

Nixon White House Tapes

Introduction to the Tapes Index and Finding Aids

The Nixon Presidential Library and Museum offers the Nixon Tapes Index as a tool to search and quickly locate conversations relating to specific individuals, locations, dates, and participants. This package includes Tape Subject Logs, Transcripts, Scope and Content Notes, and Indices to aid you in identifying conversations relevant to your research interests.

- **Tape Subject Logs** provide general outlines of each conversation. A log contains references to the people, places, and topics being discussed in a specific conversation, in the order in which they are mentioned.
- **Transcripts** are available for a select pool of conversations: those created by the Watergate Special Prosecution Force or in response to court orders. Outside of these court-ordered transcripts, the Nixon Library does not typically transcribe the White House Tapes. The National Archives does not guarantee the accuracy of any transcript.
- **Scope and Content Notes** provide overviews of each batch of tapes as they were released to the general public. These documents may include a description of the quality and quantity of the tapes as well as general topics of interest within the set of opened conversations. Scope and Content Notes typically offer a brief history of the taping system and describe processing procedures.
- **Indices** include database reports listing conversations by date and by conversation number as well as lists of name abbreviations, geographic terms, and organizational acronyms.

The Nixon Tapes Index works across operating systems (Mac and PC), but does require Adobe Reader 5.0 or higher to operate.

Getting Started

- Open the file called “Nixon Tapes Index.pdx.”

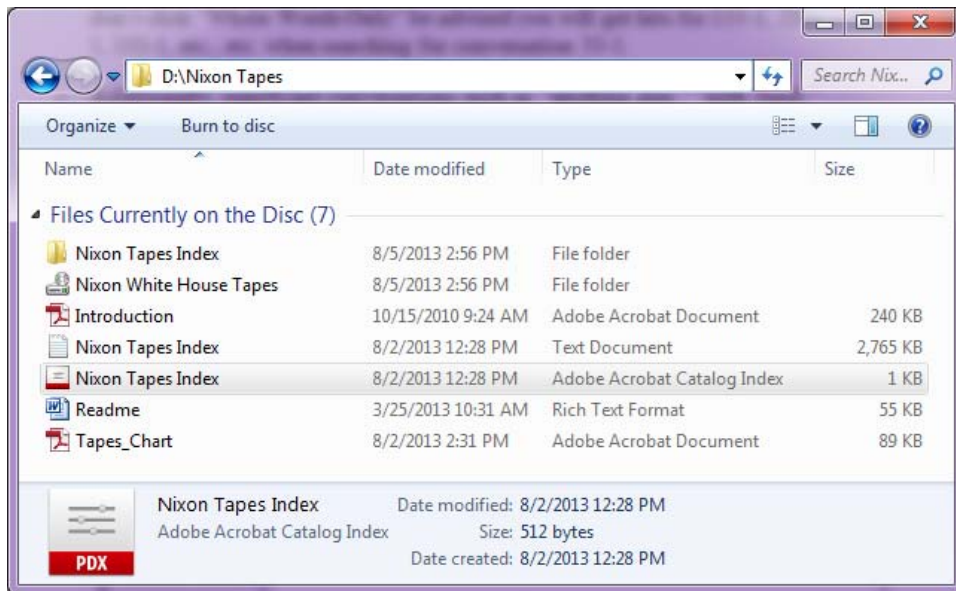


Figure 1: Screenshot of Index Location

- The file will open Adobe Reader.
- In the Adobe Reader application, go to the Edit menu. Select “Preferences.”
 - In the dialogue box that opens, select “Search” from the Categories listing.
 - Change the “Maximum number of documents returned in Results” to 1000.

