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About the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies

The [Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies](#) was established in 1974 through the efforts of the [Richard B. Russell Foundation, Inc.](#), the [Georgia General Assembly](#), and the [University System of Georgia Board of Regents](#). The Library's original mission was to collect and preserve materials that document the life and career of the late [Richard B. Russell](#), United States Senator from Georgia from 1933 to 1971. In the space of little more than three decades, the holdings of the Russell Library have expanded to include more than one hundred and fifty additional collections of papers of post 1900 elected officials, political appointees, and individuals and groups representing, persuading, or observing the political and public policy processes in Georgia and the Nation.

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies serves as a center for research and study of the modern American political system, with particular emphasis on the role of Georgia and that of the U. S. Congress. The Russell Library seeks to document fully the dynamic relationship of politics, policy, and culture—where public interest intersects with the three branches of government at all levels—through the papers, archival records, and material culture of individuals and organizations. The Russell Library is also dedicated to developing and presenting public programming and educational materials that facilitate and encourage research, raise public awareness of the Library and its collections and services, and provide learning opportunities for the communities it serves. The Russell Library pursues alliances and opportunities for collaboration with individuals and organizations that advance its mission.

As the repository of record for political and public policy papers in Georgia, the Russell Library is the only repository in the state directed solely toward support of scholarly research in modern political history and public policy development. It is the first repository to document modern politics and policy development in the Southeast. The Library has long been touted as a model for others collecting congressional collections. Because of the scope and content of its collections, it eclipses presidential libraries, which only document a four to eight year administration. The Russell Library is a founding member of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress and is a primary partner and official repository for the [Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies](#), a collaborative project dedicated to documenting and chronicling the experiences and perspectives of lesser known participants in the Civil Rights Movement in Georgia.

Aside from traditional political and biographical topics, research subject strengths include agricultural economics in the New South, public infrastructure development, land use, social relations issues and trends (ethnicity, gender, and class), civil rights, economic development issues, national defense, international relations and foreign policy, the U.S. Congress, and materials for critical thinking and historical editing projects. Several collections include significant oral history programs. Materials in the collections supplement coursework in history, political science, social sciences education, sociology,

law, women's studies, speech communications, journalism, and environmental studies, among others.