

The

Southwestern Archivist



November 2020
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Society of Southwest Archivists

The Society of Southwest Archivists is a professional organization established to stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management; promote sound principles and standards for preserving and administering records; foster opportunities for the education and training of archivists, records managers, and custodians of private papers; strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines; and cooperate with organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded knowledge.

Annual Membership dues are \$25.00 for individuals, with a reduced rate of \$15.00 for students and retirees. Institutional newsletter subscriptions are \$25.00.

More information about membership can be found at our website southwestarchivists.org

SUBMISSIONS TO THE SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST

Please send all final submissions to one of the state liaisons listed below. The preferred submission format is a Word document attached via e-mail. The document should include a title; the author’s name, institutional affiliation, and contact information; and captions and citations for images. Please send images as separate JPG attachments.

Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and available space. Due to space limitations the editors reserve the right to omit submissions or hold them over for a future issue.

The editor gives priority to submissions of news items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members. Out-of-region submissions will be published as space permits. Short feature articles on topics and issues relating to current trends in archival enterprise are also welcome, as are longer Spotlight columns. Please e-mail the editor, Nicholas Wojcik, or your area liaison if you have any questions about a proposed article.

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July 10 | October 10

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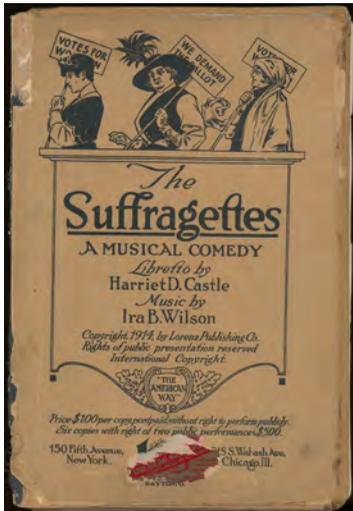
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FEATURES

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Title page of "The
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Musical Comedy,"
by Harriet D.
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Image: Southern
Methodist
University.

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Women's Voices, Women's Votes exhibit banner. Image: Southern Methodist University..

WOMEN'S VOICES, WOMEN'S VOTES: A Digital Exhibition Commemorating the Ratification of the 19th Amendment

**Samantha Dodd, CA,
Southern Methodist University**

“Women’s Voices, Women’s Votes” is the DeGolyer Library’s first exclusively digital exhibit. It celebrates the 100th anniversary of the ratification of women’s right to vote. Originally intended as a traditional exhibit in the Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall, the global pandemic forced staff to adjust and completely shift focus from a physical show to a virtual presentation. Instead of worrying about the number of display cases and the physical layout of the materials, staff needed to figure out what could be digitized, how much digital space was needed, how best to integrate it on the library’s website, and how to design an online presentation to best reflect the exhibit narrative.

digitized, what was visually appealing, what pieces helped highlight some of the underrepresented and untold stories of this time in history. In May, when the SMU campus slowly reopened, a few staff returned to the building to begin scanning/photographing materials for the exhibit. Text panels, introductions, captions, and press materials were written and edited at home.

The next major hurdle in transitioning from a physical to a digital show was the lack of a platform suitable to building an online exhibit. Considering this a “new normal,” DeGolyer staff made the case for

While sheltering in place, staff conducted extensive research on the suffrage movement, and reviewed the items on loan and in the library’s holdings. Factors in selecting materials for inclusion in the digital exhibit came down to what could easily be

acquiring the popular and easy to use Omeka platform. Thanks to some teamwork images were uploaded, website designed, and exhibit published by the August 26 anniversary date.

This exhibit features over 100 objects from the collections of Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, Helen LaKelly Hunt, and the DeGolyer Library. Materials such as rare books, pamphlets, broadsides, photographs, sheet music, manuscripts, and ephemera document the history of the women’s rights movement, from the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) through the 19th century and early 20th century, with emphasis on the roles women played first in the abolitionist movement and then in the suffrage movement. Represented are well-known figures such as the Grimke sisters, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Sojourner Truth, as well as more local figures and organizations, such as the Women Suffrage Association of Oklahoma.

While we hope to be able to welcome visitors to campus and our exhibit hall again soon, this digital exhibit provides access to our materials to individuals all around the world. To view “Women’s Voices, Women’s Votes” and future exhibitions visit: <https://degolyer.omeka.net>.

