Discovering the Data of Safety: Embry-Riddle’s Aviation Safety and Security Archives

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Introduction

The path to the sky and beyond has not been simple or obstacle-free, but dedicated dreamers have worked to overcome obstacles, learn from mishaps, and develop new technologies to achieve their goals. As the leading university for aviation and aerospace education, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University maintains a firm commitment to the practice and study of safety. As part of this mission, the university has established the Aviation Safety and Security Archives (ASASA) which is a national treasure of aviation safety history and information.

The Archives

- Located on Embry-Riddle’s Prescott, AZ, campus.
- An archival repository and technical library focusing on the advancement of safety in aviation and aerospace exploration.
- Real world examples that augment classroom learning—from accident case files exemplifying the investigative process to research into the creation and improvement of crashworthy systems.
- Offers access to an unparalleled collection for research and study in aviation safety and accident investigation, including historic data showing accident trends and the impact of technological improvements on the safety record.
- Within the archives’ collections are records of the Flight Safety Foundation and other organizations, as well as papers and personal libraries of aviation safety pioneers such as Jerome Lederer (the “Father” of Aviation Safety), John Paul Stapp, and S. Harry Robertson.

Case Examples

Accident Investigation

Information and analysis of hundreds of accidents and incidents, as well as on the science of accident investigation.

Aviation History

Jorge Chavez accident, 1910
In 1962, R. G. Snyder and colleagues analyzed Jorge Chavez’ pioneering, but ill-fated, flight over the Alps. They determined that the G forces were such that the accident could have been survivable if medical care had been adequate.

Education and Training

Human Factors
Through its bulletins and other publications, Flight Safety Foundation has worked to increase knowledge of safety issues.

Gateway to Discovery

In order to serve the worldwide research community, ASASA is expanding beyond the traditional archives model which relied heavily on in-person research visits. A robust digital library makes digitized documents, reports, and images from ASASA’s collections readily available and fully searchable from any location with an internet connection. In addition, the archives’ curated resource pages serve as a discovery tool guiding researchers to the vast wealth of safety research available online from Embry-Riddle as well as other organizations and agencies.

Robertson Safety Institute

The Institute was established in 2013 in honor of Dr. S. Harry Robertson, renowned inventor of the crashworthy self-sealing aircraft fuel tank, who has devoted his life to research and development that improves aircraft crashworthiness and survivability. In a living legacy of this purpose, the Robertson Safety Institute promotes research utilizing the Aviation Safety and Security Archives as well as educational programs designed to fulfill the mission of advancing safety worldwide.

Selected References


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