Getting to the Source: The Atomic Age in Nebraska, 1945-1963

"Getting to the Source" brochures supplement various exhibits produced by History Nebraska. They are intended to lead researchers to original documents in the Library/Archives that staff used in developing the exhibit text. These materials, and many more fascinating documents, are available for use in the public reading rooms of History Nebraska at 1500 "R" Street in Lincoln. The staff there will be happy to help you get to the source.

Nebraska Survival Project [RG45]
The result of this civil defense project was a detailed plan for Nebraska in the event of a nuclear attack.

Omaha Action [RG1861]
This pacifist group staged the first protest of the arms race ever held in Nebraska, documented in newsletters and photographs.

Nebraska Committee on Resettlement of Displaced Persons (formerly Nebraska Council of Churches)
This collection contains records relating to the committee's efforts to help Eastern European "displaced persons" after World War II.

Nebraska Farmer
Issues of this publication recount how agriculture was effected by the events and innovations of the Atomic Age.

Nebraska Newspaper Index
This voluminous index, mostly for Lincoln and Omaha papers, provides a wealth of information on Atomic Age themes.

KOLN-TV Photographs and News Footage
The products of this Lincoln television station show events and people of Nebraska's capital during the 1950s and early 1960s.

Walter D. Behlen [RG1595]
The papers of this Columbus, Nebraska, inventor include details of his building construction techniques, which withstood nuclear blast tests. His company manufactured fallout shelters.

Jim Denney Photograph Collection
Photos amassed by this feature writer for the Omaha World Herald show Atomic Age scenes from across the state.

Governors' Papers
The papers of Nebraska governors provide detail on the issues facing the state during the Atomic Age. Particularly useful are the papers of Val Peterson (1947-53), Robert Crosby (1953-55), Victor Anderson (1955-59) and Frank Morrison (1961-67).
Congressional and Senatorial Collections

Papers of United States congressmen and senators who served Nebraska during the Atomic Age offer insight on many contemporary topics. The collections of Karl Stefan, Kenneth Wherry, Hugh Alfred Butler, Carl Curtis, and Roman Hruska are especially useful.