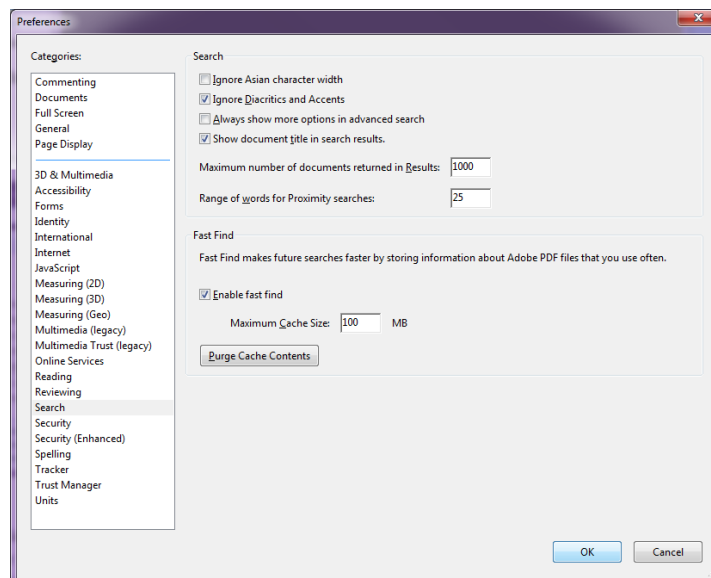


Figure 2: Screenshot of Search Preferences

- Click “OK” to have the preference take effect.

Sample Search

- *Always* begin by clicking the “Nixon Tapes Index.pdx” icon to utilize the index.

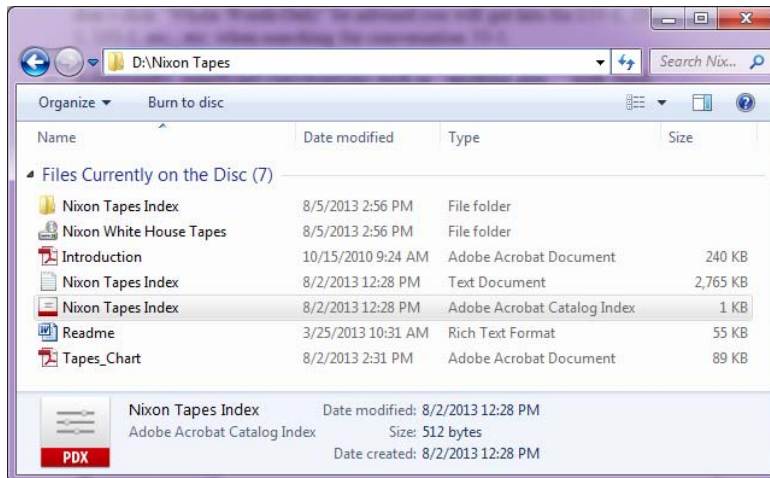


Figure 3: Screenshot of Index Location

- Input “panda” into the search interface:

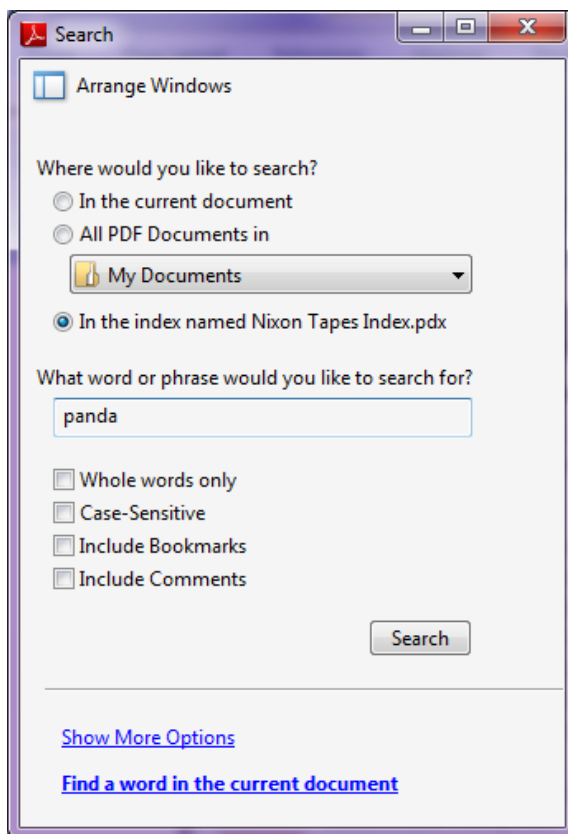


Figure 4: Screenshot of "panda" Search

- This search should yield a number of hits. Toggle to open the listing of documents.