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FROM THE EDITOR

NICHOLAS WOJCİK



Welcome to the final issue of 2020. What a year it's been.

In this issue we look ahead to the annual meeting in 2021, with information on what's to come, scholarships, submitting proposals, and other opportunities. We feature recent projects, including processing the papers of archaeologist Earl H. Morris and new acquisitions highlighting African Americans in the west. Plus, exhibitions commemorating the ratification of the 19th amendment and Texas' first radio station. Also, you'll find inspiration from your colleagues, including those at the Dallas Municipal Archives for their recent Summerlee grant, plus some perspective on teleworking for archivists during the time of COVID.

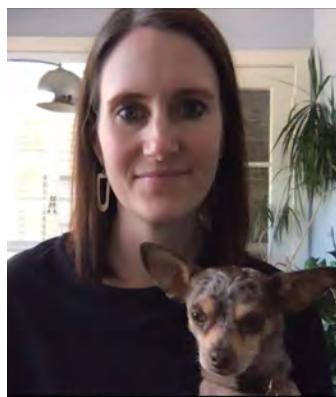
For more of what's going on in the southwest, be sure to check out page 16 for a schedule of Louisiana Digital Library's free online speaker series addressing anti-racist library description, responsible community involvement, and data ethics.

As we move into the winter break, don't forget about *The Southwestern Archivist*. The next deadline for submissions is January 10. January submissions can be sparse, so if you've been holding out on a project, grant, or something else that you want to share, please do so.

Be well and see you next year!

SSA: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

AMY RUSHING, SSA PRESIDENT, 2020-2021



On August 17th, more than 50 SSA members and friends joined us via Zoom for the first ever virtual *Past, Present, Future* session. Normally held at the Annual Meeting, PPF is an interactive discussion with the outgoing president and incoming president and vice-president/president-elect about current issues facing the profession and our organization. We utilized Zoom breakout rooms to engage members in focused discussions. The discussions centered on three questions:

- What opportunities or programming would you like to see SSA offer, specifically addressing Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion?
- How can we work together through SSA to help affect change at our institutions?
- How do we hold SSA accountable for continual growth?

Many expressed interest in "how-to" type programming on culturally competent archival description, such as how to update legacy metadata efficiently; how to collaborate with community advisory groups on reparative metadata projects; how to conduct a metadata audit and then act on the findings; and how to implement alternatives to Library of Congress Subject Headings. Similarly, conversations around community archives centered on tools for reaching out to community archives, including how to start conversations and collaborations with community archivists and offering "Archives 101" training for community archivists and Tribal Libraries.

Participants indicated that advocacy resources would be beneficial for affecting institutional change. Resources such as a toolkit for holding diversity, equity, and inclusion workshops at our own institutions, advocacy tools for managers, and how to advocate for competitive wages, raises, and paid internships.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES

January 10

April 10

July 10

October 10

ADVERTISE WITH SSA

Please see our rate sheet at southwestarchivists.org or contact Nicholas Wojcik at nwo@ou.edu.

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

2021 - Virtual



SSA: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

(FROM PAGE 4)



Discussions provided valuable feedback for SSA leadership about the growth of the organization. Members expressed that they'd like to have more opportunities for discussions, not just once a year at *Past, Present, Future*. Other suggestions: revisit our mission and be more explicit about our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion; report back on the successes and failures of SSA initiatives; create a strategic plan; and set yearly goals. An important question emerged from one group's discussions: How do we accurately measure continual growth?

In synthesizing the discussion notes, it is clear to me that our members are passionate about our profession and that SSA has a critical role to play in providing the resources and support for professional – and in some cases, personal – growth. Discussions like this are vital to an organization's relevancy and give us the information we need to support our members. It is important that we engage our members in an exchange of ideas and opinions, and that different viewpoints are heard.

Obviously, we cannot tackle all of this at once, or even in one year, but the ideas expressed in the PPF conversations establish a basis for ongoing discussions, and more importantly, help us find better ways to meet your needs.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the *Past, Present, and Future*. Your voice matters. If you were unable to attend the PPF session, but would like to provide your input, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at amy.rushing@utsa.edu.

