1. What information is in these records?

This series consists of an electronic index to color photographs submitted to NASA's national headquarters by the 10 major and various related research and space flight centers around the country. The index includes: the color image identification citation (under the column entitled "Color ID"); the narrative caption (under "Caption"); the subject classification; the identity of the facility from which the image originated; and the media and formats. Also included are 14 summary fields containing the total item count for each respective media or format.

2. Why were these records created?

The agency created this index to locate images in its color photographic holdings and to calculate the total number of items appearing in each respective media or format. This index provides the primary point of access for images in the following two color photographic series: "Color Photograph Files Relating to Projects, Astronauts, and Events, 1958-1965" and "Color Photograph Files, 1965-1983."

3. How are the images located?

For images found in the series "Color Photograph Files Relating to Projects, Astronauts, and Events, 1958-1965" and cited in the index, the "Color ID" identification string incorporates the subject designator, followed by the item number, e.g., GEMINI-89. By contrast, for images found in the series "Color photograph Files, 1965-1983" and cited in the index, the "Color ID" identification string incorporates the final two digits of the year in which the photograph was entered into the national headquarters filing system, followed by the "HC" designator, followed by the item number, e.g., 68-HC-1209. Where there is a corresponding black and white image, the "BW ID" string in the index entry will either include an "H" designator (in which case the black and white version will be found in the series "Black and White Photograph Files, 1965- 1991") or, alternatively, will include a subject designator, such as "Apollo," in which case the black and white version will be found in the series "Historical Photograph File, 1958-1964."

4. What is the best way to search these records?

The color index may be searched by name, subject, or image identification citation. Full-text searching of the captions ("Caption" field), using a single name or subject term or combinations of such terms, provides the most common pathway for researchers exploring the nature and extent of coverage of particular personalities, sites, events, structures, and technologies.

5. What is the meaning of a "1" in the media and formats fields?

The database includes 14 fields for the identification of media and formats. A "1" entered in any of these fields indicates that the image being indexed is available in that particular media or format.

6. How can I access a copy of the full file?

The raw data file, along with the associated technical documentation, may be downloaded from the National Archives Catalog at: https://catalog.archives.gov/. There you can search by the series name, Index to Color Photograph Files, or using the National Archives Identifier 573153, which is the description identifier for this series.

In the results, select to view the full series description. Click on the link "file unit(s) described in the catalog" next to "Includes:" for a list of the file units within this series. Then select the file unit containing the records of interest to you. The file unit description will include the list of electronic records and documentation files available for viewing and/or downloading.

Additional information about downloading electronic records from the Catalog is available at: https://www.archives.gov/research/electronic-records/access-in-catalog-faqs.

Please keep in mind that the data file consists of the raw structured data as loaded into AAD (i.e. the coded values without meanings), but without the AAD software that displays the meanings for coded values and field titles. For more details about using files containing raw structured data, you may wish to review our "Introduction to Raw Data" at: https://www.archives.gov/files/research/electronic-records/raw-data-intro.pdf.