



Archives of the Argentine Congress

A guide for researchers

2025



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Translated into English by the Translation Bureau of the Argentine
Library of Congress

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This guide has been designed to help researchers navigate and access the vast documentary heritage of the Argentine Congress, which includes the holdings safeguarded by the Argentine Library of Congress and the valuable archives of the Honorable Senate of the Nation and the Honorable House of Deputies of the Nation. Designed as a practical reference tool for researchers, this guide primarily aims to unify the information about the Argentine Congress' various repositories, providing a roadmap to each archive's thematic scope, covered periods, and description instruments.

Archive of the Honorable Senate of the Nation

The Under-Directorate of Archives and Legislative Records safeguards the invaluable documentary heritage of the Argentine Senate. Its holdings, spanning from 1854 to the present, include laws of the Argentine Confederation and the Argentine Republic, legislative background materials with plans and maps, constitutional amendments, impeachment proceedings, and session minutes.

Holdings of the Honorable Senate of the Nation

They are a key source of historical and legal information. They are divided into two main sections:

- Argentine Confederation (1852-1862), which contains original documents of the Argentine Confederation Senate based in Paraná. This section includes archival series on Confederation laws, closed-session minutes, and provincial constitutions.
- Argentine Republic (1862-present), which encompasses the legislative and administrative activities of the Argentine Senate, including series on bills, impeachment proceedings, judicial and military appointments, and orders of the Senate's President.

Hipólito Yrigoyen 1849, CABA

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

(011) 2822-3080/84

archivodeleyes@senado.gob.ar

Parliamentary Archive of the Honorable House of Deputies of the Nation

Directorate of Archives and Publications

The Directorate of Archives and Publications, under the aegis of the General Parliamentary Directorate and the House Parliamentary Secretary Office, safeguards the documental heritage arising from legislative activity. Its holdings include more than 600,000 records dating from 1862 to the present.

The collections, of great historical, legal, and administrative value, contain a wide variety of documents, including:

- Records that, having completed the legislative process, became national laws addressing a variety of issues, including the advancement of rights, national budgets, approval of treaties and infrastructure projects (railways, hospitals, schools), etc.
- Session Minutes of the Paraná Congress (1854-1861) and the Buenos Aires Congress (1862-1899); as well as closed-session minutes.
- Documents related to the work of Investigative Committees, along with their respective reports.
- Biographical data of legislators and authorities of the Argentine House of Deputies since 1854.
- Certificates of Deputies.
- Plans, maps, and photographs.

Bartolomé Mitre, 1st floor, Office No. 102, CABA
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
(011) 6075-0000 (ext. 5851 and 5852)
direccion.dapublicaciones@hcdn.gob.ar

Parliamentary Information Directorate

Established over a century ago, the Parliamentary Information Directorate provides assistance to authorities, legislators, committees, and party caucuses of both Houses of Congress. It offers information, documents, studies, research papers, and expert advice for the purpose of contributing to an efficient functioning of Congress and providing similar services to other public and private organizations.

Av. Rivadavia 1864, 2nd floor, Office No. 209 (former 214), CABA

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(011) 6075-0000 (ext. 3629/3630/3636)

dip@hcdn.gob.ar

Archives and Collections of the Argentine Library of Congress

Research and Archive Room

The purpose of the Special Archives Department is to preserve and provide access to personal collections related to the country's political and cultural life. In this room, researchers can access an expert reference service on the Library's documentary holdings, as well as guidance and support for conducting catalog searches. It also safeguards an extensive collection on Argentine and Latin American architecture and urbanism.

Hipólito Yrigoyen 1750, CABA

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

archivos.especiales@bcn.gob.ar

- **OEI/CEDODAL Collection**

The Center for the Documentation of Latin American Architecture (CEDODAL, by its Spanish acronym) was created in 1995 by architects Graciela María Viñuales and Ramón Gutiérrez, with the purpose of promoting the appreciation of the architectural and urban heritage of our country and the American continent. In 2021, the Argentine Library of Congress signed an agreement with CEDODAL and the Organization of Ibero-American States (OEI, by its Spanish acronym), under which CEDODAL donated to the OEI an exceptional collection of books, newspapers, magazines, and documents on the history, art, architecture, and urbanism of the American continent.

The Argentine Library of Congress was designated as the depository library of this collection and is responsible for the classification, restoration, and enhancement of the donated items, in order to preserve, catalog, and make available to the public essential heritage material for the study and dissemination of the culture of the American continent.

- **Architects and Architecture Firms**

This collection comprises the holdings of architects and architecture firms, with documents of historical value, including: drawings, sketches, reports, manuscripts, correspondence, publications, articles, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, photographs, and a significant collection of plans and projects, as well as other documents related to the professional, academic, and personal life of prominent Latin American architects.