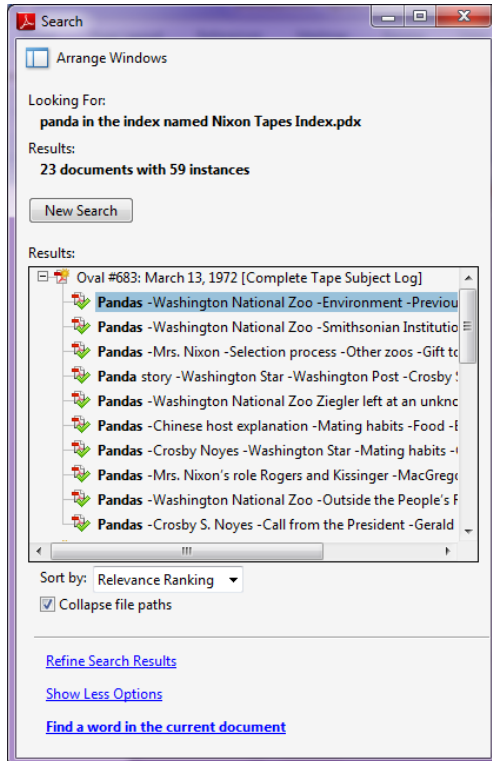


Figure 5: Screenshot of Search Returns

- Double-click on the document of your choice. When a document opens, note the options in the top, right-hand corner. The “Comments” option will provide more information.
- Click the tab to view comments.

