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United States Space Program Technical Documents

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Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	1
Scope and Contents	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Mercury	3
Series 2: Gemini	4
Series 3: Apollo	5
Series 4: Skylab	7
Series 5: Apollo-Soyuz Test Project	11
Series 6: Space Shuttle	12
Series 7: Miscellaneous	13

Collection Overview

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Summary:	This collection consist of technical manuals from the American manned space program. The material includes spacecraft familiarization instructions, rendezvous and docking configurations, mission evaluation reports, operational procedures, module systems handbooks, lunar surface experiment reports, Skylab experiment reports, and payload descriptions.

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was inaugurated on 1 October 1958 with the intent of conducting a manned space program. NASA took over the rocketry and propulsion work previously performed by the United States Air Force, Navy, and National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Unmanned launches began during the International Geophysical Year (1957-58) under Air Force auspices and have continued to the present with a wide variety of payloads, including space science, weather, communications, and earth observation satellites. The

manned program progressed through Projects Mercury (1959-63; launches 1961-63), Gemini (1962-67; launches 1965-66), Apollo (1960-72; launches 1968-72), and Skylab (1969-74; launches 1973-74). After a hiatus following the Skylab program, the manned program focused on the Space Shuttle, a reusable manned spacecraft. The manned program was supported by a number of unmanned exploration vehicles in the Ranger, Lunar Orbiter, and Surveyor series throughout the 1960s, as well as research into a number of related areas.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of technical manuals from the American manned space program. The material includes spacecraft familiarization instructions, rendezvous and docking configurations, mission evaluation reports, operational procedures, module systems handbooks, lunar surface experiment reports, Skylab experiment reports, and payload descriptions.

Arrangement

This collection is into seven series by mission.

Series 1: Mercury

Series 2: Gemini

Series 3: Apollo

Series 4: Skylab

Series 5: Apollo-Soyuz

Series 6: Space Shuttle

Series 7: Miscellaneous

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Apollo Project
- Astronautics
- Gemini Project
- Lunar excursion module
- Mercury Project
- Saturn 5 Launch Vehicle
- Skylab Program
- Space Shuttle Program (U.S.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Mercury

Box 1, Folder 1

Project Mercury Familiarization Manual, McDonnell Aircraft, SEDR 104, November 1, 1961

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Gemini

Box 1, Folder 2 Project Gemini Familiarization Manual: Rendezvous and Docking Configurations,
McDonnell Aircraft, SEDR 300, July 1, 1966 (1 of 2)

Box 1, Folder 3 Project Gemini Familiarization Manual: Rendezvous and Docking Configurations,
McDonnell Aircraft, SEDR 300, July 1, 1966 (2 of 2)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Apollo

Box 1, Folder 4	Apollo Operations Handbook: Lunar Module, Volume 1: Subsystems Data, NAS 9-1100, Grumman, December 15, 1968 (1 of 3)
Box 1, Folder 5	Apollo Operations Handbook: Lunar Module, Volume 1: Subsystems Data, NAS 9-1100, Grumman, December 15, 1968 (2 of 3)
Box 2, Folder 1	Apollo Operations Handbook: Lunar Module, Volume 1: Subsystems Data, NAS 9-1100, Grumman, December 15, 1968 (3 of 3)
Box 2, Folder 2	Apollo Operations Handbook: Command and Service Modules, Volume 2: Operational Procedures, NAS 9-150, December 2, 1968 (1 of 3)
Box 2, Folder 3	Apollo Operations Handbook: Command and Service Modules, Volume 2: Operational Procedures, NAS 9-150, December 2, 1968 (2 of 2)
Box 2, Folder 4	Apollo Operations Handbook: Block II Spacecraft, Volume 1: Spacecraft Description, NAS 9-150, April 15, 1969 (1 of 3)
Box 2, Folder 5	Apollo Operations Handbook: Block II Spacecraft, Volume 1: Spacecraft Description, NAS 9-150, April 15, 1969 (2 of 3)
Box 3, Folder 1	Apollo Operations Handbook: Block II Spacecraft, Volume 1: Spacecraft Description, NAS 9-150, April 15, 1969 (3 of 3)
Box 3, Folder 2	Apollo Operations Handbook: Command and Service Model, Mission AS-204A, Spacecraft 204, October 15, 1965 (1 of 5)
Box 3, Folder 3	Apollo Operations Handbook: Command and Service Model, Mission AS-204A, Spacecraft 204, October 15, 1965 (2 of 5)
Box 3, Folder 4	Apollo Operations Handbook: Command and Service Model, Mission AS-204A, Spacecraft 204, October 15, 1965 (3 of 5)
Box 3, Folder 5	Apollo Operations Handbook: Command and Service Model, Mission AS-204A, Spacecraft 204, October 15, 1965 (4 of 5)
Box 3, Folder 6	Apollo Operations Handbook: Command and Service Model, Mission AS-204A, Spacecraft 204, October 15, 1965 (5 of 5)
Box 4, Folder 1	Command/Service Module Systems Handbook, CSM 104, November 1, 1968 (1 of 3)
Box 4, Folder 2	Command/Service Module Systems Handbook, CSM 104, November 1, 1968 (2 of 3)

