



## Guide to the John D. Dombrink Gaming Research Files

---

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 29, 2022. Please contact [special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu) for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f14672>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special  
Collections and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical Note .....	4
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Names and Subjects .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	Dombrink, John
<b>Title:</b>	John D. Dombrink Gaming Research Files
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00329
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	approximately 1951 to 1990
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7.50 Cubic Feet (20 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.34 Linear Feet
<b>Physical Description:</b>	512 Digital Files (3.500 GB) JPG
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The John D. Dombrink Gaming Research Files (approximately 1951-1990) contain the research files of John D. Dombrink in preparation for his book <i>The Last Resort: Success and Failure in Campaigns for Casinos</i> , published in 1991. The collection consists of newspaper clippings, journal articles, and public reports on a variety of topics and issues related to gaming in the United States, including organized crime, commercial gaming, and regulatory practices and issues. The collection also contains manuscript drafts for <i>The Last Resort: Success and Failure in Campaigns for Casinos</i> with handwritten revisions and comments by Dombrink, as well as correspondence about the book's potential publication and promotion.

### Preferred Citation

John D. Dombrink Gaming Research Files, approximately 1951-1990. MS-00329. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Biographical Note

---

John D. Dombrink is currently Professor Emeritus of Criminology, Law & Society and Sociology at the University of California, Irvine. Dombrink was born on August 19, 1952 and has studied various topics related to gaming and gambling, including commercial gaming, organized crime, and various legal aspects of gaming in the United States. He received his PhD in Sociology from the University of California at Berkeley. He co-authored two books with Daniel Hillyard, *Sin No More: From Abortion to Stem Cells, Understanding Crime, Law and Morality in America* and *Dying Right: The Death With Dignity Movement*. He is also a co-author of *The Last Resort: Success and Failure in Campaigns for Casinos* with William N. Thompson. He has also authored numerous articles on the legal treatment of vice, organized crime, and commercial gambling in the United States. Since 1999, he has directed the Criminology Outreach Program, which provides academic support to and encourages over 1,500 high school and middle school students in the Orange County area. Dombrink currently resides in California.

Source:

"John D. Dombrink," University of California, Irvine School of Social Ecology. Accessed February 13, 2020. <https://faculty.sites.uci.edu/dombrink/>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents Note

---

The John D. Dombrink Gaming Research Files (approximately 1951-1990) contain the research files of John D. Dombrink in preparation for his book *The Last Resort: Success and Failure in Campaigns for Casinos*, published in 1991. The book examines the ten major campaigns to legalize casino gambling in the United States between 1976 and 1986, and proposes an explanation for why legalization of casino gaming lags behind legalization of other forms of gambling. The collection consists of newspaper clippings, journal articles, and public reports on a variety of topics and issues related to gaming in the United States, including organized crime, commercial gaming, and regulatory practices and issues. The collection also contains manuscript drafts for *The Last Resort: Success and Failure in Campaigns for Casinos* with handwritten revisions and comments by Dombrink, as well as correspondence about the book's potential publication and promotion. The research files mainly cover Nevada, New Jersey, and New York, but several other states and international issues are also included in the collection. Select material has been digitized for preservation purposes and is noted at the box level of this inventory.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Arrangement

---

Materials remain as they were received.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Access Note

Collection is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2001 by John D. Dombrink; accession number 1993-14.

### Processing Note

In 2020, Sarah Jones reboxed the collection, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2020, due to insurmountable preservation issues, Sarah Jones digitized select materials from the collection for preservation purposes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Names and Subjects

---

- Gambling -- Regulation
- Gambling and crime -- Nevada
- Compulsive gambling
- Gambling -- Law and legislation

## Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Nevada gaming research files, approximately 1951 to 1985	box 01
Physical Description: 310 Digital Files (2.140 GB) JPG	box 02
Access Note: Seven files exist only as digital surrogates and open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.	box 03
	box 04
	box 05
New Jersey gaming research files, approximately 1960 to 1980	box 06
Physical Description: 202 Digital Files (1.350 GB) JPG	box 07
Access Note: One file exists only as a digital surrogate and is open for research. Arrangements must be made in advance to access digital files; please contact UNLV Special Collections and Archives for additional information.	box 08
New York, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts gaming research files, approximately 1970 to 1989	box 09
	box 10
Gaming reports, student papers, and oral history transcripts, approximately 1960 to 1980	box 11
	box 12
	box 13
<i>The Last Resort: Success and Failure in Campaigns for Casinos</i> research files, book drafts, and notes, approximately 1970 to 1985	box 14
	box 15
	box 20
Gaming journals, newspaper articles, and photocopies for research, approximately 1970 to 1990	box 15
	box 16
	box 17
	box 18
	box 19