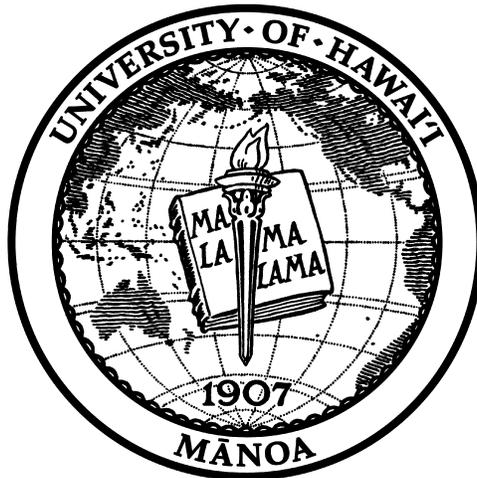


**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA**

**Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory  
("RASRL")**

**Complete Finding Aid: Overview**



Archives & Manuscripts Department  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Library

June 2005

# Table of Contents

<b>Introductory Information</b> .....	1
<b>Administrative Information</b> .....	2
<b>Agency History</b> .....	3
<b>Series List</b> .....	5
<b>Series Descriptions</b> .....	6
<b>Inventory</b> .....	See links in Series Descriptions

## **Introductory Information**

**Collection Name:** Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory (RASRL)

**Accession Numbers:** A1979:042, 042a, b, c, d, e, f, g and h; A1989:006, 007, and 008.

**Inclusive Dates:** 1924-1974

**Size of Collection:** 154 linear feet

**Creator of Records:** Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory

**Abstract:** The Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory collected student papers, clippings from newspapers and magazines, interview files, resource papers from professionals, maps and even some photographs. The main concern of the Laboratory was documenting race relations in Hawaii, but other important fields included labor relations, cultural institutions, family relations, social dysfunction, and ethnicity. During World War II the Laboratory worked on issues important to the military government, especially morale issues among various ethnic groups. After the war, the Laboratory returned to its prewar emphases. RASRL continued functioning into the early 1960s when it gradually came into competition with the concept, funding and actual implementation of a broader research organization, the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), which emphasized collaboration across traditional academic fields and beyond the narrow geographical limits of Hawaii, which RASRL had always employed. Near the end of fall semester 1963 or early in spring semester 1964, RASRL ceased to exist.

## **Administrative Information**

- Repository Information:** Archives & Manuscripts Department  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Library  
2550 McCarthy Mall  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Phone: (808) 956-6047  
Fax: (808) 956-5968  
Email: [archives@hawaii.edu](mailto:archives@hawaii.edu)  
URL: <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/>
- Restrictions:** Open to researchers. Photocopying by permission only.
- Provenance:** Donated by successor custodian of RASRL records, the Department of Sociology, to University Archives, University of Hawaii Library, in 1979 and 1989.
- Preferred Citation:** [Identification of item], RASRL [Series Title], Archives & Manuscripts Department, University of Hawaii at Manoa Library.
- Copyright Notice:** Copyright is retained by the authors of papers, the interviewees, the photographer(s), the cartographer(s) or their descendants, as stipulated by United States copyright law. It is the responsibility of the user to determine any copyright restrictions, obtain written permission, and pay any fees necessary for the reproduction or proposed use of the materials.
- Literary Rights Notice:** All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the University of Hawaii Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must be obtained by the user.

## Agency History

The Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory (RASRL) grew out of the research and teaching methods conducted by the Sociology program at the University of Hawaii under the direction of Dr. Romanzo Adams. In 1920, Dr. Adams had become the first professor of sociology and economics at the University of Hawaii. During the 1930s, the laboratory became known informally as the Sociology Laboratory. Dr. Adams remained the guiding inspiration of the sociological work performed by faculty and students at the University. Dr. Adams retired from the University in May 1934, but continued active professionally for some time. Dr. Andrew Lind took over the direction of the sociology program at the University upon Dr. Adams retirement.

