidential and Federal Records Act Amendments of 2014](#)
- s. [Privacy Act of 1974](#)

**502.4.2 Internal Mandatory References**

Effective Date: 11/30/2017

- a. [ADS 405, Telework](#)
- b. [ADS 451, Separations and Exit Clearance](#)
- c. [ADS 502maa, Electronic Records Disposition Schedule](#)
- d. [ADS 502mab, Strategic Objective Document Disposition Schedule](#)
- e. [ADS 502mac, USAID/Washington and Mission Disposition Schedules-  
Table of Contents](#)
- f. [ADS 502mad, Subject Outline Index](#)
- g. [ADS 502mae, Subject Outline Codes](#)
- h. [ADS 502maf, Form 502-4 Detailed Instructions](#)

- i. [ADS 511, Essential Records Program](#)
- j. [ADS 545, Information Systems Security](#)
- k. [ADS 549, Telecommunications Management](#)

**502.4.3 Mandatory Forms**

Effective Date: 12/12/2019

- a. [AID Form 502-1, Information Systems Inventory](#)
- b. [AID Form 502-2, USAID Records Management Exit Checklist for Employees](#)
- c. [AID Form 502-3, USAID Records Management Exit Checklist for Senior Officials](#)
- d. [AID Form 502-4, Annual Records and Personally Identifiable Information \(PII\) Inventory](#)

**502.5 ADDITIONAL HELP**

Effective Date: 11/16/2012

- a. [ADS 502saa, Records and Information Management Specialist Portfolio](#)
- b. [ADS 502sab, Quality Assessing Scanned Documents](#)
- c. [ADS 502sac, Questions and Answers: Electronic Records Management and Scanning](#)
- d. [ADS 502sad, How to Prepare Your Records for Scanning](#)
- e. [ADS 502sae, Records Management and Teleworking: Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

**502.6 DEFINITIONS**

Effective Date: 12/12/2019

**A and B Rolls**

Negative rolls of motion picture film, usually 16 mm, in which the shots are distributed between two rolls to permit special effect on printing. (**Chapter 502**)

**Authorizing Official**

Supervisor/Manager responsible for the activity that generated official Agency records and/or the Agency Records Officer or his/her designee. (**Chapter 502**)

**case files**

Case Files relate to a specific action, event, person, organization, location, product, or thing. Case files often represent the "mission," "function," or work of the office.



**(Chapter 502)**

**chronological files**

Chronological files (chrons) are copies of cables, letters, memoranda, etc., maintained for ease of reference in chronological order (by date of issue), or by serial number.

**(Chapter 502)**

**cloud computing**

Internet-based computing whereby shared resources, software, and information are provided to computers and other devices. **(Chapter 502, 508)**

**composite print**

Film print combining picture and sound track. **(Chapter 502)**

**contingency**

A possible event that must be prepared for such as an emergency. **(Chapter 502)**

**contingency planning**

Instituting policies and essential procedures to mitigate the effects of potential emergencies or disasters on an agency's operations and records. **(Chapter 502 and [511](#))**

**continuity**

To go on with selected USAID programs in an actual state of contingency operating conditions. **(Chapter 502 and [511](#))**

**convenience files**

Convenience files consist of extra non-record copies of correspondence, forms, and other papers, kept solely to satisfy a particular reference need. **(Chapter 502)**

**cycling (cycle)**

The periodic removal of obsolete copies of essential records and replacing them with copies of current essential records. This may occur daily, weekly, quarterly, annually, or at other designated intervals. **(Chapter 502)**

**data file**

The actual information files within the system. It can be numeric, text, graphic, or combo. **(Chapter 502)**

**database**

A set of data, consisting of at least one data file, that is sufficient for a given purpose. **(Chapter 502)**

**Database Management System**

A software system used to access and retrieve data stored in a database. **(Chapter 502)**

**disaster**

An unexpected occurrence, manmade or natural, that causes loss of life, health, property or livelihood, inflicting widespread destruction and distress and having long-term, adverse effects on Agency operations. It is distinguished from an accident by its magnitude and by its damage to the community infrastructure or the resources required for recovery. ([Chapter 251](#), 502, [511](#))

**disposition**

The transfer, retirement, and/or disposal of records or non-record material. (**Chapter 502**)

**disposition schedule**

A document providing mandatory instructions for what to do with records (electronic and hard copy)(and non-record materials) no longer needed for current Government business, with provision of authority for the final disposition of recurring or nonrecurring records. (**Chapter 502**)

**dubbing**

A duplicate copy of a sound recording or video, and the combination of sound materials from different sources such as dialogue, music, and sound effects into a single sound track. (**Chapter 502**)

**electronic information system**

A system that contains and provides access to computerized federal records and other information. (**Chapter 502**)

**electronic mail (email)**

Electronic method of Agency communications within USAID/Washington and throughout the Mission locations via telecommunications links between computer terminals. (**Chapter 502**)

