NEH AWARDS LEADING SAN FRANCISCO INSTITUTIONS
$315,000 TO DIGITIZE AIDS ARCHIVES


The Archives and Special Collections department of the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Library, in collaboration with the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Historical Society, has been awarded a $315,000 implementation grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The collaborating institutions will digitize about 127,000 pages from 49 archival collections related to the early days of the AIDS epidemic in the San Francisco Bay Area and make them widely accessible.
to the public online.

The 24-month project, “The San Francisco Bay Area’s Response to the AIDS Epidemic: Digitizing, Reuniting, and Providing Universal Access to Historical AIDS Records” will commence on July 1, 2017. The materials will be digitized by the University of California, Merced Library’s Digital Assets Unit. The project team has established a five-member Advisory Board that will be available to consult with project team members as needed to assess and resolve issues related to sensitive materials in the collections. The digital files generated by this project will be disseminated broadly through both Calisphere, and the Digital Public Library of America.

Haipeng Li, University Librarian, UC Merced Library stated that “this project builds upon our long-standing collaboration with UCSF Library to digitize rare and unique materials in the health sciences.”

The AIDS epidemic became one of the most significant public-health events of the late-twentieth century, continuing into the twenty-first. San Francisco was particularly hard hit by AIDS, in part because, by the early 1980s, it had become a welcoming place for gay men who moved from throughout the country and around the world to experience a flourishing community. This same diaspora also fueled, early on in the crisis, the development of unique community-based organizations (CBOs) to care for the sick and dying. At the same time, the AIDS crisis engendered unprecedented modes of political activism. Art and literature, too, most notably the AIDS Quilt, were created out of the grief and loss caused by the epidemic. Beginning in the mid-1980s, San Francisco witnessed the development of a highly effective collaborative network of city and state agencies, hospitals, health care providers, and CBOs that, through a goal of putting patients first, became known as the “San Francisco model” of compassionate AIDS care.

In the late 1980s, UCSF initiated, with the GLBT Historical Society and other Bay Area archives, the AIDS History Project, addressing the need to forge relationships between historians and the AIDS community to document and preserve the lessons and experience of the AIDS epidemic. Today UCSF, the GLBT Historical Society, and SFPL archivists have selected collections from each archive that will contribute to an understanding of the medical, social, and political processes that merged to develop effective means of treating those with AIDS, educate the public about HIV, create social support organizations for those who were often shunned by family, and advocate for a

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that it has already been a month since the AGM in Pasadena, which was by far the largest in SCA history. The Local Arrangements Committee did a fantastic job organizing the conference and showcasing the many great aspects of the local vicinity. In choosing the theme of the AGM—New Media, Same Process: Reconsidering Archives in Old Pasadena—the Program Committee hoped to inspire the membership to reflect on archival basics in the context of all the new tools, materials, and challenges that have become a regular part of our profession. Our membership more than answered the call, as the committee received many more proposals than it could accept, and even had enough great ideas leftover to form the basis of two thematic lightning talk sessions. Our speakers, Ann Scheid and John Divola, provided some very interesting content about the region and importance of our profession. This AGM was also able to feature a couple of very special events: the screening of Don Hahn’s documentary, The Gamble House, and our very first SCA Trivia Night. Thank you all for attending and helping to make the AGM so successful!

This is also the time of year that the board turns over, and we bring on new members. Rotating off the board this year are Ellen Jarosz, who was our Immediate Past President, and Li Wei Yang, who served as a Director at Large. Both were instrumental in some of the great new initiatives that the board implemented over the past few years, and will be sincerely missed. However, I am also very excited to welcome a couple of great colleagues to the board: Teresa Mora, who is our incoming Vice President/President-Elect, and Jessica Knox-Jensen, who will serve as a Director at Large. It is gratifying for me to work with such accomplished and dedicated people, and I hope that all of you will consider answering the call if contacted by the Nominating Committee.

In the coming year, communication and collaboration will continue to be main focuses of the board. After successfully working together last year, the Electronic Communication and Outreach & Publicity Committees will merge over the next year to become the Communications & Outreach Committee. Broadly, this committee will serve to facilitate communication between SCA members and disseminate information about the profession through various means. Likewise, the Membership & Website Management Task Force will continue to explore new ways to better represent and serve our members through a new website and new membership and events management solutions. We are also actively encouraging all of our committees to work more closely together to more efficiently serve our membership.

The past year has seen us partner with the California Rare Books School (CalRBS) on a new scholarship, and the California Library Association (CLA) and California Association of Museums (CAM) on a postcard supporting the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). We are currently speaking with other allied organizations about future sponsorships and affiliations and looking at upcoming events that SCA might be able to help support. Please let us know if you are part of another association which might be interested in partnering with us.

We have some other exciting new initiatives that I hope to be able to share with you in the very near future. And of course, I am already counting the days until our next AGM in Yosemite. This is a great time to be a member of SCA, especially with the upcoming 2020 Western Round-Up, which will be held in California, and the impending 50th anniversary of the society in 2021. I urge you all to renew your membership—and to let us know if you are interested in getting involved. It is our membership that makes SCA so special, and I am greatly looking forward to working with all of you this year.

David Uhlich
SCA President
The Society of California Archivists, Inc. exists to support and develop those who collect, care for, and provide access to the documentary heritage of California and adjoining areas. To this end it:

1. acts as a vehicle for dissemination of information about archival collections, issues, and methodology to the profession and the public;

2. provides a forum for the discussion of matters related to the creation, preservation, and use of historical documents;

3. develops, offers and supports archival education programs;

4. cooperates with individuals and organizations on matters of common concern; and

5. advocates the identification, collection, preservation, use, and appreciation of historical records and manuscripts.

The SCA Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. All submissions, advertisements for e newsletter should be directed to the Editors of the Newsletter:

Newsletter Editors
The Bancroft Library
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720-6000
Email(s): newsletter@calarchivists.org

Copy Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, & June 1

Format for Submissions: Articles and other items submitted for consideration should be sent via e-mail attachment.

Newsletter editors and layout designers: Steve Kutay, Nicole Shibata and Emily Vigor.

www.calarchivists.org ©2016
community that was dying at an alarming rate.

Terry Beswick, Executive Director of the GLBT Historical Society explained, “We were founded in 1985 in San Francisco, at a time when it was becoming increasingly apparent that AIDS was threatening the historical memory of the LGBTQ community. In fact, we lost many of our founders and supporters to AIDS - and many are living with HIV today. That’s why this project is especially important to us. AIDS and, more importantly, the San Francisco Bay Area’s response to the epidemic, have been both the catalyst for our formation and one of our main historical influences.”

“Not only will the proposed collaborative project allow greater access to primary source materials that are located only in San Francisco, but it will ensure that these items are digitally preserved for long lasting use. We also welcome the opportunity to “reunite” collections that were given to multiple institutions in separate donations over time or from different donors,” said Luis Herrera, San Francisco City Librarian.