In closing, I'd like to say that my heart goes out to those that have lost family members and friends to the pandemic and to the countless people who have lost their jobs. If you are an archival worker experiencing unanticipated financial hardship due to the COVID-19 crisis, consider applying to the Society of American Archivists' [Archival Workers Emergency Fund](#).

To read the full notes from the breakout sessions, see the [Google Doc](#).

Take care and be well,

Amy

Amy Rushing

amy.rushing@utsa.edu

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lucidea.com/archivera

2021 SSA ANNUAL MEETING

*ED BENOIT & LESLIE BOURGEOIS, LOCAL ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIRS*



During the past few months, the 2021 Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) eagerly planned for a return to some sense of normalcy and showcasing Baton Rouge. As announced during the annual business meeting on Zoom, the LAC selected “Going with the Flow” as our meeting theme to highlight both the local importance of the Mississippi River and the ongoing challenges we all face in light of the pandemic (and other professional issues). This theme has taken on new meaning for the LAC recently, as it decided to shift the conference to an entirely virtual format for 2021. While we all want to return to normal, with the pandemic’s continued uncertainty and its budgetary impacts, holding an in-person conference in 2021 remains too difficult.

With that said, we are excited about the unique opportunities available to us by hosting a virtual conference! The conference will extend across an entire week, May 24-28, and will be hosted on a single online virtual attendee hub. Participants will have access to pre-recorded and live presentations, question and answer sessions, exhibitors, and other networking opportunities.

Additionally, the LAC will include pre-recorded and live repository tours and social events to keep the conference feel.

Finally, and most importantly, the virtual format will significantly lower the registration cost for conference attendees. We hope this provides an opportunity for more members to attend from across the entire SSA region.

The 2021 SSA Annual Meeting Plenary Address will be delivered by Casey Davis Kaufman. Casey Davis Kaufman (she/her) is Associate Director of the GBH Archives and Project Manager for the American Archive of Public Broadcasting. In her role, Casey supports a team that includes a repository manager, web developers, outreach staff and paid interns to undertake collections management, fundraising, access, curatorial work, metadata management, engagement, and special projects. She was Project Director for the NEH-funded PBCore Development and Training Project and the IMLS-funded Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship, now sustained through a collaboration with the University of Alabama. She has served as GBH’s AAPB project manager for the PBS NewsHour Digitization Project

(CLIR), Riverside Church/WRVR-FM Digitization Project (CLIR), the Peabody Awards Digitization Project (NHPRC), and New Mexico Public Media and Kansas Public Media Digitization Projects (CLIR). She is currently managing a Mellon-funded project in collaboration with Brandeis University’s Lab for



The 2021 SSA Annual Meeting Plenary Address will be delivered by Casey Davis Kaufman, Associate Director of the GBH Archives and Project Manager for the American Archive of Public Broadcasting.

Computational Linguistics to develop CLAMS, an open-source platform and tools for automation of descriptive metadata and transcripts for audiovisual content. Casey is also Project Manager for the University of Tennessee Libraries’ “Rising from the Ashes: The Chimney Tops II Wildfires Oral History Project.” Casey has served on the AMIA Board of Directors (2017-2019) and co-founded AMIA’s Continuing Education Advisory Task Force, the Diversity and Inclusion Fellowship Task Force, and the Advocacy Committee of the Board. She is also Co-Chair of the AMIA Oral History Committee. Casey is deeply committed to equity and inclusion in the AV preservation field and to addressing the climate crisis, the greatest threat to our profession, to humanity and all life. Casey received her MLIS from Louisiana State University and currently works remotely from her home in Murfreesboro, TN, with her canine assistant Romsey.

Keep your eyes out for more information in the coming months.

SSA ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR PROPOSALS: GOING WITH THE FLOW IN 2021



The Society of Southwest Archivists, in partnership with the College of Human Sciences & Education at Louisiana State University, will host a virtual Annual Meeting May 17-21, 2021.

Session proposals are welcome on any subject or skill relevant to the archives or records management professions. Proposals will be evaluated on the completeness of the description, the originality of the topic, and the diversity of speakers. In addition, the Program Committee will prioritize

submissions with a strong equity, diversity, & inclusion component.

Session proposals are encouraged to incorporate the annual meeting theme, **Going with the Flow**. This has been a difficult year for all of us. What new challenges have you encountered? How have you been able to work within the “new normal”? Have you been able to get creative to overcome barriers imposed by the pandemic? As we virtually look out over the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, have you been able to go with the flow?

