



The AVID Archives

“If you would understand anything, observe its beginning and its development.”
-Aristotle

The mission of the AVID Archives is to preserve and make accessible records documenting AVID’s origins and development in order to accurately and permanently communicate the AVID story.

What is in the AVID Archives?

The AVID Archives includes extensive records documenting AVID’s founding and first 30 years. Materials are organized into eight broad subjects: History, AVID Publications, Program, Research, Founder, Awards, Photographs, and Videos.

History includes documentation of AVID’s inception and growth. The history portion of the AVID Archives is organized by year, each broken into sections on data, strategic planning, expansion, finance, AVID Board work, legal matters, grants and contracts, and partnerships, among other subjects.

AVID Publications contains brochures, newsletters and books written and produced by AVID, including complete collections of *ACCESS*, and *Year in Review*.

The **Program** section of the AVID Archives contains AVID-produced curriculum and professional development materials, including those for Summer Institutes, trainings, and conferences.

Research is comprised of the most prominent pieces of research for which the AVID Center has copies.

The **Founder** section of the AVID Archives includes the speeches, writings, recognitions and biography of AVID founder Mary Catherine Swanson.

The AVID Archives contains over 1,400 **photographs**, including ones of the original AVID classroom, Summer Institutes and teachers and students from around the world.

The **Awards** section of the AVID Archives contains a collection of awards and certificates awarded to Mary Catherine Swanson and the AVID program.

The AVID Archives Library contains over 300 **videos** in various formats. A select number are viewable online.

The AVID Archives Website

The AVID Archives Website (www.archives.avid.org) is the online portal to the AVID Archives. The website contains Archives highlights, photo galleries, lesson plans, web exhibits, student resources and a narrative of AVID’s history.

The Electronic Archives Database

The electronic Archives database, accessible via the Archives website, is a catalog of Archives holdings. It is searchable by keywords, key topics, and structure tree. The database houses a selection of key documents, photographs and videos available for download or online viewing. Search results provide brief summaries of each item.

Using the Archives in the AVID Classroom

AVID Archives resources for teachers and students include:

- Archives-based lesson plans for AVID elective and subject area teachers
- Student research projects
- Topics for Socratic Seminars and Philosophical Chairs
- Educational web exhibits
- Inspiring videos and photos of past AVID students
- Interactive history of AVID with photos and external links

The student and teacher resources will be updated monthly with new lesson plans, activities and exhibits.

Visiting the AVID Archives Library

Those wishing to access the physical holdings of the AVID Archives Library are welcome to make an appointment to visit AVID Center Headquarters in San Diego, California (USA) by calling the AVID Archives Manager, Laura Izuel, at 858-380-4792 or email archives@avidcenter.org.

Archives at the 2010 Summer Institute

In celebration of AVID's 30th Anniversary, participants at this year's Summer Institute, "A Tradition of Innovation, A Future of Transformation" will enjoy:

- An Archives Cafe with computers for participants to explore the Archives.
- Thirty commemorative display boards featuring AVID program development, highlights and innovations.
- A commemorative yearbook profiling AVID students from three decades and featuring photos from the Archives.
- A luncheon program featuring narration and photos from the Archives.

About the AVID Archives Project

The AVID Archives project began in 2006 with the retirement of AVID founder Mary Catherine Swanson. At the request of the AVID Center Board, Swanson set out to chronicle the story of AVID, from its humble beginnings in a single San Diego classroom to its evolution into a worldwide college readiness program at the time of her retirement in 2006. As the only national teacher-created educational reform program of its kind, the Board saw the importance of preserving AVID's unique history.

With the guidance of an archivist from the University of Chicago, Swanson and her team collected thousands of documents central to the AVID story and wrote over 700 pages of history.

In March of 2010, AVID hired a full-time Archives Manager who continues to preserve, document and make accessible AVID's story. Also new in 2010 is the development of the AVID website, designed to make the Archives more accessible to teachers and students.

In the future we hope AVID educators and students will use the Archives to learn more about the amazing program of which they are a part and to feel a sense of pride that they are part of something special.

The Archives is made possible through the support of the AVID Center Board and generous endowment left by Mary Catherine Swanson upon her retirement.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

For more information or assistance with the Archives, please contact AVID Archives Manager, Laura Izuel, at 858-380-4792 or email archives@avidcenter.org.