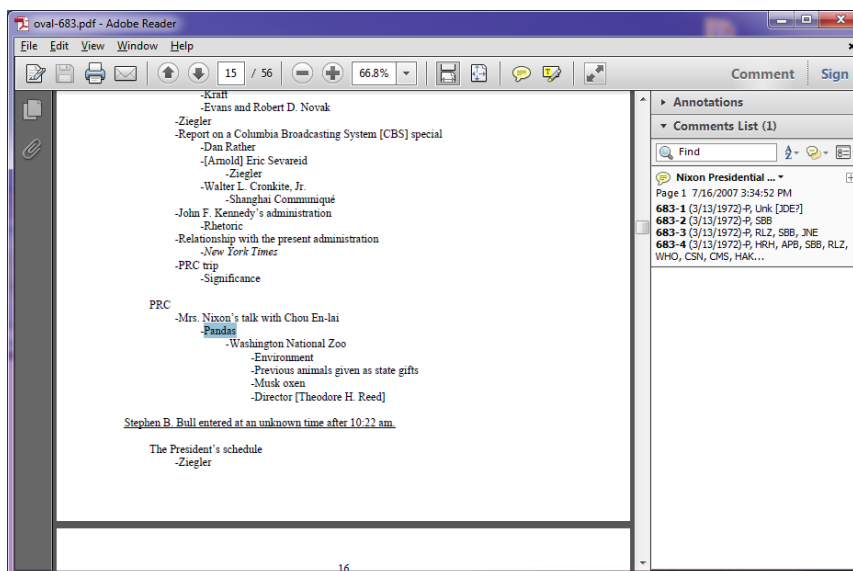


Figure 6: Screenshot of Document with Comments

- The content of comments varies depending on the type of document opened:
 - Tape Subject Logs
 - Comments list the conversation number, date, and participants for each conversation on the tape.
 - Partial Transcripts
 - Comments include location, conversation number, date, and participants.
 - AoGP Excerpted Tape Subject Logs
 - Comments include tape numbers and reference cassette range for each tape included in that month's conversations.
 - Watergate Trial Tapes Transcripts
 - Comments location, conversation number, date, participants, and reference cassette number.
 - Watergate Special Prosecution Force Transcripts
 - Comments include location, conversation number, date, participants, and reference cassette number.
 - *Note:* Use the Name Abbreviations list to understand the abbreviations used for participants (example: "P" stands for President Richard M. Nixon while "HAK" stands for Henry A. Kissinger). The Name Abbreviations list is located in the Indices folder, within the Complete Conversations folder.

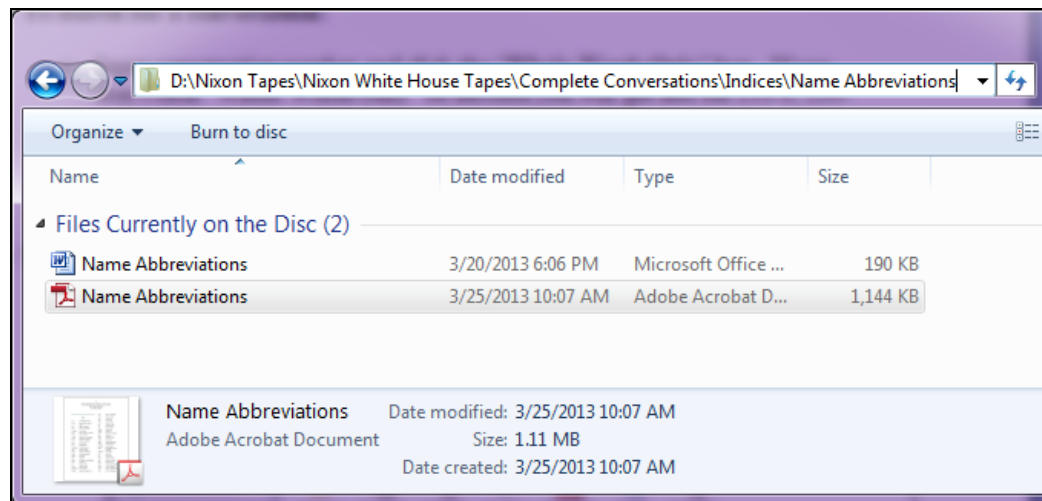


Figure 7: Screenshot of Location of Name Abbreviations List

Search Tips

- **To search by date:**
 - Use these formats:
 - Month Day, Year
 - Example: November 12, 1972
 - Search results will be located directly within the Tape Subject Log
 - mm/dd/yyyy
 - Examples: 3/17/1971 -or- 11/9/1972
 - Search results will be within database reports
- **To search for a conversation:**
 - Input the conversation number and check the “Whole words only” box.

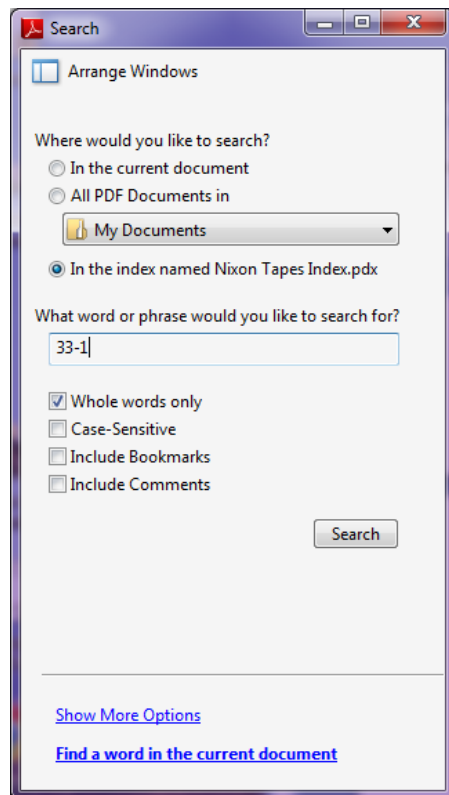


Figure 8: Screenshot for a Search by Conversation Number

- If you do not select “Whole words only,” be advised that you will get search hits on 133-1, 233-1, 333-1, etc. when searching for conversation “33-1.”

