



## **Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum Skill Module**

LBJ Library and Museum 2313 Red River St. (512) 721-0200

### **Museum Hours:**

Open every day, except Christmas 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### **Reading Room Hours:**

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

The UT campus is fortunate to house the presidential library of the 36<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson. The library has over 45 million pages of documents from LBJ's presidency and his earlier political career, as well as the gifts given by foreign dignitaries to the white house, political memorabilia, an extensive collection of political cartoons from the Johnson era, and the personal effects of Johnson and his wife Ladybird. There are two ways to complete this skill module: 1) use the LBJ library for your inquiry and write up your experience of the reading room and the object you selected in 200-500 words; 2) visit the LBJ museum and write 200-500 words of **critical** response to something you found interesting.

### **LBJ Museum**

The LBJ presidential library has an attached museum which is much more user friendly than the reading room. The museum is a fun and informative trip through the LBJ presidency and includes a life- size, talking robot of LBJ who will tell you five different stories!

- 1) Describe in ~50 words the exterior of the building and your impressions of the library.
- 2) Talk about your favorite artifact on display in library. Explain what it is, why it is important, give your response to it and why it left an impression. (~200-300 words)
- 3) What is the special exhibit right now? Talk about what it is and what you learned in it. (~200 words)
- 4) Many of the archives found in the LBJ library are also found on the online federal archives. These links can be found on the LBJ website.

For this skill module, explore the digital archive "Foreign Relations of the United States 1964, Volume 1 Vietnam"

[http://www.state.gov/www/about\\_state/history/vol\\_i/index.html](http://www.state.gov/www/about_state/history/vol_i/index.html)

Find a memo to either from or to President LBJ. Cite it and explain why you found it interesting. (Note: In this early Vietnam archive you can see the indecision between

the President and his advisors about how to handle Vietnam around the election and beyond.)

**LBJ Library: For those wishing to use it for their inquiry**

If you wish to examine the administrative papers of the Johnson White House, you will have to go through the LBJ reading room and its librarians. Like the HRC the LBJ library has closed stacks, which means that you will have to order the materials you want to look at and will not be able to browse the shelves. Luckily, the library's website has an online guide to their archival collections <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/holdings/content.asp> which can help you find what you want to look at. You can also order recording of conversations the president had with various dignitaries, including JFK for \$8 <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/Dictabelt.hom/content.asp>

An easy way to familiarize yourself with the LBJ holdings is by browsing the subject guide online <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/Links.hom/sitemap.shtm>

**Once you have found the object who wish to consider, you will need to call the librarian and schedule a visit. Remember you are a researcher, please be professional.**

If, for example, you wanted to look at the presidential papers on atomic energy, you would need to use the guide to the archival collections, linked above as a finding aid. Once you click on the blue "presidential papers" link you will be taken to a list of different types of files. The information on atomic energy is listed under "White House Central Files" with topics listed alphabetically. Click on the link to "AT atomic energy," and you will be taken to a description of the different boxes available for examination and a short description of their content. Be sure to write down both the box number and the bolded shelf number to the left of the description (e.g. AT 3-1/CO International agreement/Country Box 3). Perhaps you would rather look at the documentary compilations prepared by national security staff members in 1968 on 21 different international crises? These are house in the presidential papers National Security Council Histories. Please know exactly what you want to look at before you call the librarian.

To complete this skill module if you're using this for your inquiry, write about your experience getting a reading room card and pick a particular artifact you used and describe it, give a citation, and describe it's particular importance. Your overall experience should be reflected in ~500 words.