“UCSF and affiliated faculty and staff including those at Zuckerberg San Francisco General, played a leading role in responding to the horrendous HIV epidemic. The experiences of that response and the lessons learned that can help guide future challenges demand we collect and preserve documents from those early days.” said Paul Volberding, Director, AIDS Research Institute; Director, Global Health Sciences Research; Co-Director, UCSF-GIVI Center for AIDS Research. “We are certain that this archive will be a powerful research tool for historians as they help us better understand our contributions. The UCSF AIDS Research Institute is eager to do all we can to help this vital resource.”

Polina E. Ilieva, CA
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We play nice with others.
Fans of Jack London and his wife Charmian make regular pilgrimages to Jack London State Historic Park in Glen Ellen, near Sonoma in the Valley of the Moon. There, they can enjoy exhibits in the museum and in the Cottage where the Londons lived and where Jack wrote until his death 101 years ago. But Sonoma County has another gem of London memories in the Special Collections Department of Sonoma State University Library in Rohnert Park, about fifteen miles away.

The story of this collection begins with its creator, Carl J. Bernatovech, who was born in Buffalo in 1943. Shortly after returning from Vietnam he read The Call of the Wild and was so enthralled by the story that he began to read everything he could find either by or about Jack London. He also began to collect books, manuscripts, and ephemera, and soon amassed an impressive personal collection.

One of Carl Bernatovech’s friends and fans was a theatrical producer and rare book collector named Waring Jones. After Mr. Bernatovech’s death in 1997, Jones contacted his family to find out if the Jack London collection was for sale. When he found out it was available he decided to buy and then donate the entire collection to Sonoma State. He wanted his friend’s books and papers to be easily accessible to both students and the general public.

He took his donation one step further: he also provided the funds to process, store, and display the materials, which now live in the Waring Jones Reading Room of the University Library, located in the Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center on campus. The collection was processed in 2001 and the Waring Jones Reading Room was opened the same year.

Mr. Bernatovech had multiple copies of many of Jack London first editions, as well as magazines with first appearances of Jack London’s serialized novels and stories. There are forty-one books with personal inscriptions by London, seven of his books inscribed to friends by Charmian London, and four inscribed copies of the biography she wrote about her late husband, published in 1921. There is also an extraordinary collection of movie memorabilia from the films that have been made from London’s novels: lobby cards, posters, promotional booklets, etc.

The Waring Jones Room houses an additional collection titled “Jack London in Context.” Collector Palmer Andrews has a special interest in London’s place in history, his relation to movements such as Socialism, and his relationships with other writers. His collection includes London’s novels, articles, and plays, and first person accounts of the author in books, magazines, and letters. Palmer Andrews gave his collection to Sonoma State in 2014.

Both collections are open to both students and the public by appointment. http://library.sonoma.edu/specialcollections/notable/london

Sonoma State University’s Special Collections houses both archival and digital collections about myriad people and places in the North Bay and California. These include Gaye LeBaron, newspaper columnist and local historian; Corrick Brown, retired conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony; Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey; the Dust Bowl Migration Archive; the
Among the treasures in the Jack London Collection at the Sonoma State University Library are colorful posters created to advertise the many films made from London’s novels.

Student Dissent Papers from the 1960s and 1970s; and the papers of Charles Rhinehart, famed environmental and anti-nuclear activist.

Visit the library’s web page for more information on Special Collections: http://library.sonoma.edu/specialcollections/collections

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**THE ARTHUR ALARCÓN PAPERS**

The Special Collections department of the University of Southern California’s Doheny Library is pleased to announce the availability of the online finding aid for the Arthur Alarcón papers. The papers document nearly seventy-five years of the personal and professional life of the first judge of Hispanic descent to sit on the bench of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Alarcón’s long and prominent career began shortly after receiving his law degree from the University of Southern California in 1951. At that time he was hired by the District Attorney’s Office for Los Angeles and remained in that position until 1961 when then Governor Edmund G. “Pat” Brown appointed him legal advisor and Clemency and Extraditions secretary, in addition to serving on the Governor’s Special Commission on Narcotics (aka “Dope Commission”). For a brief time, he served as chair of the California Adult Authority, the parole board for men, a position he held until 1978.

It was in 1979 that the Republican Alarcón was nominated by then President Jimmy Carter for a seat on the Ninth Circuit bench, becoming the first Latino to sit on the court. He served as an active judge until taking senior status in 1992. The longtime judge presided over many noteworthy cases, including that of Sirhan Sirhan, convicted of assassinating Robert F. Kennedy. Nearly thirty-five years earlier, in 1959, Alarcón was a deputy district attorney on the famous “no dead body” murder case with a conviction based solely on circumstantial evidence. The affluent wife of Leonard Ewing Scott, Evelyn Scott, had been last seen alive at the couple’s home in Los Angeles on May 16, 1955. Her dentures, glasses, and other personal items were found near an incinerator in the backyard of the couple’s estate in the Bel Air community of Los Angeles. Scott had already been charged with forgery and fraud for the looting of his wife’s bank accounts after Los Angeles police visited Evelyn’s safe deposit boxes and discovered only envelopes filled with sand, as Leonard had withdrawn large sums of money and deposited those funds in his own accounts. Though Scott was indicted by a Los Angeles grand jury on 13 counts of forgery and theft, he was released on $25,000 bail—and then fled to Canada. Scott was eventually returned to the United States after the grand jury produced an additional indictment against Scott for murder—for which he was convicted purely on circumstantial evidence since the victim’s body was never found. Scott was given a life...

Arthur Alarcón’s law degree from the University of Southern California, 1951.
sentence, but was released in 1978. After his release, he admitted he had committed the murder and died in 1987 at age 91.

Another of Judge Alarcón's high-profile cases occurred in the 1990s when Alarcón was a 9th Circuit court judge assigned to a special panel to consider a group of habeas petitions surrounding the Robert Alton Harris case. Back in 1978, Robert Alton Harris and his younger brother Daniel stole a car in San Diego occupied by two teenage boys who were eating hamburgers in a supermarket parking lot. The Harris brothers drove the boys to a remote area and shot them dead, later using their car to rob a bank and fled with about $2,000. They were quickly apprehended and charged with auto theft, kidnapping, murder, burglary, and bank robbery. Robert Harris was convicted of two counts of murder in the first degree with special circumstances as well as two counts of kidnapping. Daniel Harris was convicted of kidnapping, and sentenced to six years in state prison. He was released two years early in 1983. Robert Harris was scheduled to be executed on April 21, 1992 at 12:01 a.m. but a series of four stays issued by the 9th circuit appeal court delayed the execution until just after 6 a.m. His execution in the gas chamber at San Quentin State Prison was the first execution in California in 25 years.

