



Senior Agency Official for Records Management 2022 Annual Report

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requires Senior Agency Officials for Records Management (SAORM) to provide an annual report demonstrating how agencies are handling important records management initiatives as identified by NARA.

NARA uses the reports to determine the overall progress of the federal government in managing its records and the transition away from paper to digital formats, and to identify best practices and model solutions within federal agencies.

On June 28, 2019, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and NARA issued a memorandum, *Transition to Electronic Records* ([M-19-21](#)), to ensure that all federal records are created, retained, and managed in electronic formats. M-19-21 gave agencies until the end of December 2022 to comply with several specific deadlines.

On December 23, 2022, OMB and NARA issued a new memorandum, *Update to Transition to Electronic Records* ([M-23-07](#)) reinforcing the goals in M-19-21 and extending the 2022 deadlines to June 30, 2024.

Additionally, on January 1, 2021, Congress enacted the Preservation of Electronic Messages and Other Records Act, amending 44 U.S.C. Chapter 29, that requires the electronic capture, management, and preservation of such electronic records in accordance with the records disposition requirements of 44 U.S.C. Chapter 33.

This year's SAORM report provides an opportunity for agencies to report on plans and progress towards electronic recordkeeping and preservation under these requirements, as well as other important records management initiatives.

The reporting period begins on January 9, 2023, and reports are due back to NARA no later than March 10, 2023.

NARA plans to post your 2022 SAORM report on the NARA website upon receipt. Please ensure that your agency's report is a publicly releasable version. This action is in the interest of transparency in government and to promote collaboration and communication among agencies. NARA intends to list any non-responding agencies in a summary report on our website.

Instructions for Reporting:

- This template covers records management program developments, including those related to the transition to electronic recordkeeping as required by M-19-21 and M-23-07.
- Please be brief and precise in your answers. Limit answers to each question to no more than 500 words.
- Please complete the questions/items below and send the report to rmsselfassessment@nara.gov. Include the words “SAORM 2022 Annual Report - [Agency Name]” in the subject line of the email.
- If you are responsible for records management in multiple agencies, components, or bureaus, please determine how you will submit reports to NARA. While NARA prefers a comprehensive report, you may submit separate reports for each component.

NARA may follow up with agencies to obtain additional information and/or documentation related to responses provided in the template.

As in previous years, we will be validating selected questions and responses from agencies. Your agency may be selected at random to provide additional documentation and/or take part in interviews to discuss your records management program activities.

Provide the following information (required):

1. What agencies, bureaus, components, or offices are covered by this report and your position as SAORM and which will be reporting separately?

Central Intelligence Agency

Please provide a list and indicate any that are new or have been changed due to reorganization or other circumstances.

2. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, have any of the temporary adaptations to agency business processes become permanent improvements to the management and preservation of electronic records?

Yes

No

Not applicable, no adaptations were needed

Do not know

Please explain your response. (If Yes, include details of the changes and why they became permanent. If No, or Do not know, please explain your answer.)

While the COVID pandemic has impacted staffing, it has not changed any policies or practices related to records management.

3. Has your agency taken action to meet the goal to manage, preserve and transfer all permanent records in an electronic format with appropriate metadata by June 30, 2024? (M-19-21, 1.2 and M-23-07, 1.1 and 1.2)

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response with specific actions taken, challenges and results.

The Agency has policies in place to prepare for transferring permanent records electronically to NARA. At the moment, NARA does not have a way to accept most electronic transfers from CIA due to security restrictions. The Agency does not have any permanent electronic records eligible for transfer. We have policies, contingent on NARA's permanent digitization guidance, for records that are only available in analog formats and will remain with the Agency past the M-23-07 date or any dates put forward in our exception request.

4. Has your agency taken action to meet the goal to manage and preserve all temporary records in an electronic format by June 30, 2024? (M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3)

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response with specific actions taken, challenges and results.

There are only a few temporary records series that are still managed in paper. These series, currently, only exist in paper and there are a number of resource related challenges to digitizing these records as documented in our exemption request. These paper records are managed and tracked in a system with the appropriate metadata. Efforts are underway for transitioning the business process to capture and manage all records electronically. The Agency continues working toward managing all new temporary records fully electronically with appropriate metadata.