Some of the available collections belonged to: Alberto Prebisch; Luis Miguel Morea; Eugenio Baroffio; Ernesto Enrique Vautier; Raúl González Capdevila; César Juan Loustau Infantozzi; Héctor Carlos Morixe (partial); Alejandro Gabriel Bustillo; Sánchez, Lagos and de la Torre; Jorge Enrique Hardoy; and Mario Palanti. Two more collections, formerly held by Mario Cooke and the Armesto-Casado Sastre Studio, are currently being processed.

- **Congresses, Seminars, and Exhibitions**

This section includes document collections from different congresses, seminars, and exhibitions, assembled by CEDODAL as part of its efforts to locate and preserve documents from events fostering professional exchanges among architects. The documents that can be found in this section come, among others, from the Pan-American Congresses of Architecture, the Seminar of Latin American Architecture, the Ibero-American Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism, and the A. Fernández Alba pamphlet collection.

- **Institutions**

This collection compiles and organizes materials related to the architecture of different buildings and to the activity of institutions linked to the world of architecture, notably the *Banco Hipotecario Nacional* (National Mortgage Bank) and the *Banco de la Nación Argentina* (Bank of the Argentine Nation).

- **Political and Social Archives**

These archives gather personal holdings and collections that offer a unique testament to the political, social, and cultural history of Argentina in the twentieth century. They were incorporated into the Argentine Library of Congress through agreements signed with their compilers or their families, in order to make these remarkable materials available to the public. They include the collections of Bernardo Alberte, Avelino Fernández, Armando César Bucich, Mabel Clelia Di Leo, and Felisa Pinto, as well as the photographic collections of Pablo Vicente and César Gotta.

Special Collections Room

The Special Collections Room houses the Library's oldest and most valuable bibliographic materials. It consists of three closed collections (the Palant Library, the Peronist Library, and the Juan María Gutiérrez collection) and one open collection (the Reserved Collection). To access the Special Collections Room, users must fill in a form.

Av. Rivadavia 1864, 3rd floor, Office No. 323

Palace of the Argentine National Congress, CABA

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

drgcespeciales@bcn.gob.ar

- **Dr. Juan María Gutiérrez' Collection**

It belonged to one of the most renowned figures of the 1837 generation: Dr. Juan María Gutiérrez, a constitutional convention delegate, man of culture, and promoter of Argentine and Latin American literature. His library and personal archive were acquired by the Library of Congress in 1908, following a parliamentary debate. This collection offers an invaluable testament to his intellectual development and the ideas that shaped his generation. The archive includes manuscripts with marginal notes, drawings, photographs, and documents that reflect his extensive career, along with a large collection of letters he exchanged with distinguished nineteenth-century figures, which allow readers to trace the political, literary, and intellectual life of the time.

- **Reserved Collection**

It contains rare and historic books: the Library's first books; first editions; plans and texts from the nineteenth century; art books; complete works in different languages; and commemorative, limited, illustrated, or single editions.

- **Peronist Library**

It comprises bibliographic materials published between 1945 and 1955 that were seized by the self-proclaimed *Revolución Libertadora* (Liberating Revolution) between 1955 and 1956 and later sent to the Library. The collection includes Juan Domingo Perón's military record, speeches and official publications, housing plans, propaganda materials, and reading books.

- **Palant Library**

This is a unique collection in the field of shorthand writing in Argentina. It belonged to Miguel Palant, Director of Shorthand Services of the Honorable National Senate, who bequeathed it to the Argentine Library of Congress. This collection consists primarily of unique works on shorthand writing in various languages and spanning all periods, particularly the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It is consulted by specialists, and its bibliography has been presented at several international congresses. It also includes works on the history of writing and different shorthand systems, notably the one developed by Florentino Ameghino, printed in Paris in 1880.

Services for Researchers at the Argentine Library of Congress

Science and Technology e-Library

It holds over 30,000 digital scientific and technical publications, reference databases, and national and international bibliographic information of relevance to the scientific community.

becyt@bcn.gob.ar

Legislative Services

This section provides legal and parliamentary information at the national, provincial, municipal, and international levels, scholarly opinions, case law, thematic indexes, studies and research papers, as well as access to national and international legal information networks. The collection comprises legal and parliamentary documents from 1853 to the present, official collections of national and foreign legislation and parliamentary proceedings, and a comprehensive bibliographic repository.

Av. Rivadavia 1864, 3rd floor, Office No. 327,
Palace of the Argentine National Congress, CABA
(011) 4378-5626 | servicioslegislativos@bcn.gob.ar

Magazines' Room

The Magazines' Room holds more than 10,000 titles of national and international periodicals of general, contemporary, and academic interest. Access to the materials in this archive is available in person, by telephone, and online.

Hipólito Yrigoyen 1750, CABA
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(011) 4371-5739 | revistas@bcn.gob.ar

Newspapers' Room

The Newspapers' Room holds a wide range of Argentine national and provincial publications and various publications from neighboring countries, other Latin American countries, the United States, Spain, Italy, etc. The Room offers a microfilm consultation service.

Adolfo Alsina 1831, CABA

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

(011) 4378-5655 ext. 1050 | diarios@bcn.gob.ar



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