The virtual annual meeting will be accessible to both presenters and attendees. Currently, features include closed captions for pre-recorded sessions, closed captioning for live events, and screen-reader assistive technology compatibility. We intend to add a dial-in option as well for those without a strong internet connection.

The deadline for submission is **Friday, December 18, 2020**.

The Program Committee invites submissions in the following formats:

Pre-Recorded Sessions: Panelists will pre-record their talk. The recordings will be available for 1-2 weeks prior to the annual meeting. 60-90 minutes will be allotted during the annual meeting for the panelists to discuss their topics with attendees and participate in a robust Q&A session. The Program Committee will present recording options to panelists and provide support for those that need it.

Workshops: Workshops are half or full day (4 or 8 hour) sessions. Workshop topics can be on specific technical skills, any aspect of the archival enterprise, management, or diversity and inclusion. You do not need to have previous experience leading a workshop, and we encourage co-led courses. Proposals should address topic, objective, outcomes/takeaways, applicability to SSA members, and workshop format. Workshops may contain some pre-recorded material. Workshop proposals will be forwarded and evaluated by the Professional Development Committee.

Lightning Talks: A live session with a large panel of speakers that deliver short talks on a common theme or issue, keeping a lively pace and sharing relevant take-away ideas. A session Chair is required to compile presentation materials. Lightning talk sessions are not pre-recorded and should be no more than 90 minutes.

Shop Talk/Skillshare: In an attempt to cultivate some of the spontaneous archival shop talk that would otherwise happen during scheduled breaks, lunch, happy hour, SNAPPY hour, or at the reception, the Program Committee invites proposals by an individual or group that will moderate a 60-90 minute session on a topic of interest. For example: archival software, EAD, diversity issues in the workplace, professional salaries, appraisal, donor relations, outreach, etc.

The Program Committee has created a [Google spreadsheet](#) to facilitate collaboration and the creation of joint proposals.

Proposals can be submitted through the [online form](#).



2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

Don't miss these opportunities to obtain assistance in professional development and annual meeting attendance!

Otis Hebert Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship

In honor of SSA's founding president and intended to further the professional training of working archivists in the Southwest.

John Michael Caldwell Scholarship

Enables an SSA member, or group of members, enrolled in a graduate archival program to attend the SSA Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Scholarship

Created to provide financial aid to an SSA member archivist, or group of archivists, with limited funding to attend the SSA Annual Meeting.

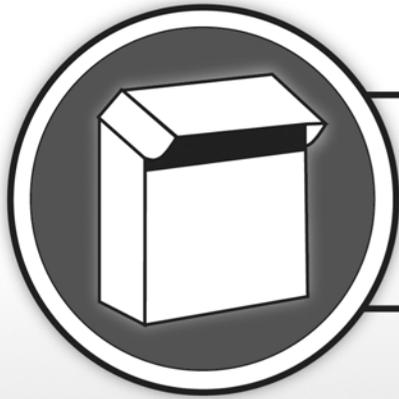
David B. Gracy, II Student Scholarship

Intended to provide book fee and tuition assistance to an SSA student member enrolled in a graduate archival education program at an institution within the SSA region.

Applications open November 15, 2020 through February 15, 2021.

More information and applications are at southwestarchivists.org/scholarships.

Have questions? Need assistance or accessibility intervention? Don't hesitate to email the SSA Scholarships Committee Chair, Jennifer Hecker, at scholarships@southwestarchivists.org.



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SSA ELECTION 2021: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

ROBERT WEAVER, COMMITTEE CHAIR



It's time to submit nominations for SSA's 2021 election! If you would like to serve, or know an ideal candidate, please submit your nomination via our web form on SSA's home page. The deadline for submitted nominations is January 1, 2021.

The SSA Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the following positions in 2021:

- Vice-President/President Elect (three-year term-on as VP, one as President, and on as Immediate Past President)
- Executive Board (3 positions, two-year term)
- Nominating Committee (1 position, two-year term)
- Scholarship Committee (1 position, three-year term)
- Treasurer (two-year term)

The responsibilities of each position are outlined in the SSA Officer & Committee Procedures Manual at https://societyofsouthwestarchivists.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Manuals-and-Forms/2017_Manual.pdf

Remember, if you are a Certified Archivist, or are planning to become certified, participating in the leadership of a professional organization such as SSA will earn you recertification credit.

