Los Angeles Aqueduct-Metabolic Studio Digitization Project

Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library
Claremont Colleges Digital Library
Established infrastructure

The Claremont Colleges Digital Library (CCDL) provides access to historical and visual resources collections created both by and for The Claremont Colleges community.

The Claremont Colleges Collections

- Claremont Graduate University
- Claremont McKenna College
- Harvey Mudd College
- Keck Graduate Institute
- Pitzer College
- Pomona College
- Scripps College
- Claremont Colleges Library

Claremont Colleges Photo Archive
Honold Mudd Library, Special Collections

Pueblo and Plains Indian Watercolors
Elta Strong Denison Library
Established collection

About this collection

Water has long played an integral part of California’s history and as such a myriad of materials have found their way into the circulating and special collections of the Libraries of The Claremont Colleges. It will be the purpose of this collection to make many of these materials available through the Internet.

Currently the collection consists primarily of bulletins of the California Department of Water Resources and its predecessor agencies. Those bulletins present findings from hundreds of investigations conducted throughout the years from one end of the State to the other. Topics represented in this collection include water quality, flood control, water distribution, water conservation, water usage, and drought as well as some geology. The collection also contains materials pertaining to the creation and operation of the Central Valley Project, the California State Water Project, and their component works.

This project is a work in progress, so please check back for updates.

Digital project staff: Katie Allen (CGU), Julia Brynman (Oxy), Archita Bhatti (CGU), Nydia Diasamara (Pomona), Katie Hassan (Pitzer), Helen Huang (Scipio), Elizabeth Kavoussi (Pomona), Rehselia Mag, Matthew Paris (Pomona), Pimpinla Prawetpipit (CGU), Anzhing Panicy (CGU), Maria Ramirez (Pomona), Brad Reed (the Libraries), Sdana Stewart (CGU), Karen Stroves (CGU), Scott Stroves (CGU), and Winnie Wang (Pomona).
Copyright

- # of items
  - Publications - 55
  - Archival collections – 4

- 20 letters sent out
  - Not contactable - 5
Permission letter – part 1

- My name is Lisa Crane and I am writing to you from Special Collections at the Honnold/Mudd Library of the Claremont Colleges. Special Collections would like to digitize your publication, listed below, which is part of our Water Resources collection and upload the digitized version into the California Water Documents (CWD) collection in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library (CCDL). Our efforts to digitize this collection are part of the upcoming centenary of the Los Angeles aqueduct and have been made possible by the generous donation of a philanthropic organization.
Permission letter – part 2

- You can view the CWD collection in the CCDL here: (http://ccdl.libraries.claremont.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cwd). To see other items digitized as part of this grant, enter “Los Angeles aqueduct” in the search box at the top of the page. We will be sure to give credit in accordance with your wishes as part of the descriptive metadata that will appear below the digital object. We will also route future copyright permission requests per your instructions.
Permission letter – part 3

- As this is a grant funded project, we do have a deadline to meet. We ask that you respond to our request for permission to publish by March 31, 2013. Should we not receive a response by this date, we will proceed with digitizing the publication listed above. Please feel free to respond by e-mail to the e-mail address below.
Permission letter – part 4

- As with all of our rare and unique collections, we seek to make both the Water Resources collection and the CWD collection accessible to the students, faculty, and staff of the Claremont institutions, as well as to scholars, researchers, and members of the community. It is our hope that you will join us in making this possible.
Responses

- 2 denials
- A major publishing house
  - “denying your request to the Digitalization of this book and posting to the Claremont Special Collections site.
- A university press
  - “cannot grant you permission to digitize this publication...currently working with our library to increase accessibility of the work we publish, and we plan on hosting the material...”
Responses

- 8 approvals
- “I am delighted to grant permission…”
- “All we do ask is for an opportunity to review once you have uploaded the document. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.”
- “The credit line that we prefer...We are proud to have our publication included in this project and welcome your organization’s offer to route any future copyright permission requests.”
Responses

- “Thank you for the honor of including me in this collection. May I also invite your attention to four more essays that you could consider.”
- “We are happy to grant permission, and thank you for proper citation. Good luck with your project!”

