



How does the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research support the Church's mission?

Why an “Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research?”

Because Seventh-day Adventists need to know “the way the Lord has led us and His teaching in our past history” (*Ellen White, Life Sketches, 196*) and because church leaders need to plan effectively to advance Adventist mission.

Historical documents, photographs and statistics allow us to analyze and understand Adventist history and identity. We share this understanding with church members via our websites, TV programs, and seminars at camp meetings and local churches.

Archives

The Archive is comprised of three parts:

1. Records Center

- A repository for records no longer regularly used by the office that created them, but that may need to be consulted.
- Records in the Records Center are not open to external researchers.



2. Archives

- Serves as the corporate memory of the General Conference. Its holdings include minutes, correspondence and other papers; microfilm; photographs and glass slides; and audio and video material.
- Most of these materials are open to qualified researchers.

3. Rebek Memorial Library

- Serves as a repository for materials of enduring permanent value. Its holdings include rare books, pamphlets, correspondence and other papers; and photographs, all donated.
- Materials are open to qualified researchers.

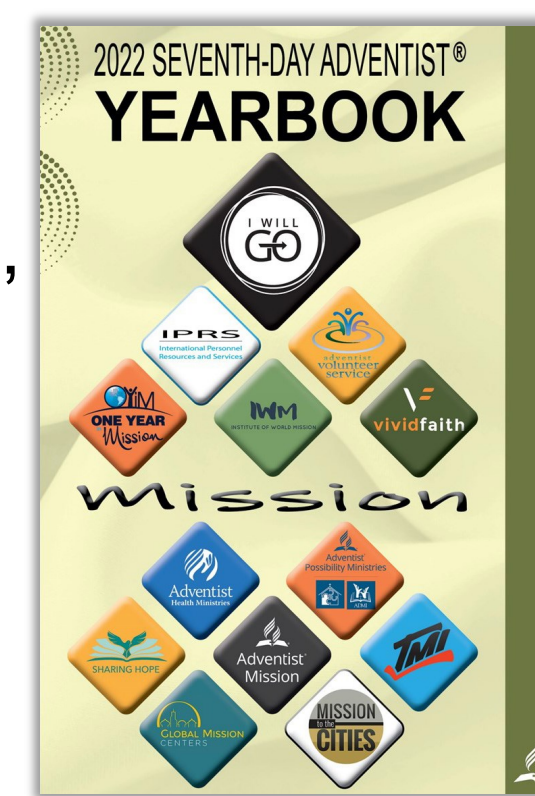
With more than 1.5 million pages of historic materials – including books, magazines, dissertations, minutes, and photographs –that are downloadable for free, the Archives website is an invaluable resource, available online at documents.adventistarchives.org/

Statistics

The statistical portion of ASTR is responsible for gathering quarterly and annual statistics on churches, members, employees, contributions, and institutional finances, as well as information on all the organizational and institutional entities representing the World Church.

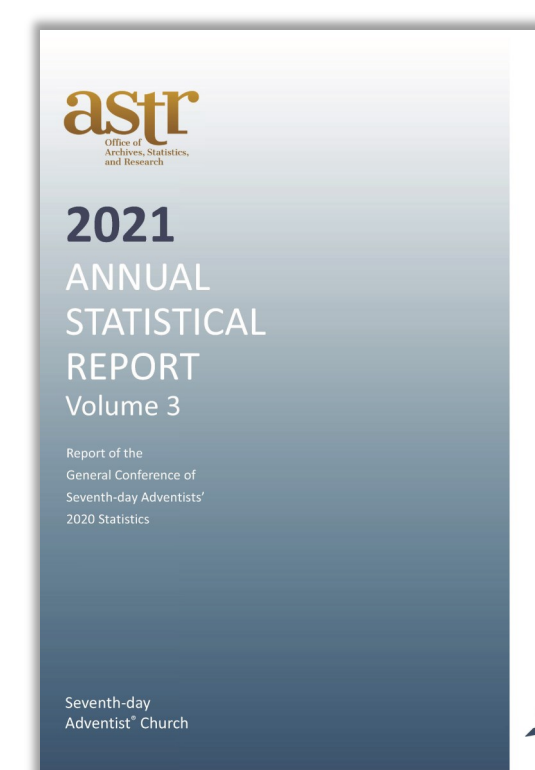
Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook

- Lists all of the divisions, unions, conferences, and missions around the world, as well as institutions such as colleges and universities, accredited secondary schools, food industries, hospitals and clinics, health education and lifestyle centers, nursing homes, orphanages, media centers, publishing houses, and radio and television stations.
- The current contents of the Yearbook can also be found and searched online at www.adventistyearbook.org.