Thank you for your interest in supporting SSA!

SSA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

AMY MONDT, CA, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

The membership committee is happy to report that we have had 86 new members join so far this year. It is heartwarming to see that so many people are continuing to support SSA and its mission through their membership fees, even during this time of economic hardship and uncertainty. Even though things are a little different this year, SSA is still working hard to support their members. So welcome to the new members and hopefully you are enjoying all the benefits of your membership and thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership.

SSA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

LILLY CARREL, PDC COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Professional Development Committee is pleased to report a successful first round of virtual workshops.

In April, PDC teamed up with Texas Digital Library (TDL) to host a conversation on adapting to working from home, which was attended by over 90 people.

In May and June, sessions on copyright and digital preservation planning were offered and attended by a combined total of 85 people.

In July, PDC was delighted to partner with the Diversity and Outreach Committee to co-sponsor a virtual discussion of the film *Change the Subject*, a 55-minute documentary film that examines how the Library of Congress subject heading "illegal alien" became a flashpoint in the immigration debate on Capitol Hill.

PDC extends a huge thank you to the numerous people who participated in the planning, hosting, and behind the scenes activities to make these excellent workshops a (virtual) reality! A call for 2021 Annual Meeting workshops is forthcoming and PDC looks forward to offering additional sessions during the year.

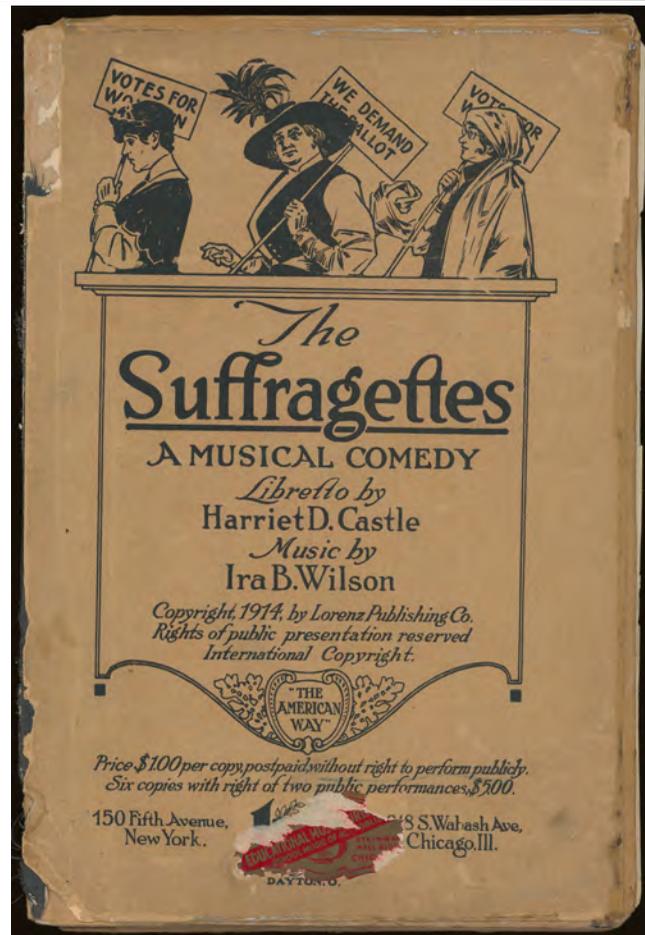
WOMEN'S VOTES



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Omeka has offered a quick solution to an immediate need. Its ease of use and short learning curve have allowed staff to continue planning and working on the 2020-2021 exhibit schedule, which now features all digital exhibits. It gave staff a way to work together in a time when physical distance is challenging for teamwork, but necessary for our safety.

For more information, contact Samantha Dodd at smdodd@mail.smu.edu or degolyer@smu.edu.



Title page of "The Suffragettes: A Musical Comedy," by Harriet D. Castle, 1914. Image: Southern Methodist University.

Why Digitization?

Reasons to consider a digital preservation project could range from providing broader access to your collection or to simply reduce the potential damage to the original item.