- Additionally, significant conversations such as “smoking gun,” “milk fund,” “18 1/2 minute gap,” and “cancer on the Presidency” can be searched using those terms, if you check “Include comments” during your search.
- **To search for participants:**
 - Locate the appropriate abbreviation from the Name Abbreviation list.

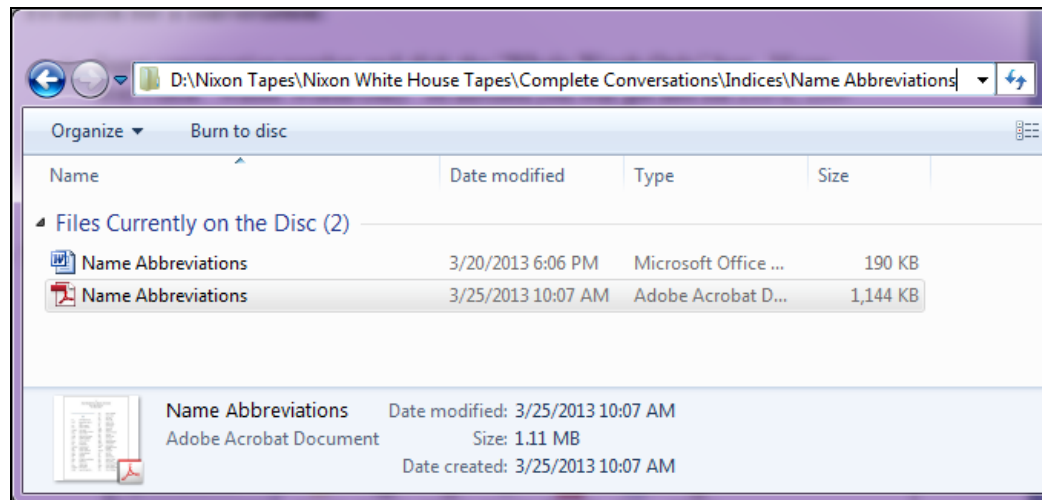


Figure 9: Screenshot of Location of Name Abbreviations List

- Input the abbreviation and check the boxes: “Whole words only,” “Case-Sensitive,” and “Includes Comments.”

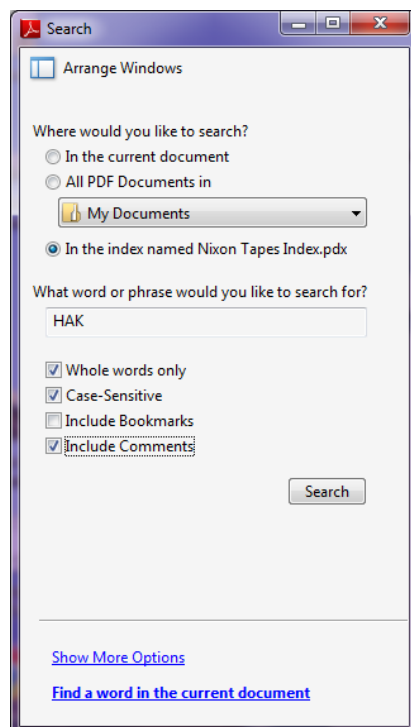
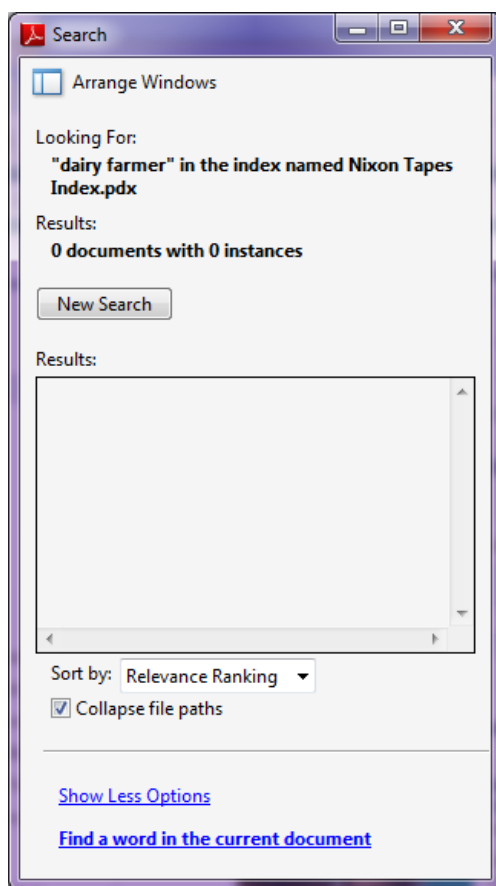