During World War II the University Board of Regents renamed the Laboratory the War Research Laboratory, reflecting the work the Laboratory was performing under the military government in morale, race relations, labor relations, etc. After the war the focus of the lab shifted back from the war-related research to the emphases it had had prior to the war: race relations, cultural institutions, interracial marriage; and the lab was renamed the Hawaii Social Research Laboratory. In 1955, the organization was named the Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory as a memorial to him.

The primary focus of the research program of RASRL was always race relations. Since race relations is a factor in all facets of society, however, the RASRL research program addressed many related topics: population, cultural conflict, the impact of the war on territorial Hawaii society, industrial relations, the changing family, and social disorganization. The research program covered over forty years of social history in Hawaii. The most notable aspect of the program is the cumulative character of the research. The forty years of activity resulted in the accumulation of subject files, reports, student papers, news clippings, statistical data, and population charts and maps. The Laboratory was also responsible for numerous studies, primarily appearing in the pages of *Social Process in Hawaii* and in the less formally published *What People in Hawaii are Saying and Doing*.

During the academic year 1960/61, Dr. Bernhard Hoermann served as acting director of RASRL while Dr. Lind spent extended time in Asia. In 1961, Dr. Lind resigned from the directorship of RASRL as he had accepted the appointment as acting director for the newly created Social Science Research Institute; in October of that year, Dr. Hoermann became the director of RASRL.

Over the next couple of years, much discussion occurred concerning the role of RASRL and of the SSRI, the focus of which was interdisciplinary research among the social sciences and humanities without geographical limits. A memorandum from Dr. Hoermann to the faculty of the Department of Sociology in October 1963 indicated that, as Director of RASRL, he was “giving his complete support” to the decision of the University administration to merge RASRL into the SSRI. A letter from the Hawaii Chapter of the American Statistical Association dated February 1964, however, expressed

regret that the University was abandoning the focused research on Hawaii conducted by RASRL throughout its existence.

One crucial mark that seems to indicate the end of RASRL was the ceasing of publication of *Social Process in Hawaii* in 1963, though the journal was resurrected in 1979. In the early 1960s through the academic year 1963/1964, the University of Hawaii annual catalog included mention of RASRL as a division of SSRI in the section on Research and Service Units; during these years, it listed Dr. Hoermann as Director of RASRL in the Faculty Staff listing at the end of the catalogs. The 1964-1965 annual catalog omits RASRL from both locations. All these indications suggest the end of RASRL occurred at the end of December 1963 or early in spring semester 1964.

Many of the scholarly activities of the sociology professors related to RASRL continued after the Laboratory ceased to function. Professors continued collecting student papers. Some clipping of newspaper articles continued. Certainly research into the sociology of Hawaii's population continued. As RASRL records remained in the Department of Sociology and as Drs. Lind and Hoermann remained active faculty there, filing of some of the student papers was put into the RASRL files as well as into the individual files of the faculty.

Currently, the Andrew W. Lind Social Process in Hawaii Fund, established in 1986, supports the publication of *Social Process in Hawaii*. Complete runs of *Social Process in Hawaii* and of *What People in Hawaii are Saying and Doing* are available at the Hawaiian Collection in Hamilton Library. In addition to Dr. Adams, Dr. Lind, and Dr. Hoermann, other sociologists contributed significantly to the work of RASRL, including Dr. Clarence Glick and Dr. Yukiko Kimura, who worked as a researcher with RASRL on the War Brides Interview and other projects.

For additional information see *Directory of American Scholars: A Biographical Directory* (New York: R.R. Bowker, 1952-), Bernhard L. Hoermann, "Sociological Research at the University of Hawaii," *Social Process in Hawaii*, 19, 1955, and Vickie Ong, "Andrew Lind Dies—A Distinguished Hawaii Sociologist," *Honolulu Advertiser*, 3 September 1988, A3.

## Series in RASRL Records

There were two major accessions of RASRL records, in 1979 and in 1989.