- 10 – no responses
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Contact information

Lisa L. Crane, MLIS
Western Americana Librarian
Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library
The Claremont Colleges
Lisa_Crane@cuc.claremont.edu
Claremont Colleges Digital Library –
http://ccdl.libraries.claremont.edu/cdm/
California Water Documents –
http://ccdl.libraries.claremont.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cwd
Slide 2 – Established infrastructure

When we received the grant from Metabolic Studio, we had the advantage of having an established digital collection infrastructure. The Claremont Colleges Digital Library, which runs on a CONTENTdm platform, had been up and running since 2005.

Slide 3 – Established collection

We even had an established digital collection with our California Water Documents collection. To identify the materials digitized under this grant, we ensured all items contained the subject heading, “Los Angeles Aqueduct”.

Since several of my colleagues will be sharing with you their experiences in developing their infrastructures under their grants with you today – I thought I would share with you our experiences in dealing with copyright on our Los Angeles Aqueduct materials.

Slide 4 – Copyright

Most of the materials we planned to digitize were publications, rather than manuscript materials. We only had 4 archival, or manuscript collections, which contained Los Angeles Aqueduct materials. Yet, we had some 55 publications. These items were published by a variety of sources including government entities and private authors; university presses and major publication houses.

These publications were published by a total of 25 organizations or individuals. We were not successful in tracking down contact information for 5 – so we only sent out 20 letters.

Slide 5 – Permission letter, part 1

The letter we sent out consisted of 4 parts. The first paragraph provided the who, what, where, why and how. It was meant to introduce me, our organization and our project.

Slide 6 – Permission letter, part 2

The second paragraph offered insight into the quality of our work and the project by showing how we portrayed other LA Aqueduct materials, mostly manuscript items, in the California Water Documents collection. We also provided assurances regarding proper attribution and future copyright requests.

Slide 7 – Permission letter, part 3

Of course, we had to establish a timeframe within which they needed to respond and we were very up front that we would take a lack of response as a “green light” to move forward with digitization of their item.

Slide 8 – Permission letter, part 4

Lastly, we finished the letter with an altruistic note about the project. Almost shaming them if they didn’t want to participate!
Slide 9 – Responses

Of the 20 letters that went out – we did get 2 denials. One was from a major publishing house and they just flat out said, “no”. Another was from a university press who explained that they wanted to host and promote their own material. Okay – this is understandable so I followed-up with the publisher to suggest potential cross promotion by providing a link from our collection to their item in their collection. I never did get a response to my follow-up.

Slide 10 – Responses

Of the 20 letters, we did get 8 approvals. While there was a request to review the material once it was online and another request for a specific credit line and routing of future copyright permission requests, most were delighted. . .

Slide 11 – Responses

. . .honored and happy to grant permission. Half of the letters we sent out did not solicit a response one way or the other – so we moved forward on digitizing that material and made it available online.

Slide 12 – Metadata

These next three slides demonstrate how we incorporated proper attribution and the various requests made by the author and/or publisher. Notice how we included the “original publisher” information in a metadata field and how we tailored the “rights” field based on the permission granted. Here the publisher requested future permission requests get routed to them.

Slide 13 – Metadata

In this case only one of the authors was still living, so we went with his approval. Since he didn’t have a specific requirement for future permission requests, we used our “generic” rights statement to contact us for more information.

Slide 14 – Metadata

And this one, published by the Senate of the California State Legislature, who was one of the few government agencies who actually responded. Most of the 10 no response letters were to other government agencies.

Slide 15 – Contact information

And here’s my contact information should you have any questions or comments. Please don’t hesitate to send me an e-mail or check out our other items in the California Water Documents collection or our other collections in the Claremont Colleges Digital Library.