**electronic mail message**

A document created or received on an electronic mail system including brief notes, more formal or substantive narrative documents, and any attachments, such as word processing and other electronic documents, which may be transmitted with the message. (**Chapter 502**)

**electronic mail system**

A computer application used to create, receive and transmit messages and other documents. Excluded from this definition are file transfer utilities(software that transmits files between users but does not retain any transmission data), data systems used to collect and process data that have been organized into data files or data bases on either personal computers or mainframe computers, and word processing documents not transmitted on an e-mail system. (**Chapter 502**)

**electronic record keeping system**

An electronic system in which records are collected, organized, and categorized to facilitate their preservation, retrieval, use and disposition. (**Chapter 502**)

**electronic records (ER)**

Any information that is recorded in a form that only a computer can process and that satisfies the definition of a Federal record in 44 U.S.C. 3301. (**Chapter 502**)

**electronic records system**

Any information system that produces manipulates or stores records by using a computer. (**Chapter 502**)

**emergency**

A situation or an occurrence of a serious nature, developing suddenly and unexpectedly, and demanding immediate action. This is generally a short duration, for example, an interruption of normal Agency operations for a week or less. It may involve electrical failure or minor flooding caused by broken pipes. (**Chapter 502** and [511](#))

**emergency operating records**

The type of essential records essential to the continued functioning or reconstitution of an organization during and after an emergency. (**Chapter 502** and [511](#))

**Essential Records**

Essential Agency records that are needed to meet operational responsibilities and to protect the legal and financial rights of the Government and those affected by Government activities during a national security emergency or disaster. (**Chapter 502** and [511](#))

**General Records Schedule (GRS)**

A National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) issued schedule governing the disposition of specified records common to several or all agencies. (**Chapter 502**)

**information system**

A discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information. [Note: Information systems also include specialized systems such as industrial/process controls systems, telephone switching and private branch exchange (PBX) systems, and environmental control systems.] Source: NIST: Key Glossary of Information Security Terms. (**Chapter 502, 509, 620**)

**intermediate**

Any film copy, other than a camera original, intended for use only in making duplicates, such as a color internegative, a duplicate positive, or a duplicate negative. (**Chapter 502**)

**internegative**

A color negative duplicate made from a color positive and used for printing use-copies to protect the originals. (**Chapter 502**)

### **inventory**

A survey of basic and indispensable records necessary for the operational continuity of selected USAID programs under unusual conditions.

An inventory lists the active records in your office and describes how they are organized and maintained. Additionally, it identifies whether the records are essential or not. A good inventory is one of the fundamental components of a record keeping system, and key to a successful records management program. Office inventories are due to M/MS/IRD by November 30th of each year. (**Chapter 502**)

### **life cycle of the record**

Management concept that records pass through three stages: creation, maintenance and use, and disposition. (**Chapter 502**)

### **log book**

a) A step-by-step written record of the activities of making a motion picture/video. Separate logs are usually kept for camera and sound recording activities; and b) a listing, usually in chronological order, of still photographs. (**Chapter 502**)

### **maintenance of records**

All operations incidental to the upkeep of an organized filing system. (**Chapter 502**)

### **master positive**

A positive print made from the original negative film and used to prepare duplicate negatives. (**Chapter 502**)

### **medium (media)**

The physical form of recorded information, includes paper, film, disk, magnetic tape and other materials on which information can be recorded. (**Chapter 502**)

### **NARA Electronic Records Archive (ERA)**

NARA's new system that allows Federal agencies to perform critical records management transactions with NARA online. Agency records management staff will use ERA to draft new records retention schedules for records in any format, officially submit those schedules for approval by NARA, request the transfer of records in any format to the National Archives for accessioning or pre-accessioning, and submit electronic records for storage in the ERA electronic records repository. (**Chapter 502**)

### **National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)**

The Federal organization responsible providing records management guidance and for appraising, accessing, preserving and making available permanent records. (**Chapter 502**)

### **negative film**

Film in which the dark portions of the original image appear light and the light portions dark. Used as the master copy from which positive copies can be made. (**Chapter 502**)

**non-record material**

U.S. Government-owned informational materials excluded from legal definition of records; documentation/correspondence that does not document USAID's policies, procedures, practices or operations. Includes extra copies of documents kept only for convenience or reference, stocks of publications of processed documents, and library or museum materials intended solely for reference or exhibition. **(Chapter 502)**

**outtake**

Any shot removed from a motion picture film or video during editing. **(Chapter 502)**

**permanent records**

Records which have been given the disposition of permanent by National Archives (NARA) in USAID Disposition Schedules (see USAID Disposition Schedule). Permanent AV records (tapes, motion picture reels, etc.) are transferred to NARA after a designated number of years. **(Chapter 502)**

**positive film**

Film in which the dark portions of the original appear dark and light portions light. **(Chapter 502)**

**receipt data**

Receipt data: Information in electronic mail systems regarding date and time of receipt of a message, and/or acknowledgment of receipt or access by addressee(s). **(Chapter 502)**