The 1979 accession included the following series:

Administrative Files	A1979:042
Records of War Research Laboratory (name of RASRL during World War II)	A1979:042a
Clippings Files (five subseries)	A1979:042b
Student Papers	A1979:042c
Frances Haar Photographs	A1979:042d
Romanzo Adams Papers	A1979:042e
Maps	A1979:042f
Resource Files	A1979:042g
Subject Files	A1979:042h

The 1989 accession includes materials merged into the previous series plus unique series as follows:

Confidential Research Files	A1989:006
War Brides Interview Project, 1953-1957	A1989:007
Andrew Lind Papers	A1989:008

[Note: Some series have separate finding aids; please consult Archives staff for specifics.]

## Series Descriptions

### **Administrative Files: c. 1930-1963**

This series has not been processed. As the papers of Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory came to the Archives at least fifteen years, and as late as twenty-five years, after the agency ceased to exist, some files have “migrated” into other series. Many of the Administrative Files are still in the process of being discovered.

### **Records of the War Research Laboratory: 1941-1946**

While archives staff knew records of this subgroup existed within the unprocessed materials, the extent of the records surprised the staff and delighted at least one researcher who asked for files pertaining to the Emergency Service Committee. The series is not fully processed, but at this point measures approximately 2.75 linear feet in three boxes. The dates covered are 1941 into 1946.

### **Clippings Files: c. 1924-1960s (bulk 1927-1959)**

Comprised of five subseries, the Clippings Files created by RASRL come primarily from the Honolulu newspapers, but also include some periodicals and magazines, and Japanese language newspapers. The RASRL staff created five subseries of Clippings, the first subseries beginning in the 1920s, with one folder bearing the date 1924 though the majority begin in 1927. This subseries focuses primarily on the general aspects of Hawaii with extensive attention to economic concerns. It extends to the beginning of the World War II. Subseries #2 focuses heavily on ethnic groups in Hawaii and covers essentially the same years as the Subseries #1, 1925-1945. The shortest subseries concerns a group of sensational criminal cases which disturbed the Islands during the late 1920s and 1930s plus some files on the resultant use of censorship and on citizen morale. This subseries covers the years 1928-1945.

The final two subseries make up well over half of the Clippings Files. Subseries #4 abandons the numerical ordering of the earlier subseries and groups subjects together with alpha-numeric ordering: “A” refers to all of Hawaii; “C” refers to Ethnic Groups; “CH” to Churches; “D” to sociological dysfunctions such as crime, divorce, delinquency, police, prisons, etc.; “E” to Education; etc. Subseries #4 has two sub-subseries within it of clippings from Japanese language newspapers, one sub-subseries in which the articles have translations—or at least summaries—in English and one of untranslated articles. Some files in Subseries #4 begin as early as 1945; most end in the 1950s while a few extend into the early 1960s. Subseries #5 was found among the archives holdings in a different location. It follows a similar alpha-numeric ordering of files, though what has been located does not represent a complete subject scope available in Subseries #4.

## **Student Papers: 1924-1960s**

The Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory Student Papers echoed the concern of the faculty in the Laboratory to document the variety of sociological phenomena occurring in Hawaii. From the beginning, race relations was one of the primary subjects. Ethnic identities and relations received equal emphasis. Cultural and religious institutions within the various groups and generational conflicts are also widely covered. Though the United States military has wielded immense influence in Hawaii during the twentieth century, during World War II the heavy influx of military personnel and Mainland civilians into Hawaii had a major impact on daily life here, resulting in an increase in student papers on subjects related to haoles, interracial dating and marriage, race relations, and the changing workplace relations. Changing ethnic customs, labor unions, the coming of statehood and politics of the post-World War II period are also covered. The papers offer firsthand accounts of what the people of Hawaii thought and felt over a forty-year period of change, turmoil and progress.