Box 4, Folder 3	Command/Service Module Systems Handbook, CSM 104, November 1, 1968 (3 of 3)
Box 4, Folder 4	Apollo Supplement: Mission Operation Report, M-932-70, April 1970
Box 4, Folder 5	LEM Crew Systems Study Guide, Course #30815, Grumman Training Center, February 1966
Box 5, Folder 1	Lunar Roving Vehicle Familiarization, D209-10080-1, Boeing, June 3, 1971 (1 of 2)
Box 5, Folder 2	Lunar Roving Vehicle Familiarization, D209-10080-1, Boeing, June 3, 1971 (2 of 2)
Box 5, Folder 3	Lunar Roving Vehicle Operations Handbook, LS006-002-2H, Boeing, March 15, 1972
Box 5, Folder 4	Early Apollo Scientific Experiments Package (EASEP): Flight System, Transportation and Handling Manual, EASEP-LS-02, Bendix, April 10, 1969
Box 5, Folder 5	Fabrication Procedure: LM Thermal Shielding Insulation Blankets, LPC 280-1, Grumman, March 28, 1969 (1 of 2)
Box 5, Folder 6	Fabrication Procedure: LM Thermal Shielding Insulation Blankets, LPC 280-1, Grumman, March 28, 1969 (2 of 2)
Box 6, Folder 1	Airlock: Design Data Book, McDonnell Douglas (1 of 3)
Box 6, Folder 2	Airlock: Design Data Book, McDonnell Douglas (2 of 3)
Box 6, Folder 3	Airlock: Design Data Book, McDonnell Douglas (3 of 3)
Box 6, Folder 4	Apollo 11 Press Kit, release number 69-83K, July 6, 1969

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Skylab

Box 6, Folder 5	Saturn Workshop: Systems Familiarization, NAS 10-7100, McDonnell Douglas, January 1972 (1 of 2)
Box 7, Folder 1	Saturn Workshop: Systems Familiarization, NAS 10-7100, McDonnell Douglas, January 1972 (2 of 2)
Box 7, Folder 2	Skylab Kohoutek Experiments: Mission Evaluation, NASA TM X-64879, September 1974
Box 7, Folder 3	Skylab Kohoutek Project Report, NASA TM X-64880, October 1974
Box 7, Folder 4	Skylab Apollo Telescope Mount: Summary Mission Report, NASA TM X-64815, June 28, 1974
Box 7, Folder 5	Catalog of Skylab Information, M-GA-74-6, October 1974
Box 7, Folder 6	A Summary of the Skylab Crew/Vehicle Disturbances Experiment T-103, NASA TN D-8128, March 1976
Box 7, Folder 7	Skylab Mission Sequence Evaluation, NASA TM X-64816, March 1974
Box 7, Folder 8	Skylab Experience Bulletin 7: An Overview of IVA Personal Restraint Systems, JSC-09541, October 1974
Box 8, Folder 1	The Proceedings of the Skylab Life Sciences Symposium, volume II, NASA TM X-58154, November 1974 (2 copies)
Box 8, Folder 2	Skylab Corollary Experiment Systems Mission Evaluation, NASA TM X-64820, September 1974
Box 8, Folder 3	Handbook of Pilot Operational Equipment for Manned Space Flight, CD42-A/SL-997, June 1973
Box 9, Folder 1	Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter and Experiments: News Reference, Martin Marietta, May 1973 (2 copies)
Box 9, Folder 2	Skylab Experiment Operations Handbook, 1975 (1 of 2)
Box 9, Folder 3	Skylab Experiment Operations Handbook, 1975 (2 of 2)
Box 9, Folder 4	Skylab Experiments, volume 1: Physical Science, Solar Astronomy (2 copies)
Box 9, Folder 5	Skylab Experiments, volume 2: Remote Sensing of Earth Resources (3 copies)
Box 10, Folder 1	Skylab Experiments, volume 3: Materials Science (3 copies)