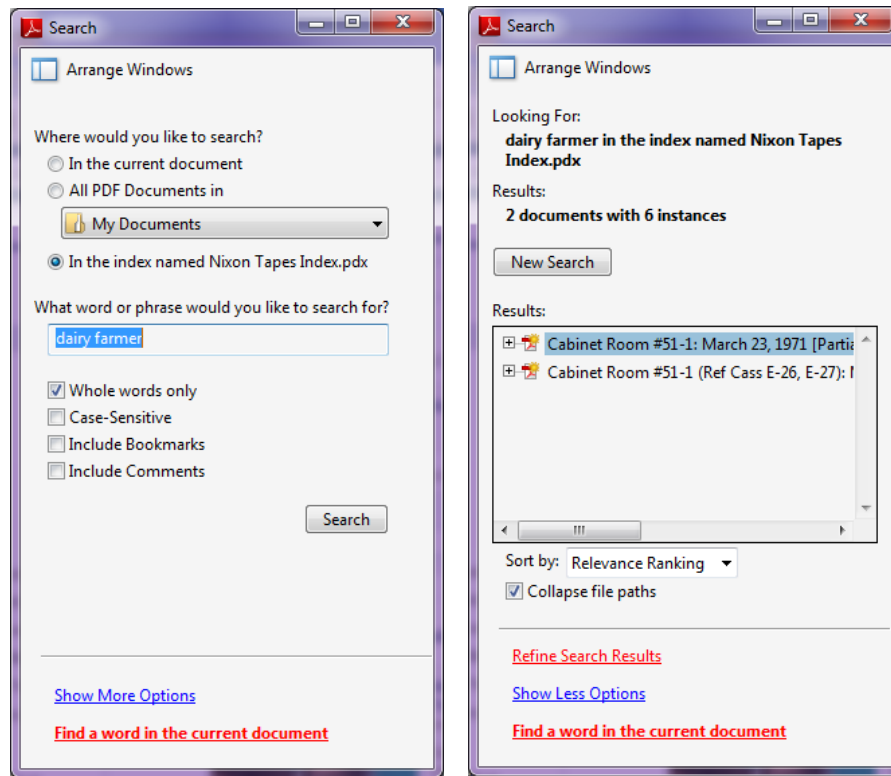
Figure 10: Screenshot of Name Abbreviation Search

