

What Goes in an Archive

Save your legacy today!

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FOCUS

What'll it be – your amazing career? The family that launched you into this world? The one you made? Your family of choice from theatre or college days? You can expand these boundaries at any time, but begin with some kind of focus.

SAVE

- Newspaper clippings
- Photographs
- School records
- Letters
- Diaries
- Work records
- Deeds, architectural drawings, landscaping notes
- Audio and video recordings
- Scrapbooks
- Greeting cards with notes
- Passports

DON'T SAVE

Items that are saved elsewhere. Mostly. The quarterly report from that old corporate job can go! Unless it's part of your writing or photography portfolio, just toss it without guilt.

An old Texaco map with no annotations can go! An old Texaco map overwritten with notes, dates, and routes perfectly supplements your family vacation photos. An old Texaco map that is part of a larger collection documenting your home state can stay... context matters, and if it is *meaningful* I suggest keeping it. Can't bear to toss it? Donate it!

Items you can't care for properly: anything wet, moldy, or living, maybe 3-D items or oil paintings.

I spent 18 years as “archivist and senior research scholar” at an academic science library, adding women & people of color to the global historical record of a branch of science. I have degrees in women’s studies and cultural theory – the latter means that I see the cultural value of everyday practices such as food, clothing, hobbies, and domestic arrangements. Let's change what is knowable by adding women's stories to archives! ~ Angela
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