Because Alarcón was so actively involved in a number of life or death decisions during his career, he conducted extensive research on the efficacy of capital punishment. In his later years, he advocated for the overhaul of the state’s capital punishment system and his article “Remedies for California’s Death Row Deadlock” was published in the University of Southern California Law Review. In 2011, another article co-authored by Alarcón, “Executing the Will of the Voters?: A Roadmap to Mend or End the California Legislature’s Multi-Billion Dollar Death Penalty Debacle,” appeared in an issue of the Loyola Law Review.

In addition to Alarcón’s many publications, he held teaching assignments as adjunct professor of law at Loyola Law School, the University of Southern California, and Southwestern School of Law. He was a lecturer on criminal procedure for California College of Trial Judges, and a lecturer on evidence in criminal matters for National College of Trial Judges. Judge Alarcón filled in on federal courts across the country and took pride in participating in international judicial exchange programs, working with judges in Chile and Argentina.

Judge Arthur Alarcón passed away on January 28, 2015 at his home in Los Angeles after having been diagnosed with cancer the previous September. He had celebrated his 50th year as a judge in 2014; most of that half-century of judicial service was as a federal appellate judge. He had maintained a full caseload and continued to work for a time following his diagnosis, never letting on to his colleagues about his illness. He was survived by his wife Sandra and three children—Greg, Jan Marie, and Lance. Sandra Alarcón subsequently donated her husband’s office files and some of his personal memorabilia to the USC Libraries Special Collections in June of 2015, with a five-year restriction on the judge’s case files. Other materials in the collection include clippings on various subjects such as narcotics use and the death penalty, speeches and reports, interviews, publications and research notes, and personal ephemera and photographs in several large scrapbooks.

The finding aid for the Arthur Alarcón papers can be accessed through the Online Archive of California:
EDA RECEIVES NHPRC GRANT

The Environmental Design Archives (EDA) at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), in collaboration with the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), have been awarded an $82,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Under the Access to Historical Records: Archival Projects grant program, the EDA and UPenn will digitize approximately 650 images from collections that highlight the design development of The Sea Ranch, a breakthrough example of environmentally sensitive design that continues to grow in influence and relevance to architects and the public at large.

The 12-month project, Living Lightly on the Land: A Virtual Sea Ranch Design Collection (commencing September 1, 2017) will result in an interactive virtual collection documenting the unique and prescient design and development of The Sea Ranch, through the inclusion of digitized material including: drawings, photographs, essential documents, and ephemera, from the holdings of the EDA collections of Joseph Esherick (EHDD), MLTW, Marquis & Stoller, Dmitri Vedensky, and Barbara Stauffacher Solomon; and drawings, notebooks, moving images, photographs, and project files from the Lawrence Halprin Collection at UPenn. Using Omeka as a platform, this virtual collection portal will be designed to encourage users to interact with the development of The Sea Ranch through the rich and diverse holdings of the EDA and UPenn topographically, chronologically, by designer, and thematically creating a robust research experience.

Considered one of the earliest ecological designs, the vision of The Sea Ranch coincided with and reflected the emerging environmental movement of the 1960s and 1970s. Halprin’s masterplan included both individual residences and group housing in the form of condominiums. Although each firm worked independently, they arrived at complementary designs that reflected Bay Area traditions of local materials and a sensitivity to climate. Ideas emphasized in all designs included: use of topography to minimize human intrusion on the landscape, cooperative living, and sustainable development. This forward-thinking design is considered by many architectural historians as the birthplace of the third phase of the Bay Area Tradition of architecture. The buildings designed by

http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8b2812n/entire_text/?query=Alarc%C3%B3n.

Jacqueline Morin, Processing Archivist
USC Libraries, Special Collections
morinj@usc.edu
MLTW and Joseph Esherick for The Sea Ranch marked a turning point in Bay Area architecture by borrowing from the California rural tradition, especially wood shingled barns, and coupling it with a new appreciation of regional builder’s vernacular. By the late 1960s the “vertical shed-roofed box” created at The Sea Ranch inspired a new design idiom, and by the 1970s variations on the shed-roofed vertical box could be found throughout the United States.

Documenting the origins of the third phase of the Bay Area Tradition and virtually uniting the records that document the creation of The Sea Ranch through a digital interactive portal will provide a unique, valuable, and inspirational resource for scholars, students, and all researchers who would otherwise have to visit collections on opposite sides of the United States. It is our hope that seeing these plans and projects united will foster new realizations, understanding, scholarship, and appreciation for this outstanding project and the people involved.

https://www.archives.gov/nhp/c
http://archives.ced.berkeley.edu
https://www.design.upenn.edu/architectural-archives/about

Emily Vigor
Collections Archivist
Environmental Design Archives
UC Berkeley

ROBIN L. CHANDLER ANNOUNCED AS RECIPIENT OF SCA’S SUSTAINED SERVICE AWARD

Robin L. Chandler was the recipient of the 2017 Sustained Service Award of the Society of California Archivists at the annual general meeting held in April in Pasadena, California. Her contributions to SCA and the archival profession have been far-reaching and transformative.

Robin is an innovative leader whose dedication to the Society of California Archivists, the Society of American Archivists, and the sharing of archival resources online has been a source of inspiration to many of us.

Because of a previous commitment to participate in an exhibition of her oil paintings at the Chalk Hill Artist Residency in Sonoma County, Robin, was unable to attend the SCA annual meeting this year. Robin prepared these remarks that were to be read in her stead by the CDL’s Adrian Turner at the award ceremony:

“My Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It’s impossible to tell you how touched I am by this honor: Looking back at the landscape of a wonderful career, my years of involvement with the Society of California Archivists shine brightly. While an active member of SCA I had the pleasure to serve on numerous committees and task forces and to serve as Board member, Vice President and President. Reflecting, I am grateful to have contributed to two ideas fully realized over the years by the hard work of my SCA colleagues: the Western Round-Up meetings and the Preserving Your History Brochure Series. Years later, it’s wonderful to see these programs evolving and flourishing. Looking forward, I encourage you the next generation of archivists to be actively involved in our professional organizations at the regional and national levels. By surfacing and addressing the needs of our professional colleagues and the public, you do help ensure our nation’s future and our society’s ability to function. And in this time of uncertainty, I believe archivists are more important than ever. To my way of thinking a preserved and accessible past, ensures the future of democracy. Looking back, I am proud to have helped enable archivists and institutions to promote and provide access to their collections through the OAC, proud to have helped fight the good fight by digitizing and providing access to the Tobacco Control Archives, and honored to have worked with so many talented colleagues over the years to grow and nourish the Society of California Archivists. I am humbled by this award and thank you all for doing what archivists do and counting me among your numbers.”