Annual Statistical Report (ASR)

- Provides a detailed statistical summary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide.
- Provides historical statistics, departmental statistics, and summary tables.
- Visit www.adventiststatistics.org to find the ASR and a wealth of historical statistics online.



Historical Research



Learning history can help us better understand Adventist identity in the past and the present so the Church can move confidently into the future. Our team conducts historical, historical-theological, and statistical analysis, drawing on the work of the Archives and Statistics

teams and relying on materials in the Archives and Library.

This research has resulted in publications, such as *[“We aim at nothing less than the whole world”: The Seventh-day Adventist Church's Missionary Enterprise and the General Conference Secretariat, 1863-2019](#)*, one of our General Conference Archives Monographs series.

This team is also responsible for historical content on our social media platforms as well as providing historical photographs to other GC departments and offices.

Research and Evaluation

1. Qualitative and Quantitative Human-Subject Research

- Our team supervises qualitative and quantitative human-subject research done by external research teams. This is to identify significant trends in Adventism and to contribute to the strategic planning process of the World Church.
- We also provide key support to the development of the [World Church's strategic plan](#).
- Our team helps organize conferences for Adventist human-subject researchers (AHSRA Conferences) and for church leaders (Summits on Nurture and Retention).



2. Mission Effectiveness Evaluation

- Our team works to evaluate the mission effectiveness of denominational agencies, programs, and ministries, helping to facilitate their continual improvement.
- Mission-Effectiveness Evaluation Manual and Handbook are available on our website.



3. Available [Website](#) Resources

- Research Reports, Blogs, PowerPoint Presentations, Global Church's strategic plans, Material from Summits on Nurture and Retention, ASTR [Research Newsletter](#), Books and other resources available for purchase.

Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists

The Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists (ESDA) is a global church project giving information on many subjects from the Adventist history, including people, institutions, the work in countries, the historical development of Adventist beliefs, and more.

Launched in July 2020, ESDA has currently more than 3,500 articles, 9,000 photographs and many videos. New content in English and several other languages continues to be added periodically.

Please visit <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/>.



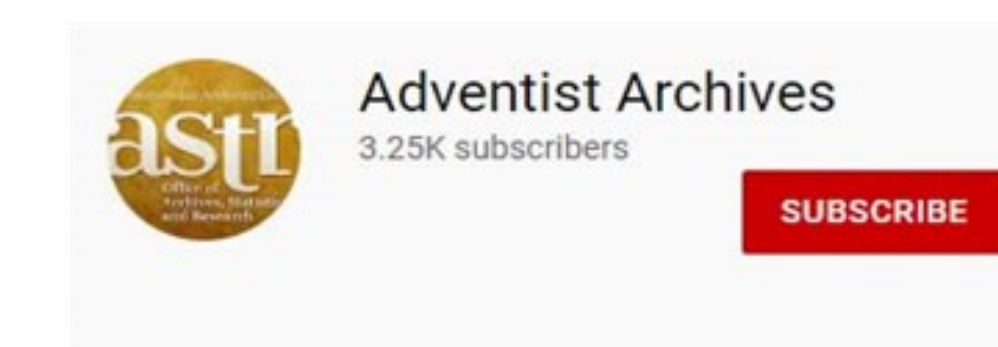
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[ASTR Newsletter](#)



[Research Newsletter](#)



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References & Links

ASTR Website: <https://www.adventistarchives.org/>

Online Archives Website: <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/>

Adventist Yearbook Website: <http://www.adventistyearbook.org/>

Statistics Website: <http://www.adventiststatistics.org/>

Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists Website: <https://encyclopedia.adventist.org/>

Research and Evaluation Website: <https://www.adventistresearch.info/>

ASTR Newsletter: <https://www.adventistarchives.org/astr-newsletter>

Research and Evaluation Newsletter: <https://www.adventistresearch.info/astr-research-newsletter/>

Social Media Links: <https://www.adventistarchives.org/astr-social-media/>