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TREASURER'S REPORT



MIKE MILLER, SSA TREASURER & FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Before I present the Treasurer's annual report, let me begin by apologizing for being an issue late (this is usually reported in the July issue). I claim "pandemic brain"! I also want to forewarn you that this will be a longer report as I want to spend some time talking about our Endowment and investment funds before I give you the low down of our budget and financial status.

Endowment

When I joined the Finance Committee prior to being elected Treasurer oh so many years ago, one issue that we discussed was how to improve the performance of our endowment. When it was created in 1995, the goal was to have the Endowment fully fund the scholarships and awards SSA gives out every year, which was not happening. When I was elected Treasurer, one of my priorities was to take a deep dive into these funds and see what we needed to do to realize the initial goal.

With the help of the Finance Committee, discussions with our investment advisor and Trust officer at First Liberty bank, research into the management of endowed funds, and some pro bono legal services from an attorney friend of mine, I am happy to report that we have achieved the original goal. With an updated Spending and Investment Policy and a new Trust Agreement with the bank, not only will our income from the Endowment funds cover our scholarships, we anticipate more than doubling the normal income from the endowment while continuing to maintain and grow the principal. We expect to realize approximately \$7500 for the next fiscal year (beginning May 1, 2021), which will allow us to expand the scholarships and awards we normally provide.

Finances

SSA continues to run on a sound financial footing. We ended our most recent fiscal year (May 1, 2019 – April 30, 2020) with an \$4900 surplus. The surplus was a result of not reinvesting donations into the Trust account while we worked on updating all the paperwork. Donations raised during the year were applied to the budgeted scholarships and awards.

For the current fiscal year, the board adopted an aggressive budget to increase awards and fund new initiatives, using surplus funds and budgeted savings. Significant and one-time changes to the budget include:

- \$5000 to the Archival Workers Emergency Fund started by SAA
- Increasing scholarship award amounts by \$2000
- \$1000 contribution to the SAA Disaster Relief Fund,

which was started by SSA

- \$3000 in seed money for the SSA Intern project
- Increasing Outreach funds by \$1500.

SSA also maintains \$5000.00 in the reserve fund for the 50th anniversary of SSA, which was approved in 2018.

Finance Committee

The members of the 2019-2020 SSA Finance Committee were **Joshua Youngblood (SSA Pres.)**, **Morgan Gierenger (Board rep)**, at-large members **Trent Shotwell and Patrice-Andre Prud'homme**, and **Mike Miller** (chair). For 2020-2021, Joshua rotated off as the immediate past president, and **Amy Rushing** joined the finance committee for the coming year. **Dylan McDonald** replaced Morgan as the Board rep and Trent will be serving the second year of his term. Patrice-Andre, whose 2-year term ended, rotated off the committee, and **David Peters** was appointed to a 2-year term as the 2nd at-large member.

Quarterly Financial Reports

Our fiscal year starts on May 1st which gives us quarterly reports on July 31, October 31, January 31, and April 30. Below please find the report on our equities through July 31, 2020.

Continued on page 14

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR SSA DSA AWARD

JOSHUA C. YOUNGBLOOD, DSA COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Distinguished Service Award (DSA) Committee invites nominations of an outstanding member of the Society to honor in 2021. The SSA DSA is given to an individual who has made significant contributions both to the Society and to the archival profession. Since 1996, Hollinger Metal Edge, Inc. has sponsored this award, presented to the honoree at the SSA annual meeting during the Saturday morning business meeting. To submit a nomination, please provide the following:

- Brief description of the nominee and their contribution and impact on SSA and the profession (250-word limit);
- Letter(s) of nomination or support for the nominee;
- Up to three (3) supporting documents (E.g. publications or websites).

Please submit the nomination package electronically by emailing it in a PDF format to jcyoungb@uark.edu.

TREASURER'S REPORT



(FROM PAGE 13)