Additional Helpful Information

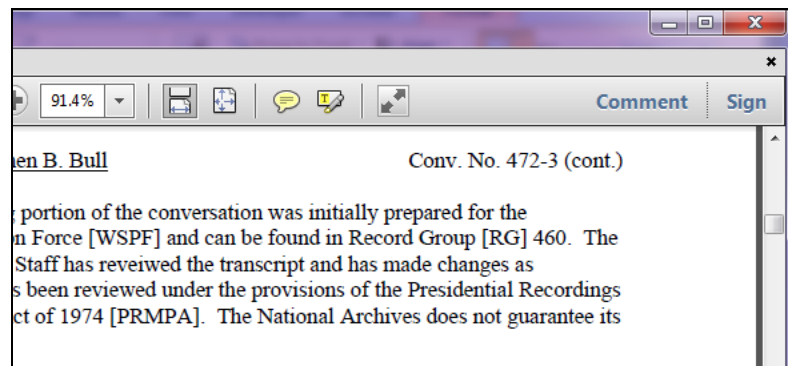
- The search interface *retains* search restrictions such as “Case-Sensitive” between searches and application uses. You must uncheck these boxes to begin with a session with an unrestricted search.
- The search interface reads quotation marks literally.
 - To demonstrate, typing the exact string “dairy farmer” will return no results:



Whereas a search for the words *dairy farmer* and checking the “Whole words only” box will yield two search returns:



- In Adobe Reader, the maximum number of documents you can open at once is fifty (50).
 - To close out documents without losing index results, click the gray “X” box in the upper right corner.



- Do NOT click the red “X” box because doing so will close the application and you will lose the search results.

Nixon-era White House Tapes		White House Telephone	Cabinet Room	Camp David Study Table Phone	Camp David Study Desk Phone	Camp David Hard Wire	Executive Office Building	Oval Office
1st Release	February 1971		47, 48					450-460
	March 1971		49-51					461-474
	April 1971	1, 2, 42	52-55				245-252	475-491
	May 1971	3	56-58				253, 254	492-507
	June 1971	4-6	59-63				255-259, 261	508-533
	July 1971	7	64-67				260, 262-267	534-552
2nd Release	August 1971	8	68-70				268-274	553-566
	September 1971	9, 10	71-78				275-280, 283	449, 567-583
	October 1971	11-13	79-81				281-282, 284-292, 302-304	584-599, 601-609
	November 1971	14, 15	82-84				293-301, 305-306	610-626
	December 1971	16, 17	85, 86				307-311	627-641, 643
3rd Release	January 1972	18-20	87, 88				312-318	642, 644-661
	February 1972		89-93				319-322	662-675
	March 1972	21, 22	94-97				323-328	676-679, 681-699
	April 1972	23	98-99				329-334	700-715
	May 1972	24	100-102	130-132	170	188-191	335-340	716-726
	June 1972	25, 26	103	133-136	172, 174	192-195	341-347	727-745
4th Release	July 1972	27, 28	104	138		196-198	348-352	746-757
	August 1972	29	107	137, 139-140	176	199-207	353, 361-363	758-769
	September 1972	30	105, 106	141-145, 154	177-180	208-214	354, 356-360	770-789
	October 1972	31, 32	108-110	146-152	181, 182	215-223	355, 364-378	790-810
	November 1972	33, 34		153, 155-156	183	224-232	379, 388-391	811-817
	December 1972	35	111	157-159	184	233-238	380-387, 392	818-828
5th Release	January 1973	36, 43	112, 113	160		239, 240	393-407	829-839, 841-845
	February 1973	37	114, 115	161, 162	186	241-243	408-416	840, 846-865
	March 1973	44	116-119	163		244	417-426	866-890
	April 1973	38, 45	122, 123	164			427-432	891-907
	May 1973	39, 46	120-121, 124	165-167			433-440	908-930
	June 1973	40, 41	125-127	168, 169	185		441-448	931-946
	July 1973		128, 129					947-949

Tapes 171, 173, 175, 187, 600, 680, 950 are blank.

All tape recordings are available at the Nixon Presidential Library and Museum in Yorba Linda, CA and the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, MD.

Tapes from July 1972 to March 1973 (colored **GREEN**) are available for free mp3 download at nixonlibrary.gov.

Cabinet Room tapes, however, are not yet available online. While the Cabinet Room tapes were opened separately and prior to the chronological releases, they are listed here for researcher convenience.