Box 10, Folder 2	Skylab Experiments, volume 5: Astronomy and Space Physics (3 copies)
Box 10, Folder 3	Skylab Experiments, volume 6: Mechanics (3 copies)
Box 10, Folder 4	Skylab Experiments, volume 7: Living and Working in Space (2 copies)
Box 10, Folder 5	Skylab and the Sun
Box 10, Folder 6	Skylab: KSC Closeout Photographs (1 of 2)
Box 11, Folder 1	Skylab: KSC Closeout Photographs (2 of 2)
Box 11, Folder 2	Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter, volume 1, NASA TM X-64812, April 1974 (1 of 3)
Box 11, Folder 3	Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter, volume 1, NASA TM X-64812, April 1974 (2 of 3)
Box 11, Folder 4	Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter, volume 1, NASA TM X-64812, April 1974 (3 of 3)
Box 11, Folder 5	Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter, volume 2, NASA TM X-64812, April 1974 (1 of 3)
Box 11, Folder 6	Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter, volume 2, NASA TM X-64812, April 1974 (2 of 3)
Box 12, Folder 1	Skylab Multiple Docking Adapter, volume 2, NASA TM X-64812, April 1974 (3 of 3)
Box 12, Folder 2	Skylab Program Payload Integration: MDA Stowage Installation Drawings, ED-2002-2046, Revision C, March 9, 1973
Box 12, Folder 3	Skylab Airlock Module, volume 1, NASA TM X-64810, April 1974
Box 12, Folder 4	Skylab Mission Report: Saturn Workshop, NASA TM X-64814, October 1974 (1 of 3)
Box 13, Folder 1	Skylab Mission Report: Saturn Workshop, NASA TM X-64814, October 1974 (2 of 3)
Box 13, Folder 2	Skylab Mission Report: Saturn Workshop, NASA TM X-64814, October 1974 (3 of 3)
Box 13, Folder 3	Proceedings of the Third Space Processing Symposium: Skylab Results, volume 1, April 30 - May 1, 1974 (1 of 3) (2 copies)
Box 13, Folder 4	Proceedings of the Third Space Processing Symposium: Skylab Results, volume 1, April 30 - May 1, 1974 (2 of 3) (2 copies)
Box 13, Folder 5	Proceedings of the Third Space Processing Symposium: Skylab Results, volume 1, April 30 - May 1, 1974 (3 of 3) (2 copies)

Box 14, Folder 1	Proceedings of the Third Space Processing Symposium: Skylab Results, volume 2, April 30 - May 1, 1974 (1 of 4) (2 copies)
Box 14, Folder 2	Proceedings of the Third Space Processing Symposium: Skylab Results, volume 2, April 30 - May 1, 1974 (2 of 4) (2 copies)
Box 14, Folder 3	Proceedings of the Third Space Processing Symposium: Skylab Results, volume 2, April 30 - May 1, 1974 (3 of 4) (2 copies)
Box 14, Folder 4	Proceedings of the Third Space Processing Symposium: Skylab Results, volume 2, April 30 - May 1, 1974 (4 of 4) (2 copies)
Box 15, Folder 1	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 012, NAS 9-10465, August 26, 1972 (1 of 2)
Box 15, Folder 2	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 012, NAS 9-10465 (2 of 2)
Box 15, Folder 3	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 009, NAS 9-10465, March 15, 1972 (1 of 2)
Box 16, Folder 1	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 009, NAS 9-10465, March 15, 1972 (2 of 2)
Box 16, Folder 2	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 008, PN 132728-05, March 6, 1972 (1 of 4)
Box 16, Folder 3	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 008, PN 132728-05, March 6, 1972 (2 of 4)
Box 16, Folder 4	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 008, PN 132728-05, March 6, 1972 (3 of 4)
Box 16, Folder 5	Acceptance Data Package: Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 008, PN 132728-05, March 6, 1972 (4 of 4)
Box 16, Folder 6	Acceptance Data Package, Valve, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 007, PN 132872-02, September 26, 1972
Box 17, Folder 1	Acceptance Data Package, Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 005, PN 132728-04, February 21, 1972 (1 of 4)
Box 17, Folder 2	Acceptance Data Package, Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 005, PN 132728-04, February 21, 1972 (2 of 4)
Box 17, Folder 3	Acceptance Data Package, Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 005, PN 132728-04, February 21, 1972 (3 of 4)

Box 17, Folder 4

Acceptance Data Package, Pressure Control Unit, Skylab Flight Hardware, SN 005,
PN 132728-04, February 21, 1972 (4 of 4)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 5: Apollo-Soyuz Test Project

Box 17, Folder 5 Apollo-Soyuz Test Project: Information for Press, 1975

Box 18, Folder 1 Apollo-Soyuz: Mission Evaluation Report, JSC-10607, December 1975

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 6: Space Shuttle

Box 18, Folder 2	Space Shuttle System Payload Accommodations, volume 14, revision D, November 26, 1975 (1 of 2)
Box 18, Folder 3	Space Shuttle System Payload Accommodations, volume 14, revision D, November 26, 1975 (2 of 2)
Box 18, Folder 4	Small Self-Contained Payloads: Payload Descriptions
Box 18, Folder 5	EVA Catalog: Tools and Equipment, JSC-20466, November 4, 1985
Box 19, Folder 1	Draft Report on the Utilization of the External Tanks of the Space Transportation System, October 8, 1982
Box 19, Folder 2	Shuttle Flight Operations Manual: EVA Systems, PCN-1, revision A, May 15, 1980
Box 19, Folder 3	Get Away Special Payloads Safety Manual, May 1986

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 7: Miscellaneous

Box 19, Folder 4	Rice University Space Station Study Report 4: An Investigation of the Needs and the Design of an Orbiting Space Station with Growth Capabilities, March 1976
Box 19, Folder 5	Major NASA Satellite Missions and Key Participants, volume II, 1982
Box 19, Folder 6	Manned Space Platform: A Conceptual Design and Analysis Study, October 1981

[Return to Table of Contents](#)