The Student Papers are currently divided into three subseries marked with letters. Subseries A is student papers in which the author is identified by name. The papers are filed alphabetically by surname. These papers date from as early as 1924 into the 1950s and cover a wide range of topics. The second subseries, Subseries B, consists primarily of student papers whose authors' identities are hidden by codes although some names are also given. The codes usually identify the sociology class and section for which the paper was written, the student's ethnicity and sex. A typical code may be 254-2-j-f-25 referring to Sociology 254, section 2, with the author being a Japanese female, number 25. Other codes include the calendar year and semester of the course. The code system allowed RASRL faculty to make student papers immediately available to other sociology students without endangering the privacy of the writers. The dates of the second subseries overlap somewhat with the first and extend into the late 1960s. This ending date shows the merging that faculty in Sociology made between RASRL and their classes; faculty continued filing student papers from their classes in the RASRL files after RASRL was discontinued in 1963/64. The third subseries, Subseries J, are student journals, much more abbreviated entries, made over a period of time and documenting concerns of the sociological class(es) being taken by the students. The Journals subseries occurred primarily during World War II and may have been instituted by RASRL faculty because of the need to restrict consumption of paper and other commodities.

The finding aid for this series is available in the Archives Reading Room and on the website at <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/univarch/rasrl/spapers.htm>.

## **Francis Haar Photographs: 1963**

This unprocessed series consists of photographs of Honolulu's Chinatown for a project conducted by RASRL. The size of the series equals approximately 0.75 linear feet, stored in large flat boxes.

### **Romanzo Adams Papers: 1921-1941**

The personal papers of Dr. Romanzo Adams formed part of the original accession of RASRL papers to the Archives. These papers amount to approximately fifteen linear feet and include some personal materials, such as financial records and correspondence.

### **Maps: c. 1920-1961**

The staff and/or students of the Romanzo Adams Social Research Laboratory created a series of maps and charts to illustrate sociological phenomena, particularly of the Honolulu area. Usually using maps created by other agencies as the basis, RASRL staff then added other information of value to the Laboratory. Distribution of ethnicities in a particular year forms the basis of several maps. Other maps focus on specific locales within Honolulu to show population growth or ethnic concentrations.

Only a preliminary inventory has been made of the maps, so arrangement has yet to be done based upon RASRL numbering and/or subject of maps. As of this writing, the series contains approximately 300 maps and charts filling fourteen map case drawers; as Archives staff identify more unprocessed materials, this series could grow.

### **Resource Files: c. 1934-1948**

This small series consists of papers prepared by professionals on subjects of interest to the RASRL scope of endeavors. They were originally stored among what RASRL called the Student Papers. Like the files of Student Papers, these professionally written papers functioned as resources for students in the Department of Sociology, and hence they were interfiled. Since, however, the Student Papers series leads users to accept that title as accurate, Archives staff decided to remove the few professional papers found there and create a separate series. The series contains approximately eighteen written essays amounting to less than six inches of material. The online inventory to the Resource Files is at <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/univarch/rasrl/resource.htm>.

### **Subject Files: c. 1930-1967**

The faculty in RASRL created subject files of materials of interest to their research and teaching. These files include economic forecasts in Hawaii, studies of trends in society, etc. The series, however, is not processed and exact size is undetermined.

### **Confidential Research Files: c. 1920s-1965 (bulk 1941-1959)**

While the records of RASRL cover years beginning in the early 1920s to late 1960s, the major component of the Confidential Research Files covers the period 1941-1959. The records within this series are in the order developed by RASRL, alphabetically by subject. The contents of each file are indexed at the item level and stored within the first folder of each file. The documents begin with the number "10" as the first item and

ascend in order from there. The physical arrangement within the files has been standardized to lessen confusion for archival staff and researchers. The electronic finding aid is at <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/univarch/rasrl/crs.htm>; a paper version is available in the Archives Reading Room.

Prior to accession by the Archives, occasional items were removed from the original file to another subject file for research purposes of the Laboratory. Documentation of each transfer was provided by the researcher and left intact by the Archives. Items of unusually large format, photostatic copies, and negatives were removed from the original file by the Archives staff and stored in appropriate containers.

