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The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) was chartered in 1915. From its original role of coordinating research efforts under way elsewhere, NACA grew to have its own facilities and do its own research. In 1958, NACA was subsumed into the new National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), which inherited its facilities and charge.

NACA research covered such fields as aerodynamics, propulsion, aircraft construction, and materials. Five times NACA research won the Robert J. Collier Trophy awarded by the National Aeronautic Association. Important projects, many using NACA's state-of-the-art wind tunnels, investigated drag reduction, deicing, and the basics of supersonic flight. Airfoils (wing and propeller shapes) developed by NACA scientists are still used today on model planes and general aviation aircraft.

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NACA published its research in various series of reports from 1917 through 1958. The most important series are:

- NACA Reports, also called NACA Technical Reports (TR). Usually the final report on a project, summarizing earlier interim reports.
- NACA Technical Notes (TN). Report partial results or material of narrower interest. Selected information from these reports was often analyzed and refined for later publication in the more formal Technical Report series.
- NACA Technical Memorandums (TM). Reprinted reports from other laboratories, often translations from foreign languages.
- NACA Wartime Reports (WR). Published after World War II to make more widely available wartime research that had been previously issued in restricted series.
- NACA Research Memorandums (RM). Less formal reports issued to meet the need for rapid dissemination of aeronautical information.
- NACA Annual Reports (AR). Contain NACA's Annual Report to Congress as well as Technical Reports produced in that year.
- Aircraft Circulars (AC). Reprints of articles giving specifications of individual aircraft, often from other countries.

NACA reports are available as full-text PDF files of the original reports, in Searchable Image Exact format, so the text of each report is searchable. Reports can be printed or downloaded.

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