Descriptive Summary
Title: Motion Picture Research Council records
Date (inclusive): 1927-1949
Collection number: XX089
Creator: Motion Picture Research Council
Collection Size: 81 manuscript boxes, 2 oversize boxes (36.9 linear feet)
Repository: Hoover Institution Archives
Stanford, California 94305-6010
Abstract: Correspondence, by-laws, minutes, administrative reports, records, and research and reference materials, relating to the film industry and the effects of films on the community.
Physical Location: Hoover Institution Archives
Language: English.
Access
The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.
Publication Rights
For copyright status, please contact the Hoover Institution Archives.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Motion Picture Research Council records, [Box no.], Hoover Institution Archives.
Access Points
Moving-picture industry--United States.
United States.

Box 1
History of Motion Picture Research Council, 1928-1940 [Series 1]. Historical sketches of the Council to 1932; by-laws of the MPRC in 1934; certificates of incorporation and dissolution of the MPRC in New York State in 1935; list of activities of the MPRC during the years 1938-40; record of transfer of the central office from New York City to San Francisco, including an inventory of materials (arranged chronologically). For statements of the purposes and plans of the MPRC, see also the folders "Carnegie Corporation" (Box 5), "Payne Fund" (Box 12), and "List of Studies (Box 57)
Financial Records, 1927-1941 [Series 2]. Annual financial statements and budgets, 1928-40; audits and reports; correspondence relative to income tax status; records dealing with indebtedness; a defense of a director of MPRC in a case involving the salary of an employee (arranged as listed). Includes the following six ledgers (shelved at the end of the collection):
Receipts and disbursements
Box/Folder 2 : 1
1927 October - 1933 August
Box/Folder 2 : 2
1933 September - 1935 January
Box/Folder 2 : 3
1935 January - 1941 December
Box/Folder 2 : 4-5
Receipts of donations from members
1934 March - 1937 January
Box/Folder 2 : 6
Account book of accounts payable and receivable, includes monthly statements, 1935 February-April
Central File of Correspondence, Minutes, Administrative Reports, and Records, 1927-1941 [Series 3]. This series represent the bulk of the files of the MPRC: correspondence, administrative records, minutes, reports (other than research reports), and publicity and fund raising campaign records. Between 1927 and 1935, correspondence was filed separately from the administrative records, minutes, reports, etc. and kept in annual alphabetical files. From the time the central office was reestablished in San Francisco in 1935 until 1941, all records of this series were interfiled in annual alphabetical arrangements. With some modifications, the three subseries of this series represent these original filing patterns
Box 3-25  Correspondence, 1927-1935 [Subseries 3A]. Communications of the central office with directors of MPRC research projects, active MPRC members, legislators, interested persons and organizations, and donors. Includes some supportive or administrative material. Originally this correspondence was kept in annual alphabetical arrangements. However, since many folders of a preceding year had been moved ahead into the next year’s file during the years 1927 and 1933, the folders for those years were merged into one alphabetical arrangement. The correspondence for 1934 and 1935 is in its original order.

Box 26-32  Administrative Records, Minutes, Reports, Campaign Records, 1927-1935 [Subseries 3B]. Membership lists, employment records, and press releases. Includes minutes of conferences, executive meetings, board of director’s meetings, reports from conferences and committees, director’s reports, publicity and fund raising campaign records.

Box 33-56  Correspondence, Minutes, Administrative Reports and Records, 1935-1940 [Subseries 3C]. Correspondence, administrative records such as social security tax records, form letters, inquiries, and press releases. Includes minutes of conferences, committees, board of directors’ meetings, plans for conferences, reports from conferences, director’s reports, and fund raising campaign plans and records.

Box 57-62  MPRC Research Projects, 1928-1940 [Series 4]. Lists, reports, findings, transactions, and correspondence relating to the research projects undertaken by the MPRC. Includes lists of research projects and proposals; documentation on a symposium of MPRC researchers on the direction of research, 1930, and on the Columbus Day Conference of MPRC researchers, 1931; notes on the revision of a book published by MPRC, A Generation of Motion Pictures, 1928, plus a copy of the book; and the findings of many of the research projects of MPRC. Some of the projects represented are studies of the American film industry, the international film industry, the legal control of the industry, the effect on national character, the effect on health, the effect on children, and the moral content of individual films.

Box 63-78  Reference, 1928-1940 [Series 5]. The records of this series apparently served the purpose of a reference and/or subject collection of materials relating to the motion picture industry and to the MPRC. Included are an index to a MPRC reference library; a 659-page digest of information collected from many sources (with index); a collection of notes relating to the film industry, entitled “Annals”; one folder of miscellaneous data on the film industry; a subject file (with inventory) including information on censorship, block booking and blind selling, motion picture appreciation, film influences on children, and bibliography; a newspaper clippings file with one oversize album of clippings; a typewritten transcript of Congressional hearings and printed matter from the U.S. Department of Commerce; a collection of manuscripts and theses; and a pamphlet collection. Includes two oversize volumes shelved at the end of the collection.

Box 79  Material not yet described
Box 80  Material not yet described
Box 81  Material not yet described
Box 82  Material not yet described
Box 83  Material not yet described