Hoover and the
NEW MILLENNIUM

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and, more recently, the financial crisis, are reminders that, despite the cold war’s end two decades ago, we still live in a turbulent era. Although the mission of the Hoover Institution has not changed, rapid advances in computer technology, the concurrent increase in the speed of communication, and the evolving needs of scholars and researchers have made adapting a necessity.

In 2003, the Hoover Library completed its realignment process with the Stanford University Library (SUL) system, the purpose of which was to eliminate redundancy between Hoover and the Stanford libraries and to enable Hoover to concentrate more of its available resources on its archives. As a result, Hoover’s entire 400,000-volume East Asia collection and staff were transferred to SUL, as were approximately 350,000 of the library’s 1.5 million volumes.

The Hoover Institution continues to explore the possibilities of the Internet, using e-mail, podcasts, webcasts, blogs, and audio/video to reach out to policy makers, academics, journalists, supporters, and the general public. Hoover’s op-ed and commentary program has grown by leaps and bounds since the 1970s, when only a few articles were published by Hoover fellows each month. Today, dozens of opinion pieces and articles written by and about Hoover fellows are published every week and highlighted in the Daily Report, a compendium of those writings sent out by e-mail. The Institution has also begun working with FORA.tv—a public affairs portal on the Internet—to make video and audio recordings of Hoover events and speakers available online. Uncommon Knowledge, Hoover’s public affairs program hosted by Research Fellow Peter Robinson, is now exclusively available through FORA.tv, National Review Online, and the Hoover website. Among many other online offerings are the complete contents of the Hoover Digest and Education Next, Hoover’s journal put out by members of the Koret Task Force on K–12 Education. That eleven-member task force of highly accomplished education scholars is the centerpiece of Hoover’s Initiative on American Educational Institutions and Academic Performance.

As the archives continues to grow, the issue of access to materials is being addressed in innovative ways. Through the Online Archive of California, researchers from around the world can search the finding aids to more than 1,300 of our archival collections, which allows them to determine the contents of a particular collection and narrow their search down to the most relevant boxes before they come to Hoover, maximizing their time for onsite research. We are currently in the midst of digitizing 30,000 slides of our poster collection, which were filmed in the early 1980s thanks to a U.S. Department of Education grant. As these scans are completed, they are uploaded to our website and can be searched and viewed. Also available online are selected clips from Firing Line, William F. Buckley’s television program that ran from 1966 to 1999. The complete series is housed in the Hoover Archives; certain programs are available for purchase through Hoover’s partnership with the online retailer Amazon.com.

On November 9, 2006, President George W. Bush presented the Hoover Institution with the National Humanities Medal, citing it for “its responsible stewardship and its promotion of liberty and peace,” making it the first think tank to receive that prestigious award. Hoover fellows Victor Davis Hanson, Thomas Sowell, and Shelby Steele are individual recipients of that medal.

By collecting knowledge, generating ideas, and disseminating both, the Hoover Institution has built a proud heritage and is continuously striving toward the ideal envisioned by its founder nine decades ago.