Robin’s service to the profession through the Society of California Archivists spanned three decades and demonstrated her talents in myriad ways. Her first professional activity on behalf of SCA began in 1989, when she served on the Society’s Elections Committee, and she went on to chair additional committees including the Awards Committee, Election Committee, Nominating Committee, Outreach and Publicity Committee and Program Committee). She also served on two of the Society’s task forces related to the
Western Archives Institute (1997-98 and 2005). Her colleagues elected her to serve on the SCA Board as a member-at-large (1997-99), and she was subsequently elected to the positions of Vice-President (2000-01) and President (2001-02). In her role as SCA President she envisioned and helped implement the Western Archives Round Up, the conference that includes participation of five regional archival organizations. Robin’s exemplary work developing SCA’s “Preserving Your History” brochure series still guides many members of the general public; although they were initially created as printed publications in the late 1990s, all four titles are today available for free on the Society of California Archivists’ website in English, Spanish and Chinese.

As the Director and visionary behind the California Digital Library’s Online Archive of California, she created a digital world through which archival institutions of varying sizes and budgets could share our finding aids and images through a single online portal. Her work with the OAC served as a model for similar archival online endeavors nationwide. In 2004, Robin was a recipient of the Archival Award of Excellence, presented by the California Heritage Preservation Commission. Presented to “individuals within California who have made a noteworthy contribution to the archives profession by accomplishing significant archival work or preserving historical records,” only twenty people have received the award since its inception in 1989. As one of a small number of archivists to be so honored with this award, it is yet another recognition of Robin’s accomplishments as an archivist. Decade after decade, Robin’s professional activity models our profession’s core values, as she has demonstrated her dedication to improving access to and use of archival resources, her advocacy on behalf of historic records and the archival profession, her fostering of professionalism and leadership within SCA, and her demonstrated social responsibility and mindfulness.

Robin is a master practitioner among her archival peers, and for that reason there is no doubt that she is well deserving of the 2017 Sustained Service Award of the Society of California Archivists. Congratulations, Robin!

Jennifer Martinez Wormser
Member, SCA Awards Committee
Laguna College of Art + Design

EXHIBIT OPEN NOW AT UCSF: UC MEDICAL SERVICE IN WWI

UCSF Archives and Special Collections is pleased to announce the opening of a new exhibit at the UCSF Library, “DO THE BEST FOR OUR SOLDIERS”: University of California Medical Service in World War I. The exhibit commemorates the centennial anniversary of US involvement in World War I and recognizes the service of UCSF doctors, nurses and dentists at Base Hospital No. 30 in Royat, France. It highlights the war-related research and care provided by UCSF scientists and healthcare providers in San Francisco and abroad.

The exhibit features photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia from collections housed in the UCSF
Archives, including a WWI Army-issued medicine kit, images of doctors and nurses serving in the field, and early 20th-century surgical and dental instruments.

The exhibit will be open from April 2017-April 2018 on the main floor of the UCSF Library, 530 Parnassus Avenue, San Francisco. It is free and open to the public during library hours. Hosted by UCSF Archives and Special Collections and the History of Health Sciences Graduate Program, UCSF Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine. Curated by Cristina Nigro with designs by Mark McGowan.

Kelsi Evans, Project Archivist
Archives and Special Collections
University of California, San Francisco Library

NEW ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST APPOINTED AT CAL POLY POMONA

I’m pleased to announce that Elizabeth Gomez has been appointed to the position of Assistant Archivist for Special Collections and Archives at Cal Poly Pomona. Elizabeth will work on processing archival collections and providing reference and outreach services to users. Elizabeth holds an MMLIS from USC and BA in Criminology, Law & Society, and Spanish from UC Irvine. Before joining our staff, Elizabeth interned with the Special Collections and Archives unit to create the
exhibition Degrees of Change: The Transformative Years when Cal Poly Pomona went from an All-Male School to a Coed University. Elizabeth has led tours of the exhibition and a workshop on preparing materials for display. She can be reached at evgomez@cpp.edu.

Alexis Adkins
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UPLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTS ORAL HISTORIES OF U.S. MILITARY VETERANS

The City of Upland pays tribute to all who have served in the U.S. Military at the Upland Veterans’ Plaza. As part of this tribute, the Upland Public Library and Local History Archives is collecting and preserving the personal accounts of local veterans, ensuring that future generations will have a better understanding of their military service, contributions, and experiences. Currently, the Upland Library is focusing on the oral histories of Latino/Latina Veterans. This project is funded by a “Humanities For All” Quick Grant the library received from California Humanities.

The Upland Library is a participant of the State Library’s California Revealed Initiative to “digitize, preserve, and serve online historically significant Californiana” (“California Revealed Initiative,” California State Library, http://www.library.ca.gov/services/libraries/CA-revealed.htm) and is currently working with the California Audio Visual Preservation Project (CAVPP) to provide online access to its collection of oral histories. The Latino Veterans’ oral histories will be added to the CAVPP collection.

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AS TOLD TO...

MY LIFE AT-LARGE

By Chris Marino, as told to Dee Dee Kramer

I’ve been in SCA for only about 5 years, so when someone from the Nominating Committee approached me to run for the Board, I thought well, nobody really knows me, so the chances of me being elected are pretty slim. And then I was elected. This is my second year serving as Member At-Large, and I have enjoyed serving on the Board a great deal. It is a great group of archivists.

When I was a kid, I was really into tap. My mom encouraged me to dance at an early age, so I tried a bunch of different kinds: ballet--wasn’t into it; jazz--wasn’t into it...and then I took a tap class and I thought, “This is it, I love tap!” I don’t really tap anymore, but I started when I was three and went on through high school. I even taught tap to young kids, and I’ve always wanted to get back to it.

I actually got to dance with the Nicholas Brothers. They’re really big in the tap world; you can look them up on YouTube. They’re these two brothers who were incredible dancers who would climb up walls and do
back flips. My tap teacher, Ellie, got us the gig. It was for National Tap Day at the Ebony Showcase Theater in Los Angeles on April 30, 1995, when I was nine. Actually, it was only Fayard; the other brother Harold was still alive but wasn’t there that day. I remember dancing a bit with him during rehearsals before the show, but we performed separate routines. Sadly, I don’t remember what song my fellow tap colleague Maya Burkenroad and I danced to. It must have been a routine we did a lot—that was polished—so if I had to guess, I’d say it was “Ain’t Misbehavin’.”

When I was really young, I used to dance in those high-heeled tap shoes. It was a big deal. My mom tried to tell me, “I don’t think you need them,” but I insisted, “No, I really want the high-heeled tap shoes.” Now I never wear heels and probably could barely walk in them!

I also play the oboe. When I was in college at UC San Diego, I was in an indie pop band, and we toured the United States. We were horrible, but it was a lot of fun. We had marimba, accordion, saxophone, clarinet, guitar, piano, oboe, flute...there were fifteen of us. We were called Red Pony Clock—they’re still around, based in LA now. I joined again in graduate school when I was at UCLA, then stopped when I got a job and moved.

