

F. GERALD HANDFIELD

Jerry Handfield, appointed Washington State Archivist by Secretary of State Sam Reed in 2001, was recruited from Indiana where he served as State Archivist for 14 years.

As State Archivist, he is responsible for the maintenance and security of all public records and establishes safeguards against unauthorized removal or destruction. As a member of the State and Local Records Committees he approves and vetoes, or modifies all schedules for public records.

The State Archivist manages the life cycle of public records to insure that important legal and historical records are preserved and that all records are managed in an efficient and cost effective manner.

Born in 1944, the oldest of eight children, he attended one-room schools and worked on dairy farms in and near Franklin, CT. Jerry went to South Dakota for his BA (Yankton College) and MA (University of SD). In 1967, he went to Indiana University for the doctoral program in history. His dissertation and master's thesis focused on American foreign policy in the 20th century.

Jerry's career includes many years of teaching college level history, oral history, fieldwork for the Indiana State Library, and the Indian Historical Society. Jerry has also been appointed as Director of the Indiana Commission on Public Records by Governors Frank O'Bannon and Evan Bayh. His professional experience includes leadership in national organizations, special assignments in several Indiana state agencies, and archives consultant to the government of Kazakhstan.

Jerry's family consists of four children (three boys and a girl) who live in New York City, Indianapolis, and California. He enjoys traveling throughout Washington State, speaking on the importance of public records and exploring museums and historic sites, but his hobbies also include men's softball – voted – MVP at the National Championships of 1999 and 2001 – and all the activities associated with owning property on South Puget Sound's Eld Inlet – canoeing, kayaking, and oyster farming.