This series is particularly rich in materials that reflect the rapid social and societal changes of the 1940s and post-World War II period. "Hawaii represents a microcosm of the world, which made it a useful laboratory and social observatory."<sup>1</sup> The Confidential Research Files (CRF) series includes excerpts from journals and diaries, interviews, and summaries of discussions with individuals, as well as newspaper clippings and documentation on political, industrial, and community groups. The section on "The Sugar Strike" and labor issues following the war includes materials addressing the perspectives of the ILWU (International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union), the local citizenry, and the sugar industry. Other organized bodies with documentation in the CRF include American Friends Service Committee, the War Relocation Board, Post-War Employment Planning Commission, and American Veterans Committee.

Informal groups also find representation in this series. The section on AJAs (Americans of Japanese Ancestry) includes letters and transcribed conversations of members of the U.S. Army 442<sup>nd</sup> Battalion and RCT and other AJA soldiers about their experiences during the war. The section on Diaries includes accounts written by a wide variety of residents of Hawaii on the effects of war on their lives and on the relations among various ethnic groups here. A section in the papers documents the *Hissho Kai*, Japanese aliens living in the United States who were not convinced that Japan had lost World War II. Included in these papers are two sheets of Japanese characters written by an advisor to *Hissho Kai* (not yet translated). One of the items is painted on paper made in the U.S.; the other item is painted on an unidentified type of paper, without watermarks.

Generally the contents of the Confidential Research Files are arranged in alphabetical order and thus the numerical order of the boxes tends to coincide with the alphabetical order. Exceptions occur because some items in the series were either of legal size paper or in larger format. These items were pulled from the original files in order to be preserved in more appropriate containers. Thus boxes 4, 9, 14, and 15, which are legal size, and f1, f2, and f3, which are oversized boxes, contain repeated file labels. File titles for the Confidential Research Files are transcribed to the acid-free folders as they appeared on the original folders of RASRL. Titles or information provided by Archives staff are enclosed in square brackets ([ ]).

---

<sup>1</sup> Bernhard L. Hoermann, "Sociological Research at the University of Hawaii," *Social Process in Hawaii*, 19, 1955.

Finally a note on the name of this series. Archives staff wondered why this was named "Confidential." Much of the content did not seem to warrant that label. Most was hardly controversial. Staff finally concluded that the sources were offered anonymity when asked for information. This conclusion seems warranted by the blacking out of some names on the AJA letters. The conclusion is reinforced by the failure to black out all names since these men were writing from the U.S. Mainland and later from Europe and Asia, and the letters may not have been originally intended for this series of RASRL records.

### **War Brides Interview Project: 1953-1957**

The War Brides Interview Project was accomplished primarily by Dr. Yukiko Kimura who was a researcher on the RASRL staff. Dr. Kimura conducted most if not all the interviews. The subjects of the interviews were brides who married husbands met during World War II. Most, if not all, the couples consist of one spouse from the Allied and one spouse from the Axis countries. When Archives staff began working on this series, they understood the original order to place the Okinawan husbands among the non-Japanese husbands. Whether this was a result of the original RASRL filing, growing out of a conflict between Okinawan and Japanese groups, or a misfiling is not known. Later, to simplify and avoid a genuinely confusing arrangement, the interviews of Japanese brides of Okinawan husbands were removed from the group in which the husband was non-Japanese and included in the group in which both husband and wife were Japanese. The dates of the interviews are from 1953 to 1956. The records consist of summary notes written by the interviewer; there are no audiotapes. Paper finding aid is available in the Archives Reading Room; an electronic version is available at <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/univarch/rasrl/warbrides.htm>.

### **Andrew Lind Papers: c. 1930-c. 1985**

The final portion of the 1989 accession of RASRL records consists of the individual papers of Dr. Andrew Lind, second director of RASRL. This series consists of his research files, some personal papers, drafts of studies, and some teaching and academic service files. Archives staff have attempted to separate all Student Papers from these boxes to include them in the Student Papers series. The approximate size of this unprocessed series is about twelve linear feet.