My husband and I have a dog named Orso. Orso’s my big baby; he’s about a hundred pounds. He goes backpacking with us, but we don’t make him carry a backpack because he’s getting older; he’ll be nine on June 2. We got him when he was eight weeks old. The last trip we took was to Desolation Wilderness by Lake

Tahoe, and this summer we’re tacking on a trip after SAA in Portland to the Timberline Trail, near Mt. Hood.

My mom had a dog called Sir King Kelly the First of Dagmar, whose portrait you can see here on the wall. Neither my mom nor her sister thought it was an accurate depiction, so they didn’t hang the portrait. But later I found it in my mom’s closet, and now it’s on our wall here in Oakland.

Chris Marino is the Reference Archivist at the Environmental Design Archives at University of California, Berkeley.

“As told To” is a column by Dee Dee Kramer, written in collaboration with SCA member archivists. If you’d like to be the next subject / autobiographer, please contact her at deedee.kramer@ucsf.edu.

EXCLUSIVES

CHM COMPLETES CLIR GRANT PROJECT, PROCESSES 26 BACKLOGGED COLLECTIONS

The Computer History Museum (CHM) is pleased to announce the completion of its two-and-a-half-year Archives Processing Project (CHM APP), made possible by a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR).

With the conclusion of this project, the Museum has processed and made accessible 26 backlogged collections of high-research value, totaling 1,830 linear feet, 24,351 catalog records, and 26 finding aids uploaded to the OAC and the Museum’s online catalog, with records in WorldCat.

The collections in the project ranged greatly in size. Post-processing, the smallest were from 4.84 to 138.24 linear feet, while the largest was the Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) corporate archives and photo library, which came out to 1,238 linear feet and 20,318 catalog records. The time spent on the DEC collection alone took up more than half of the processing time of the entire grant, or a total of 5,220 full-time hours.

In order to process this much material in so little time, CHM APP’s principal investigator, CHM senior archives manager Sara Lott, set a processing goal for the project of four hours per linear foot using the minimal processing technique MPLP (More Product, Less Process), and employed two full-time archivists, Bo Doub and Kim Hayden, and a small group of volunteer catalogers. In the end, a blend of traditional and minimal processing was used that struck a good balance, and the average processing speed was 4.2 hours per linear foot.

To achieve that speed, most series were processed at a minimal folder level, with many folders grouped under one record, though in cases where it made more sense, they were processed at the box or item level. As an example of minimal folder level processing, if a collection had 10 folders’ worth of memos spanning 10 years, traditionally those could be cataloged with one record per year, resulting in 10 records; with minimal folder level processing, however, the CHM APP archivists would instead create one record for the whole range of years, which would have 10 folders grouped under it. To offset this moderate processing approach and aid discovery, the archivists made sure that their finding aid and catalog record descriptions were robust. In the case of the example above, each folder would also be labeled with the date range it contained.

Employing volunteer catalogers was also a huge help in completing the project on time. Most of the CHM APP volunteers were retirees from the tech industry.
who Museum staff trained to catalog the more straightforward series. While it's more common for archival projects to hire graduate students or interns to assist with processing, CHM has a long history of using volunteers to catalog material. Their specialized knowledge is invaluable when working with technical material. CHM APP volunteers committed to three to six hours a week for six months, but almost all of them stayed with the project far longer. In total, the volunteers logged 2,302 hours over 20 months of work, with most of that time on the DEC collection.

The DEC collection was really the cornerstone of CHM APP. In business from 1957 to 1998, DEC was one of the biggest and most profitable computer companies in the world and a pioneer in minicomputing, but it became an industry case study for the business mistakes that led to its eventual failure. Completing the DEC collection was also personal for CHM: The first incarnation of the museum was located in DEC’s Marlborough, Massachusetts, office.

Other CHM APP collections of note include the Community Memory Records, which document the development and implementation of the first computer-based public bulletin board (located in Berkeley), and the papers of Smalltalk developer Adele Goldberg, West Coast Computer Faire founder and online activist Jim Warren, DISK/TREND founder James Porter, and technology analyst and venture capitalist Esther Dyson.

CHM feels the moderate-to-minimal processing method was a success. Nearly half of the newly accessible CHM APP collections have been used by researchers, and material from the Community Memory Records collection was loaned to the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive for use in their recent Hippie Modernism exhibit. None of this would have been possible two and a half years ago when these 26 collections were unprocessed and essentially hidden. The Museum, and especially the collections staff, wishes to thank the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for generously providing the funds, administered by the Council on Library and Information Resources, which made this project possible.

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1945 "SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE" RECORDINGS AVAILABLE ON HOOVER ARCHIVES WEBSITE

Sound recordings of the assembly of world leaders in San Francisco that created the United Nations in 1945 are available on the Hoover Institution Library & Archives digital collections portal. The recordings were digitized by the Hoover Archives from 146 instantaneous lacquer discs in its collection of the United Nations Conference on International Organization Proceedings.

Listeners can hear the delegates celebrate the end of fighting in Europe, debate the veto power of the Security Council, and express their thoughts as they sign the UN charter. Among the many speakers are Harry Truman...

The United Nations Conference on International Organization, informally known as “the San Francisco Conference,” opened on April 25, 1945, and concluded with the signing of the United Nations Charter on June 26. Fifty nations participated at the invitation of the four sponsoring governments, the United States, United Kingdom, USSR, and China. The four sponsors invited nations that had entered into a state of war against one or more of the Axis powers and that adhered to the Declaration by the United Nations of January 1, 1942. Forty-two nations accepted the invitation, and more than 3,500 conference delegates and staff members gathered in San Francisco for the conference.

The discs were recorded by the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) and consist of highlights of the conference for radio broadcast. They were digitized by Jim Sam, Hoover’s audio engineer, in the Hoover audio lab. He cleaned, selected a stylus, and calibrated the turntable for optimal playback of each disc. A handful of discs that were cracked or broken could not be digitized.

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CALIFORNIA: A TO Z, AN EXHIBIT AT THE LA QUINTA MUSEUM

The La Quinta Museum invited local artists, classrooms, city officials and community members to participate in the creation of California: A to Z. The Museum provided 18” 3-d cardboard letters and assigned a topic (A to Z) to each letter. Each participant was free to decorate, paint, embellish and/or adorn the letter. The letters were then attached to story panels with information and relevant photos. The result is an exhibit that is rich in talent, information and entertainment.

Following the “decompression area” theory, visitors emerge from the elevator to find themselves facing wall murals of Route 66 and the San Francisco Bay Bridge. The addition of movable Highway signs and a mirror enrich the opportunities for “selfies”. We have created a hashtag for social media: #CaliforniaAtoZ.