	Through July 31, 2020	Through April 30, 2020	Through January 31, 2020	Through October 31, 2019	Through July 31, 2019
GENERAL FUNDS & CASH RESERVE					
Bank of America Checking (Primary)	\$12,501.78	\$15,013.28	\$18,404.00	\$15,123.75	\$19,070.04
Paypal	\$99.70	\$99.70	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Bank of America Checking (LAC)	\$3,250.00	\$21,534.36	\$8,704.05	\$1,750.00	\$1,396.28
Bank of America Savings	\$31,627.09	\$31,600.77	\$31,599.21	\$29,597.70	\$30,199.92
Total	\$47,478.57	\$68,248.11	\$58,807.26	\$46,571.45	\$50,766.24
SSA ENDOWMENT					
FLNB: Endowment (#90308)	\$160,187.50	\$149,843.11	\$161,965.77	\$156,906.97	\$156,299.10
FLNB: Investment Account (#5DJ00053)	\$59,170.93	\$52,385.20	\$56,285.46	\$53,315.95	\$52,405.15
Total	\$219,358.43	\$202,228.31	\$218,251.23	\$210,222.92	\$208,704.25
Total for all accounts	\$266,837.00	\$270,476.42	\$277,058.49	\$256,794.37	\$259,470.49

STATE PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE (SPOC) OUTREACH REPORT



ABBIE WEISER, CA, THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

The State Partnerships and Outreach Committee (SPOC) encourages archival professionals to reach beyond our own professional groups and present at historical, genealogical, and other conferences that attract users of archives and potential donors of archival material.

SPOC held meetings via zoom in August and in October. An article about the committee, [“Get With – Or At Least On – The Program”](#), was recently published in SAA’s *Archival Outlook* magazine. Co-authored by **Marian Barber, Morgan Gieringer, Mike Miller, Claudia Rivers, Abbie Weiser, James Williamson, and Cheylon Woods**, the article recounts the origins of the committee, its activities, and future goals.

We also have a new [calendar feature on our committee webpage](#) that we are planning to update on an ongoing basis. The calendar, in addition to our resources spreadsheet, will publicize session proposal deadlines for meetings and conferences in allied professions.

Some upcoming proposal deadlines for regional conferences include:

[2021 Oklahoma History Conference](#) (deadline for submissions is November 30)

[2021 Arkansas Historical Association](#) (deadline for submissions is November 15)

[2022 Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting](#) (deadline for submissions is February 3, 2021)

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TALK OF THE REGION



**Louisiana Digital Library's Speaker Series
Addresses Data, Ethics, and Anti-Racism**
*Leah Powell Duncan, Digital Collections Librarian
& Dre Tarleton, Graduate Assistant, LSU Libraries*

The Louisiana Digital Library (LDL) is hosting an online speaker series featuring nationally renowned scholars and practitioners, focused on the topics of anti-racist library description, responsible community involvement, and data ethics.

This series is part of the LDL as Data Project, a "Collections as Data Part to Whole" grant with Mellon Foundation funds re-granted through the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The goal of the series is to develop a shared vocabulary and begin dialogue about the development and use of the LDL as data.

Each talk is free and open to everyone, and registration and the full schedule can be found here: <https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/LDLasData/Speaker-Series>. Recordings will be made available through the LDL website for future use. A sample of the schedule is provided below.

**Oct. 22, 2020 | Dorothy Berry | Digital Collections
Program Manager, Harvard University**
Centering The Margins in Digital Project Planning

Digitization and digital scholarship projects are increasingly the primary way patrons chose to interact with special collections material, especially in our current remote learning environment. The materials we choose to digitize become the foundations of future research, but the majority of content available in digital collections across the country has long reflected the historically valorizing ideas bolstering special collections. The presentation provides practical discussion around selection and planning for digital projects that enhance the historical record by filling in the gaps.

**Nov. 19, 2020 | Tonia Sutherland | Assistant
Professor, Department of Information & Computer
Sciences, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**
**Making Culturally Responsive Decisions About
Redescription in the Louisiana Digital Library**

This talk will identify some best current professional practices for culturally responsive decision-making with regard to archival redescription. The intersection of description and digitization has become increasingly complex, raising questions such as when and why redescription practices are engaged; whether improved access as a result of digitization has a role

to play in redescription; how mass digitization results in automated standardization of harmful description at scale; and the ways that aggregation amplifies and legitimizes problematic description. Confronting this complexity, memory institutions are developing re-description practices that model archival harm-reduction such as community-centered archival description and pre-digitization descriptive remediation, and this talk will provide recommendations for culturally responsive re-description in the Louisiana Digital Library.

