



ARCHIVAL RESOURCES

of the Virginias

Who We Are

- Archival Resources of the Virginias (ARVAS) (formerly Virginia Heritage)
- Consolidated database of finding aids from 56+ institutions in Virginia and West Virginia
- Information on the array of manuscripts and archival materials
- All-volunteer leadership team with representation from 11 institutions

Timeline of ARVAS history



What We've Been Doing

- Creating an aggregator for shared discovery of finding aids, which can help with finding related collections across institutions.
- Steadily growing and expanding! We've long since outgrown our original NEH grant from 2000.
- Adding new members, including our first West Virginia member in 2020.
- Developing a process for harvesting finding aids from ArchivesSpace
- Developing EAD training + technology support, including two pathways creating EAD files to upload.
- Offering (limited) support from our volunteer team to help with EAD creation.
- Hosted (and continue to host) information sessions and town halls



What's Next?

- Onboarding more members!
- Hopefully, additional support for other finding aid/descriptive record discovery (we want to hear your access challenges and brainstorm creative solutions!)
- Advocacy for a national descriptive record platform (participation in NAFAN and other discussions)
- Support for discovery of community archives (more on that shortly)
- Staying sustainable!



Website Overview (public pages, membership pages, and database, oh my!)

- Main website: <https://arvasarchive.org/>
- Includes information about ARVAS and its governance structure, resources for members and member directory
- Finding aid search box that searches across all the guides submitted by our member institutions



The image shows a dark gray rectangular box representing a search interface. At the top, the text "Search Finding Aids" is displayed in white. Below this, there is a white search input field with the placeholder text "Search ...". To the right of the input field is a teal button with the word "Search" in white. Below the input field, the text "Advanced Search" is visible in a smaller, lighter font.



Community Archives Directory

- Community archives directory - low barrier way to get your information out there
- If you want to become more involved, what are the next steps and what are the benefits

⤴ Central Rappahannock Heritage Center

⤴ Surry County, VA Historical Society & Museums, Inc.

⤴ Vinton History Museum

➤ Vinton History Museum

Point of Contact: Judy Cunningham

Email: info@vintonhistorymuseum.org

Website: www.vintonhistorymuseum.org

Address: 210 East Jackson Avenue in Downtown Vinton, Virginia

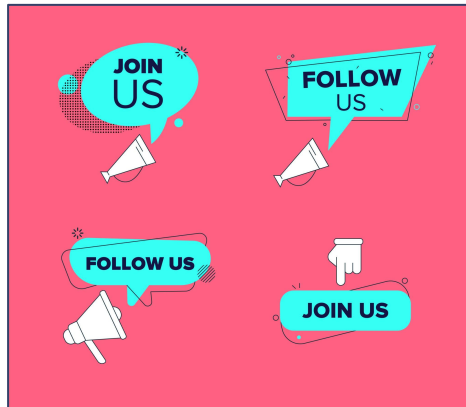
Description: The Vinton History Museum has thousands of artifacts of Vinton, Virginia and surrounding areas. They include items, documents, photographs, scrapbooks, family files, displays, records of the Vinton Historical Society, and much more.

[Fill out this form to join the directory](#)



Getting involved

- Join the Community Archives Directory
- Join the mailing list for VIVASC, which is ARVAS' main communication (but don't worry, you won't get overwhelmed with messages)
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



Q&A: What can we tell you?



Website: arvasarchive.org
Email: arvasarchives@gmail.com
Facebook: [ARVASarchives](https://www.facebook.com/ARVASarchives)
Instagram: [arvas_archives](https://www.instagram.com/arvas_archives)

When in doubt, contact Kira (kadietz@vt.edu) and Margaret (kiddm@vcu.edu)