There is a display case with a 30-year old mission project from a 4th grader, a California license plate collection, an area devoted to Native Americans with the inclusion of pottery shards and arrowheads borrowed from the archives of the La Quinta Historical Society and an activity center set up to color pages of a wall-sized California map.

We are carrying the California: A to Z exhibit theme through to our Museum Camp for kids by jazzing up the exhibit logo and highlighting the art component of the camp with California inspired crafts.

Robin Stewart, Director
La Quinta Museum
robin.stewart@rivlib.net
FINDING HISTORY DAY IN SONOMA COUNTY

The historians, librarians, archivists, and genealogists who live and work in Sonoma County know how rich the area’s historical resources are. On May 21, 2017, nearly 400 county residents and visitors got a taste of these resources for themselves at the first Finding History Day in Sonoma County — A Day of Discovery.

Finding History Day was held in the DeTurk Round Barn, built in 1891 by vintner Isaac DeTurk. One of California’s oldest round buildings, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and owned by the City of Santa Rosa. In recognition of the event, the county’s Board of Supervisors passed a resolution recognizing the importance of the region’s history and the value of education and outreach regarding the “preservation, conservation, and usage of historic records,” designating May 21, 2017, as Finding History in Sonoma County Day.

The purpose of Finding History Day was to discover, celebrate, and promote the historical records held within the county, and 33 libraries, museums, historical and genealogical societies, among others, participated in the event. Gaye LeBaron, a longtime journalist, author, teacher, and Sonoma County historian, gave the morning’s keynote address for the four-hour event. Three writers and scholars gave talks about their work.

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and their repositories throughout the day, as well:

- Bo Simons, former Sonoma County librarian and the first librarian of the county’s Wine Library
- Steve Lehmann, Chief Deputy in the County Recorder’s office and current president of the Windsor Historical Society

Nine local authors brought their books to share with visitors, and professional conservators offered a variety of services for history buffs to preserve their own archives. Reenactors in period clothing greeted visitors, and the Sonoma A’s chapter of the Model A Ford Club showed off their vehicles outside the Round Barn. Although the lectures and exhibitor booths closed at 2:00 p.m., that wasn’t the end of the fun: at 2:15 three dozen people participated in a walking tour of Santa Rosa’s West End Historic District, where the Round Barn is located.

Members of the public who chatted with exhibitors were enthusiastic about what they saw and learned as they wandered the Round Barn’s upper and lower levels, filled to capacity with tables, booths, and eye-catching displays. Exhibitors themselves were just as thrilled with the day, and gave kudos to the planning committee for helping make the day such a success.

Sharie Sbrazza of the North Bay Italian Cultural Foundation wrote of the event, “It was a wonderful, fun day of community outreach and a positive note for local history & legacy in an iconic historic setting. Loved the ‘buzz’ of seeing old friends and sharing with all participating, interesting groups!” And Frank Baumgardner of the Western Sonoma County Historical Society commented, “It was truly the largest ‘history friendly’ receptive audience that I have ever had. I sincerely hope the Sonoma County Public Library will put this event on again at some time in the future.”

The organizers of Finding History Day are already thinking about a second get-together in 2018.

If you are interested in seeing the list of all exhibitors, workshop presenters, authors, and other participants of the 2017 event, send an email to Katherine J. Rinehart.

Katherine Rinehart, Manager
Sonoma County History & Genealogy Library
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SCA NEWS

SCA LAUNCHES $30 FOR 30 CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT THE MINK SCHOLARSHIP

At its Annual General Meeting in Pasadena in April, SCA announced a special fundraising campaign to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the James V. Mink scholarship and bolster the fund’s dwindling coffers. Members of the SCA Awards and Development Committees were delighted to receive $1,260 in donations during and immediately after the conference, and they intend to solicit further donations through the SCA website for the remainder of 2017.

Established in 1987, the James V. Mink scholarship promotes the professional development of students preparing to become archivists by providing support for attendance at the AGM and a pre-conference workshop. Mr. Mink, a long-time archivist at UCLA and the first President of SCA, was a leading supporter of education for archivists. In 2017, SCA was able to fund two Mink scholarship recipients, Jade Finlinson and Patricia Delara, both of whom also gave presentations in the lightning round session at the AGM.

Donors were asked to give $15, $30, $60 or an amount of their choice to honor and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Mink scholarship. The Development and Awards Committees wish to express a special thank you to those who have already contributed to the campaign:

- Anonymous (3)
- Kevin Miller
- Kelly Barton
- Lisa Miller
- Maureen Burns
- Holly McGee
- Gabriele Carey
- Lindy Narver
- Dusty Christophersen
- Martha Noble
- Lisa Crane
- Mary Ellen Petrich
- John Fiedor
- Laura Sorvetti

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It’s not too late to support the $30 for 30 campaign! If you wish to donate online using PayPal or a credit/debit card, go to [http://www.calarchivists.org/Giving_to_SCA](http://www.calarchivists.org/Giving_to_SCA) and select the James V. Mink scholarship fund when you make your donation. Alternatively, you can send a check made payable to the Society of California Archivists to 1020 “O” Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. Thank you for helping the society to ensure the longevity of the fund and its continued support of new archivists.

**RECAP OF PRE AGM WORKSHOPS**

Prior to the 2017 AGM, the SCA Education Committee offered two workshops on April 27th at the Westin in Pasadena. The “Wall to Wall: Building a Loans Program for Special Collections and Archives” workshop was taught by Sharon Robinson, Registrar at the Huntington Library and the SAA “Copyright Issues for Digital Archives” workshop was taught by Heather Briston, University Archivist at UCLA.

We awarded three Walter P. Gray III Education Fund Scholarships (the scholarships are available to help an SCA member in good-standing who is either self-employed, unemployed, working for an employer who does not provide financial assistance for continuing education expenses, or a student) to attend the Copyright workshop to Elizabeth Gomez, Sara Schwartz Kendall, and Kimberley Jackson. Each scholarship recipient provided a recap for the Copyright workshop while Alexis Adkins, attendee of the loans workshop provided a recap of that workshop below.

*Katie Richardson  
Co-Chair SCA Education Committee*

**Gained Invaluable Information from the Copyright Workshop**

I will admit I was a bit nervous about attending the “Copyright Issues for Digital Archives workshop.” I recently received my MLIS degree, so the importance of joining professional groups and seeking professional development opportunities are freshly ingrained in me. Nonetheless, I still had some trepidation. For instance, I have never attended a workshop that lasted the whole day! More so, I just started a new job and was nervous about attending an event with people who have been in the field a lot longer than I have. Fortunately, my experiences that day showed me I had nothing to worry about and the importance of attending these type of events. Although I just finished school, I learned a lot of invaluable information from the copyright workshop. The instructor of the workshop, Heather Briston, was engaging and provided a lot of insight on copyright. I enjoyed hearing about her experiences in digital archiving. One of the most important takeaways from the workshop is how many layers there are to copyright law and how it affects what we do as archivists in the digital world. One of the topics we discussed was anti-circumvention law which I sensed was a concern for almost everyone in the room given that it is something else to consider when acquiring digital material. However, with the tools and knowledge presented in the workshop, I know that I am better prepared for navigating through copyright law’s murky waters. During one of the exercises, we had to break off into pairs. This was the moment where I felt my newness...
would show through. However, while working with my partner, I realized that we had similar questions in regards to the material. In the end, Heather was ecstatic that we had these questions and it made me feel that I could “think like an archivist.” Now I am confident I can apply what I learned to my workplace.

