Start Making Sense: Contextualizing Digital Archival Content

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: SESSION 3
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California State University
Japanese American Digitization Project
www.csujad.com

- Large-scale collaborative digitization project and platform
- 15+ CSU campuses, partners outside the CSU
- 15,000 records by 2018

- Grant-funded project

- Helped early career archivists achieve success… thank you!
The need for contextualization
Exhibits: Online

- Online
- Scalar
- Created by Steve Kutay, CSUN

http://scalar.usc.edu/works/csujad-exhibit/index
Exhibits: In-Person

Post-Pearl Harbor Suspicion

American Incarceration Camps

"You fought the enemy abroad and prejudices at home and you won," President Harry Truman addressing Japanese Americans. July 4, 1946

Japanese American soldiers fighting abroad.

In-person exhibitions provide a unique opportunity to engage with the history of Japanese American internment during World War II.
Exhibits: Showcasing Collections

Executive Order 9066: The 75th Anniversary

January 31, 1942: March 31, 1947

Library Exhibit Gallery

Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942, resulted in the forced removal of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast of the United States, most of whom were US citizens. Americans of Japanese descent were ultimately incarcerated in two camps around the US administered by the War Relocation Authority (WRA). On December 18, 1944, the US Supreme Court ruled that loyal American citizens could not be detained without cause regardless of their cultural descent, and on January 2, 1945, the order was rescinded. As inmates were released, they were given $25 and a train ticket home. The Tule Lake Segregation Center, the last camp in operation, shut down on March 20, 1946.

On display in the center of the gallery are newspapers produced by inmates in the Gila River and Poston camps in Arizona, the Jerome and Rohwer camps in Arkansas, the Manzanar and Tule Lake camps in California, the Granada camp in Colorado, the Tule Lake camps in Utah, and the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming. They provide firsthand information about the lives of the incarcerated via articles about mass halls and other communal spaces, school events, baseball leagues, dances, and more. Broader issues of interest in every camp are also prevalent, including the loyalty questionnaire used by the WRA to determine the “Americaness” of incarcerated adults, the subsequent segregation at Tule Lake of those deemed “disloyal” via the questionnaire, the status of the incarcerated's children, and the agency's responsibilities post-release.

Other Library Events & Exhibitions

A large group of children are photographed outside of the Public Library - Language and Performing Arts Community Center. From CSU Dominguez Hills Digital Exhibits in honor of the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project.

The website will run from February 6, 2017, to May 19, 2017, in the 1st Floor Terrace of Pollak Library.

About the Exhibit

The story of the Japanese Americans in the 20th century—their migration to this country, the Alien Land Laws under which they lived, their incarceration during World War II, the redress movement, is a complex local and national topic as well as a national subject of great historical impact. ThePathVariable of archival materials telling these stories at Oviatt Library, CSUN, and Pollak Library, CSU Fullerton, is one aspect of this larger history.
Exhibits:
Repurposing and Enhancing

Cal Poly San Louis Obispo
Symposia: Focusing and Connecting

CSU Dominguez Hills, February 2017

• Film series
• Panels /discussions
• Garden dedication
Speaking of which....

GO SEE THE EXHIBIT
Open Through: August 2017

CSU Dominguez Hills Library
1000 E Victoria St, Carson, CA 90747

10am-4pm, Mon-Fri | Library Cultural Arts Center LIB-1940

Archives Exhibition: And Then They Came for Us...
Teaching Guides: Coming Soon…
Outreach:
Including More People in the Discussion

http://www.calarchivists.org/AGM2017
Thank You!
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Seeing is believing

Transforming Representations of Marginalized Groups through Collaborative Digital Projects

Evan Tucker-CSU Japanese American Digitization Project
This Japanese Peruvian prisoner was a secretary at the hospital at the Crystal City incarceration camp. She was allegedly repatriated to Peru after World War II ended.
A child crying at the Crystal City incarceration camp.
After World War II ended the members of the Hirayama family were released from the Crystal City incarceration camp and deported to Japan. The United States government deported nearly 2,000 Japanese Latin American prisoners to Japan, rather than to the Latin American countries where they previously resided.
This illustrated map depicts the Justice Department camp in Crystal City, Texas where the majority of Japanese Latin American civilians were held.
This memorandum was written by American diplomat John K. Emmerson, the only person at the US embassy in Peru who spoke Japanese. Emmerson would later write in his 1978 memoir, "During my period of service in the embassy, we found no reliable evidence of planned or contemplated acts of sabotage, subversion, or espionage."
Exhibition - And They Came for Us...