Access and Preservation of Legal Information in US Territories:
Guam Edition

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Overview of presentation

• Brief history of Guam
• Past: Systemic challenge of access to historical material
• Present: Continue and expand online publication and digitization
• Future: Deepen existing relationships and forge new partnerships with archival and access partners (e.g. LLMC)
Hafa Adai from Guam!

Credit: whereig.com
Brief History of Guam

Ancient Chamorro Society
Credit: Guampedia

Spanish Colonization
Credit: El Reto Histórico
Guam’s relationship with the U.S.

John Hay, Secretary of State, signing the memorandum of ratification of the Treaty of Paris on behalf of the United States.

Credit: Harper's Pictorial History of the War with Spain, Vol. II
U.S. Naval Administration

Capt. Seaton Schroeder
Credit: Naval History and Heritage Command

Commander Willis W. Bradley, Jr.
Credit: Naval History and Heritage Command
Civilian Government for Guam

Credit: Pres. Harry S. Truman Library and Museum
Past: Naval Era Laws and Codes

- Executive General Orders and Executive Special Orders, Orders, Notices, Regulations (1899 onward)
- Orders and Regulations with the Force and Effect of Law in Guam (1925)
- Codes of Guam (first published 1933, updated 1947)
  - Civil Code
  - Penal Code
  - Code of Civil Procedure
  - Probate Code
Naval Records: 5 Archive locations

1. U.S. National Archives (Wash., D.C.)
   – Record Group 80 Correspondence of the Secretary of the Navy
     • General Orders, Executive General Orders, Special Executive Orders

2. Naval Operational Archives (Navy Yard, Wash., D.C.)

3. Marine Historical Center (Navy Yard, Wash., D.C.)

4. Federal Records Center (Suitland, Md.)
   – Record Group 38 (pre-World War II records)
     • Descriptions include: Proclamations, Guam Congress, Misc. Laws, Organic Leg., Tax Law

5. Military History Institute (Carlisle, Pa.)
Present: Online publication
Digitization to the Rescue?
First Codification of U.S.-based law
Preserving Guam’s Legal History

Future: Building Partnerships
Building Partnerships

• Guam Public Library System
  – Guam Archival Center
• University of Guam Library and Micronesian Area Research Center
• LLMC
Photo credits

• Slide 3: Where is Guam Located?  https://www.whereig.com/au-oceania/where-is-guam.html
• Slide 4: Spanish Colonization, El Reto Histórico, https://elretohistorico.com/magallanes-isla-ladrones/