



Smithsonian Institution Archives

Budget Records, 1892-1893, 1900-1947

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Smithsonian Institution Archives
Washington, D.C.
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Smithsonian Institution Archives, Washington, D.C., osiaref@si.edu
Title:	Budget Records
Identifier:	Record Unit 49
Date:	1892-1893, 1900-1947
Extent:	3.75 cu. ft. (7 document boxes) (1 half document box)
Creator::	Smithsonian Institution. Office of the Secretary
Language:	English

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 49, Smithsonian Institution, Office of the Secretary, Budget Records

Historical Note

The budget process at the Smithsonian Institution was fairly straightforward in its early years. The Institution's federal funding was modest and required scarcely more than pro forma justification. As federal appropriations increased, the process of preparing and justifying the Institution's requests took more effort. These records, collected from among the records of various secretarial administrations by persons unknown, begin during the tenure of Samuel P. Langley, who obtained added funds for the National Zoological Park and the Astrophysical Observatory, and extend to the administration of Alexander Wetmore. The records illustrate the comparatively simpler budget processes prior to World War I; the elaboration of the process in the 1920's as the Bureau of Budget developed within the Executive Office of the President; and the routinization of the new procedures during the 1930's and 1940's.

Descriptive Entry

These records document the Smithsonian budget process during the tenures of Secretaries Samuel Pierpont Langley, Charles Doolittle Walcott, Charles Greeley Abbot, and Alexander Wetmore. They consist of budget calls by the Secretary; submissions from the various divisions; correspondence with congressional budget committees and the Smithsonian's congressional Regents, and later with the Bureau of the Budget as well; and final submissions explaining and defending the Institution's requests. Some of the earlier records include transcripts of the Secretary's testimony before congressional committees, but this material becomes infrequent in later records.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Museum finance
Museums -- Administration

Types of Materials:

Manuscripts

Names:

Abbot, C. G. (Charles Greeley), 1872-1973
Langley, S. P. (Samuel Pierpont), 1834-1906
National Zoological Park (U.S.)
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
Smithsonian Institution -- Administration
Walcott, Charles D. (Charles Doolittle), 1850-1927
Wetmore, Alexander, 1886-1978

Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 8 Folders 1-3 Budget records, 1892-1894

Box 1 of 8 Folders 4-12 Budget records, 1900-1908

Box 2

Box 2 of 8 Folders 1-8 Budget records, 1908-1913

Box 3

Box 3 of 8 Folders 1-8 Budget records, FY 1914-FY 1920

Box 4

Box 4 of 8 Folders 1-7 Budget records, FY 1921-FY 1925

Box 5

Box 5 of 8 Folders 1-8 Budget records, FY 1925-FY 1929

Box 6

Box 6 of 8 Folders 1-9 Budget records, FY 1930-FY 1938

Box 7

Box 7 of 8 Folders 1-6 Budget records, FY 1939-FY 1945

Box 8

Box 8 of 8 Folders 1-2 Budget records, FY 1946-FY 1947