5. Will your agency meet the requirements of M-19-21, 1.3 and M-23-07, 1.3 to close agency-operated records storage facilities and transfer inactive, temporary records to Federal Records Centers or commercial records storage facilities by June 30, 2024?

Yes

X No

- Not applicable, all records are in electronic format
 Do not know

Please explain your response with specific actions taken, challenges and results.

No commercial records centers have been identified that are capable of meeting the storage and immediate item recall requirements (time service requirements) for CIA's records. An exception request was submitted to the Archivist of the United States in May 2021 that details challenges related to the requirements of M 19-21, 1.3.

6. Does your agency have policies and procedures that incorporate records management into the information governance (IG) framework for information, data, and other agency information management? (This includes a relationship between CIO, CDO, SAORM, DRO/ARO, Records Management (RM) Staff, Security, Privacy Officers, and FOIA)

Note: The incorporation of records management into information governance is part of the framework covered by [OMB Federal Data Strategy - A Framework for Consistency \(M-19-18\)](#) as it provides a vision for managing and using federal data, along with recordkeeping requirements included in [OMB Circular A-130, Managing Information as a Strategic Resource](#).

X Yes

- No
 Do not know

Please explain your response and provide details about how your agency's policies enhance IG and RM's role or relationship to it.

The Agency has policies and procedures incorporating records management with information governance. The SAORM is involved in the governance framework and the ARO, RM Staff, Privacy Officers, and FOIA program operate in the same part of the organization, reporting to the SAORM who serves as the Chief Data Officer (CDO). The SAORM regularly meets with the CIO and has touchpoints with Security.

7. Has your agency developed policies and procedures to ensure the capture and preservation of electronic messages, including when hardware or software is upgraded?

Note: Electronic messages means electronic mail and other electronic messaging systems that are used for purposes of communicating between individuals. Electronic messages that satisfy the definition of a federal record under the Federal Records Act are electronic records. This includes email, text messages, chat messages, voicemail, social media posts, and other similar applications. (See: [Email Management](#) and [CFR 1236: Electronic Records Management](#))

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response and include details of your agency's methods to capture and preserve electronic messaging records or challenges preventing you from doing so.

The Agency captures and protects all email with the ability to retain the emails created and received by senior officials permanently. The Agency maintains databases containing chat conversations and we store social media records in a repository.

8. Is your agency using or exploring cognitive technologies to identify records and distinguish between temporary and permanent retention?

Note: Cognitive technologies generally describe automated technologies that can be applied to recordkeeping practices and procedures. These include Artificial Intelligence, Robotic Process Automation, Software Robot or Bot, and other machine learning technologies.

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response. (If Yes, include details on both methods and tools being explored, the level of accuracy and how that level is determined.)

The Agency has made past efforts to incorporate AI/ML into processes that would distinguish between temporary and permanent records, but we are not currently exploring this specific practice further.

9. Do you as SAORM regularly oversee and evaluate the effectiveness of your records management program and its compliance with statutes and regulations?

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response including what specific measures you have incorporated into the SAORM role.

SAORM is heavily involved with information governance and regularly oversees many aspects of the records management program. Additionally, the SAORM serves as the final decision maker when implementing or updating Agency records management policies and procedures, as needed.

10. Is there specific policy or guidance you need from NARA to support the strategic direction of your records management program?

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response and include any comments on existing, pending, and future topics.

The Agency requests more progress toward finalized permanent digitization standards for all media types so that we better can staff and develop our scanning program in line with the requirements.

11. Do you have any suggestions for how NARA can better engage with you and your program in your role as SAORM?

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response and include any comments on previous NARA SAORM engagements, topics for future engagements, or other suggestions.

We suggest revisiting the implementation of the Tribal Implications requirement for new schedules. An exception for agencies that likely do not have Tribal involvement or a process that incorporates the certification into ERA instead of requiring separate emails for every schedule submitted would improve the current clunky workflow.