Coming away from my experience at the Copyright Issues for Digital Archives workshop, I fully understand the importance of putting on and attending meetings and workshops. I love the fact that there were people of different ages and different kinds of repositories attending the workshop. I am happy I had the opportunity to begin my career as part of a great professional group and participate in lifelong learning. Lastly, I would like to thank the Society of California Archivists and the Walter P. Gray III Education Fund for the providing me the opportunity to attend this great workshop. Thank you!

Elizabeth Gomez

**Put What I Learned to use Right Away in the Copyright Workshop**

I am grateful to have been awarded the Walter P. Gray III Education Endowment Fund Scholarship to attend the 2017 pre-conference workshop, *Copyright Issues for Digital Archives* at the Society of California Archivists 2017 Annual General Meeting. The workshop was presented by Heather Briston of ULCA. As a new member of SCA as well as a fairly recent graduate from Hawai‘i, this scholarship allowed me the opportunity to meet other professionals in my field, talk about the collections on which I am currently working and most importantly, attend the workshop where I was able to gain critical knowledge on how best to protect the institutions where I am employed from copyright infringement.

This workshop was particularly helpful for me as I am only one of two people working with a relatively small collection in a public organization. We are often spread thin with other responsibilities and do not typically have the luxury of spending long periods of time accessioning records in great detail. We also have a fairly large (and popular) photographic collection in both print and online, many of which do not have identifying information or a donor records, which makes it difficult to identify copyright ownership.

Therefore, I am greatly looking forward to helping the Special Collections Librarian at my organization by not only sharing the information that I learned in this workshop, such as the importance of establishing copyright and managing risk, but by also using the tools provided to streamline our workflows in facilitating identification of copyright holders within our photographic collections.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be able to attend this event and I look forward to attending more SCA events in the future.

*Kimberly Jackson, General Librarian
Long Beach Public Library*

**Clear and Concise Workshop on Copyright Issues for Digital Archives**

The “Copyright Issues for Digital Archives” workshop, taught by Heather Briston, thoroughly familiarized us with copyright issues in the United States and to a small degree in other countries. It was particularly useful that Heather has two degrees, Juris doctor as well as Master of Library and Information Science, because she was able to discuss the legal aspects of copyright as well as the practical, on-the-ground aspect of applying it to archival work. In fact, her energetic and informative presentation was peppered with real life examples and stories that made the material come to life and become clear.

When Heather discussed copyright history and background, she addressed the differences that digital materials have to physical materials, and the copyright and maintenance questions that arise when working with them. We came out of the workshop very clear on who owns a copyright, for how long, and were given tools to determine these things such as the Hirtle chart which we used in a team exercise. We walked away with a booklet full of helpful information. In addition to Heather’s PowerPoint slides, we have pages and pages of sample documents to refer to, such as model deed of gift agreements and take down notices, permissions procedures, and more. In addition, Heather made herself available to us. She said we can ask her for other examples such as licensing agreements and contact her in the future. She was kind enough to take time after the workshop to review the oral history permissions form that we use at my job, suggest an addition to it, and then provide me a copy after the workshop of the form that they use at UCLA.

I knew that the material had really sunk in when I returned to work and was able to understand the current article
in the American Libraries Magazine, “Keep Copyright in the Library: Why the Copyright Office belongs in the Library of Congress.” Heather provided us the history, social and political context, and descriptions of the copyright process and agencies so thoroughly that I emerged informed and engaged around the issue and could understand this editorial, which I would not have before the workshop. Thank you again for offering such a useful and helpful workshop, and for providing me scholarship funds to help me attend.

Kimberly Jackson
Library Lead
Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Share and Share Alike: A Recap of SCA's Loans Program Workshop

The SCA Education Committee offered a fantastic workshop at this year’s AGM – Wall to Wall: Building a Loans Program for Special Collections and Archives. The workshop was taught by Sharon B. Robinson, the Huntington Library’s Registrar for the Library Division. As Registrar, Robinson oversees all activities related to the loan and exhibition of materials from the Library’s vast collection. Robinson also has extensive experience working as a registrar at LACMA and OCMA. I have worked at institutions with loans programs but was not involved with them directly. At my current institution, we have been working all spring on a new exhibition that will incorporate outside loans. Therefore, this workshop was very timely! Robinson covered all aspects of loans programs, including policies, types of standard loan documents, best practices, typical workflows, insurance, and legal issues. I used what I learned at the workshop—and from the resources in the bibliography provided—to draft my institution’s first-ever loan policy and develop documents for loans in our upcoming exhibition. It is exciting to have this new outreach tool to broaden awareness of our collections, as well as build relationships with other institutions.

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2017 SCA ELECTION RESULTS

Hi All,

In accordance with our Handbook, as President, I have to report the results of the 2017 SCA elections in the newsletter. Those results were announced at the All Members Meeting as well:

Vice President/President-Elect:
Teresa Mora
Membership Director:
Christy Horton
Secretary:
Lisa Crane
At-Large Board Member:
Jessica Knox-Jensen
Nominating Committee:
Rebecca Fenning Marschall

These new names should be reflected on the back page as well. Many thanks!

Mattie Taormina

WHITE PAPERS

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS WORKFLOWS AT CHS

The California Historical Society recently added four collections of historical photographs to its digital library, including images of Los Angeles at the turn of the 20th century, and photos taken by a 15-year-old Alice Burr of volunteer infantrymen mustering in San Francisco during the Spanish-American War. These collections and more are available at http://digitallibrary.californiahistoricalsociety.org/

Perhaps more importantly, we’ve established new guidelines and workflows for our digital collections that help streamline time-consuming processes like cataloging digital objects at the item level and creating robust MODS records, preparing digital...
objects for ingestion in our Islandora DAMS, and making collection- or system-wide changes to objects’ descriptive metadata. Our GitHub account (https://github.com/calhist) is a growing public repository of our digital tools and documentation of these workflows.