**records**

All books, papers, maps, photographs, machine readable materials, electronic documents (e.g., emails) or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics that are made or received in connection with the transaction of the Agency's business. **(Chapter 502)**

**records custodian**

Agency employee who creates, records, stores, retrieves and disposes of records pertaining to Agency official business. **(Chapter 502)**

**records schedule**

A records schedule provides mandatory instructions for the disposition of the records (including the transfer of permanent records and disposal of temporary records) when they are no longer needed by the agency. As part of the ongoing records life cycle, disposition should occur in the normal course of agency business. **(Chapter 502)**

**recovery**

To restore USAID programs/activities from a contingency state to their usual state under normal operating conditions (the rebuilding phase). **(Chapter 502)**

**release print**

The final version of a motion picture film that has been distributed for public viewing. **(Chapter 502)**

**script**

Written specifications for an aspect of a video or motion picture production, such as settings, action, camera coverage, dialogue, narration, music, and sound effects. **(Chapter 502)**

**Senior Officials**

Individuals occupying executive positions of responsibility for oversight, management, and decision making. Generally, Senior Official's records are the most important documents created within the Agency and are some of the most valued documents achieved at NARA. **(Chapter 502)**

**shot list**

A list of shots in a completed motion picture film often used for classification purposes. **(Chapter 502)**

**social media**

Applications and/or Web sites allowing users to engage in social networking. **(Chapter 502, [558](#))**

**sound track**

The portion of the length of film reserved for the sound record or any length of film bearing sound only. **(Chapter 502)**

**special types of records**

Records which, because of their size or physical characteristics, must be kept in a separate group. They include films, disks, and tape records which require special equipment and handling, cartographic materials and drawings, cards (manual and machine type), and computer printouts. **(Chapter 502)**

**stock footage**

Unedited motion picture, film or videotape of scenery and action that is retained for future use. **(Chapter 502)**

**structured data**

This term is used to describe data that resides in a database or information system. This data is generally organized and more searchable than unstructured data. USAID has several information systems such as GLAAS, Phoenix, ASIST, Web TA and E2 Travel. **(Chapter 502)**

**subject files**

Relate to standard categories, functions and interests, and consist of general file materials of incoming originals and outgoing copies of letters, memoranda, cables/telegrams, e-mails, faxes, reports and documents involving a wide variety of topics. **(Chapter 502)**

**subject filing**

The process of arranging and filing records according to their general informational content. The purpose is to bring together all papers on the same topic to make it easier to retrieve information when it is needed. (**Chapter 502**)

**System Owner (SO)**

An individual or office responsible for the creation, update, maintenance, and disposition of an electronic data system, database, or automated program. Systems currently in use are listed in the Mandatory Reference section of Chapter 502 under Electronic Records Disposition Schedule. (**Chapter 502**)

**technical documentation**

Records required to plan, develop, operate, maintain, and use electronic records and software. Included are systems specification, file specification, code books, records layout, user guides, and output specifications. (**Chapter 502**)

**technical reference files**

Copies of documents retained strictly for reference and informational purposes and which are not part of the official files. Sometimes called technical reference materials or reference publications. The technical reference file group consists of printed or processed material that has no record value but has a direct relationship to the work of the office. They include such material as technical reports, manuals and other directives, pamphlets, periodicals, and guides. They are collected for use as working tools. (**Chapter 502**)

**text documents**

Narrative or tabular documents, such as letters, memorandums, and reports, in loosely prescribed form and format. (**Chapter 502**)

**transitory correspondence**

Includes transmittal letters or forms, routine requests for information, publications or communications, acknowledgments, and other similar types of papers of short term interest which have no documentary or evident value and normally need not be kept more than 90 days. (**Chapter 502**)

**transitory files**

Contain correspondence that ordinarily would be filed in subject files except they pertain to matters of short-term interest. They constitute a separate record series because of the disposal date. (**Chapter 502**)

**transmission data**

Transmission and receipt data: Information in electronic mail systems regarding the identities of sender and addressee(s), and the date and the time messages were sent. (**Chapter 502**)

**unscheduled records**

Records (including AV records) for which a disposition has not been assigned, because the records don't fit any of the existing categories, or because they represent a new AV medium. (**Chapter 502**)

**unstructured data**

This term is used to describe data that does not reside within a database or information system. Some examples of unstructured data would be word documents, PowerPoints, e-mail messages, and excel spreadsheets. (**Chapter 502**)

**user's guide**

A package of descriptive and technical documentation prepared for use with a data file. (**Chapter 502**)

**users**

Anyone responsible for complying with operating procedures or technical documentation in utilizing a system throughout its life cycle. (**Chapter 502**)

**Web 2.0**

Another term to describe social media. Term that refers to sites on the internet that contain mobile-based tools or applications that are used for sharing and discussing information. Social media is broken into three categories: File Sharing/Storage, Social Networking and Web Publishing. (**Chapter 502**)

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