Gathering Existing Metadata

As is the case at many institutions, information about CHS’s collections and digital objects is spread across multiple digital platforms, including ArchivesSpace, PastPerfect, OAC and Calisphere, our OPAC, and Flickr Commons, among others. When preparing materials for DAMS ingestion, we aim to reuse existing metadata when possible; this information will likely have to be augmented to meet our MODS specifications, but at least we can try to avoid having to key in the same information more than once. To this end, we used the export feature in PastPerfect to generate a text file in the comma separated values (CSV) format of our entire photography collection database, and wrote a quick Python script to parse EAD XML for item-level metadata, to name a few examples. Figuring out how best to export data from these various systems is also good practice for the inevitable migration down the road.

Metadata from Flickr

The CHS Flickr Commons account, in particular, had good descriptive metadata for several image collections we identified as candidates for inclusion in our digital library. I was able to use a Python script to extract all of this metadata through the Flickr API and output to

The unstructured "blob" of descriptive metadata in Flickr Commons for the photo shown above.

The above data separated into columns. Parsing this Description field across the entire Flickr collection was accomplished using OpenRefine and regular expressions.

In order to parse this data I turned again to OpenRefine, a favorite tool of metadata wranglers. With some careful use of regular expressions and other functions, I successfully separated these blobs into columns. I then fleshed out the spreadsheet with columns representing each MODS element and attribute we wished to include in the final XML documents.

Using the “templating” feature in OpenRefine, I exported metadata for an entire image collection as a single XML document, which I then ran through a Python script to clean and split the data into individual MODS records with filenames that matched the digital object IDs. From there we could ingest to Islandora large batches of high-resolution TIFF images and MODS XML metadata. With this process defined and
documented, we can now do the same for any other CHS Flickr Commons collections we wish to publish to our digital library.

In fact, as long as we have metadata in spreadsheet form, we can follow the process outlined above to produce high-quality MODS records for our digital objects. This has led to changes in how CHS archivists process photo collections that have been identified as candidates for digitization and inclusion in the DAMS. We’re now more likely, for example, to catalog images in a spreadsheet, where repeating or similar data can be quickly replicated down the rows and anomalies are easier to spot. Our spreadsheet template, with column headers that map to MODS elements and attributes, makes it much easier to produce XML records for collections of any size.

Cataloging Guidelines

As we refined the specifications for our MODS records, we created a document for cataloging visual materials, based on the Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials (Graphics) DCRM(G), that functions as both step-by-step instructions and style guide. It shows how each element is encoded in a MODS XML document, and how each element maps to Dublin Core. Whether cataloging in a spreadsheet or directly in an Islandora web form, CHS catalogers now have concrete guidance for each element in a record, ensuring more complete and consistent metadata going forward.

Other Workflows

No matter how much energy we spend making sure our MODS metadata and its Dublin Core derivatives are clean and consistent before they’re published to the web, we’ll inevitably find an error here or there, or perhaps we’ll want to make some collection-wide changes down the line. With the help of some Islandora modules we can easily find and replace text strings across collections or even export, edit, and replace batches of MODS records. We’re also happy to report that we’re now employing a cloud-based digital preservation workflow, about which we hope to share more in the future.

This continuing work is certainly a team effort here at CHS, and we could not have figured out most of this stuff had it not been for helpful blog posts and discussion threads from metadata professionals and Islandora developers, as well as tips and tricks gleaned from countless Stack Overflow users. In that same spirit of sharing, we hope you’ll find something useful here or in our GitHub repositories. If you’re interested in learning more about our use of Islandora and our digital workflows feel free to get in touch.

Bill Levay
Metadata Librarian
California Historical Society
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ANITA CASPARY
REVOLUTIONARY CATHOLIC

In 1962 progressive changes in Vatican II Law were embraced by the nuns of the Catholic Church. It allowed them to take more control of their lives. However, Cardinal McIntyre did not agree with the new rules for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Thus the historic conflict between the church patriarchy and Anita Caspary began.

As she was known, Reverend Mother Humiliata, lead an exodus of over 300 nuns from the Catholic Church
establishment. They relinquished their canonical status with the church and in 1970 formed the Immaculate Heart Community. It was their way of being faithful yet independent Catholics outside of the church hierarchy. A graduate of Stanford, she was featured on the cover of TIME Magazine for her revolutionary leadership role. Recently, 11 audio tapes of great historical significance were discovered in her archives. The ¼” tapes were recorded primarily in 1964 and 1968. They have titles such as, “Reverend Mother Humiliata’s Meeting with IHM Sisters” and “Sister Anita’s Women Conference.” The tapes were primarily recorded in 3&3/4 IPS and 7.5 IPS. Digital Revolution digitized the tapes with an Otari 5050 2 track machine. Archival .WAV and MP3 easy access files were made from each tape.

There were a few challenges with this collection. 1) Some of the recordings were victims of poor microphone placement and low record volume levels. Low volume saturation on analog tapes increases the noise level of the sound. So we boosted and equalized the signal to make the speech more understandable. 2) A few of the tapes were recorded on inferior tape stock. We had one Shamrock tape and one Electro Reel tape. Unless it is manufactured by Scotch, Ampex, Maxell, TDK, Quantegy, Sony or ATR be suspect of the recording quality and how it will hold up physically during playback. Off brand tapes of this age may only give you 1 play. The oxide can literally fall off of the tape while running over the machine’s playback head. Set the playback levels to neutral, hit capture on the computer and let it roll. All you really need is one good playback then it’s preserved digitally. 3) Most pre-1970 reel to reel tapes were manufactured with an acetate base. Acetate is a less stable material than post 1970 polyester based tapes. Many of the tapes in this collection were Acetate based. Before we digitize a tape we evaluate whether or not it needs “baking”. This treatment mitigates “Sticky Shed” syndrome (that’s when the tape has gained moisture and becomes sticky. As it plays the oxide –the sound- rips right off of the tape as it rolls). It is important to know when to bake and not to bake a tape. Acetate based tapes should not be baked. If so, it would be a disaster. All of the oxide (sound) would simply flake off of the acetate substrate before having a chance to play it.

In the end we were able to digitize all of the tapes for study and preservation. In 2003, Anita Caspary wrote a book about her experience called “Witness to Integrity”. She died at the age of 95. The Immaculate Heart Community is still active in Los Angeles. I had the honor of visiting the sisters when I hand delivered the tapes and digital files to them. They couldn’t wait to hear the newly digitized audio.

Paul Grippaldi - CEO
Digital Revolution is a San Francisco based Media Preservation & Scanning Service
www.digitalrevolution.tv

2017 SCA AWARDS

Archives staff and supporters of the Immaculate Heart Community in Los Angeles, recipients of the Archives Appreciation Award. SCA member Gabrielle Carey (second from left) served as the professional archival consultant for the project.

Our two Mink Scholarship Award recipients: Jade Finlinson (L) and Patricia Delara (R).
Long-time (and outgoing) chair of the Awards Committee Chuck Wilson presenting Peter Blodgett with the SCA Career Achievement Award.

Chuck Wilson and SCA President Mattie Taormina.

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Genevieve Preston

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