**Dec. 3, 2020 | Jessica Perkins Smith | University
Archivist, Mississippi State University**
**Digitizing Mississippi: Black Voices and White
Supremacy**

Being a university archivist at a Southern university necessitates facing the history of Jim Crow era racism and finding ways to ensure stories of Black resistance to white supremacy are illuminated. At the same time, it is important for students and researchers studying Mississippi Civil Rights to understand the fear and violence that allowed segregationists to maintain power for so long in the state. This talk will examine that balance by discussing the Citizens' Council Forum Digital Collection, a CLIR Recordings at Risk funded project to digitize the only complete run of the white supremacist Citizen Council's long running radio show, which covers topics including resistance to the Civil Rights Act and the fear of Communism. This talk will also highlight a work-in-progress Omeka exhibit on the first Black student group at Mississippi State University, Afro American Plus. Organized in the years following the campus' 1965 integration, the group worked systematically to improve the quality of life for Black students, build Black community, but also to push back against white power structures.

Other speakers include:

Jacqueline Wernimont, Distinguished Chair of Digital Humanities & Social Engagement, Dartmouth College

Brian Carpenter, Curator of Native American Materials, American Philosophical Society

Sharon Leon, Associate Professor of History and Digital Humanities, Michigan State University

Alex Torres, Program Director, Humanities Amped

We invite you to join our conversations around the responsible, ethical, and equitable development of digital collections as data. Contact SL Ziegler at sziegler1@lsu.edu.

REPOSITORY NEWS



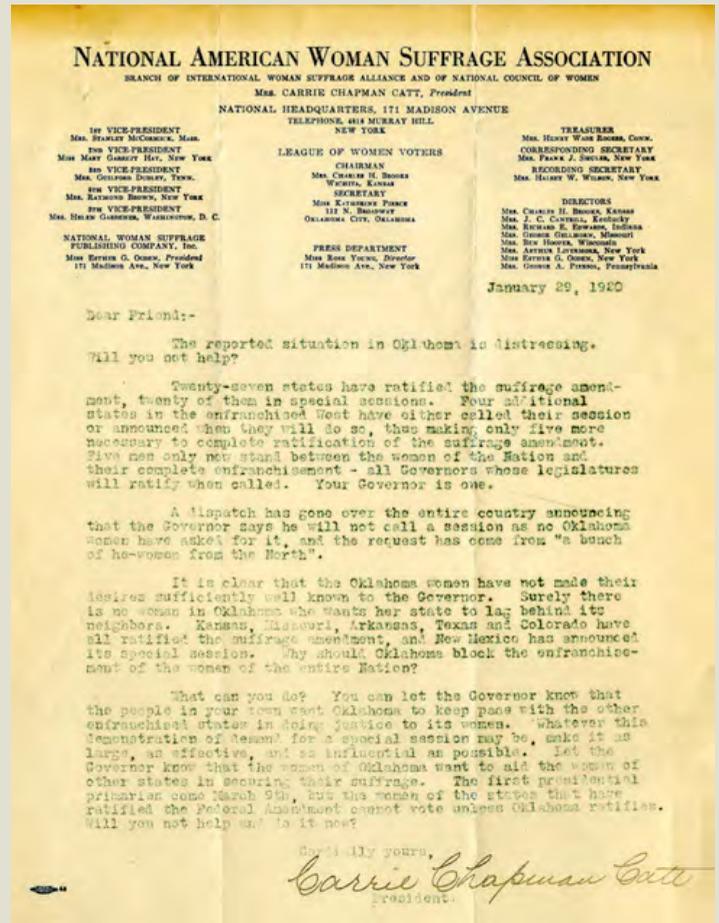
Social Distancing with the Suffragists *Holly Hasenfratz, CA, Archivist & Records Management Specialist, Oklahoma Department of Libraries, State Archives*

The Oklahoma State Archives maintains some of the permanent records of Oklahoma state government, agencies, boards, and commissions. These records date back to the territorial days. Some of our biggest collections include Oklahoma Supreme Court cases, Governors' Papers, and Legislature bill files. We serve a broad community of patrons including state government employees, researchers from around the world, and genealogists.

In early March, COVID-19 had reached Oklahoma, and by mid-month, like the rest of the world, we were figuring out what our new normal was, and how to work in it. While many businesses closed and sent staff home to telework, the Oklahoma state government did not close to the public; however, we were encouraged to telework when possible. For our small staff in the State Archives at the Department of Libraries, our solution was to rotate teleworking. This allowed us to continue to serve in-person patrons while greatly minimizing the number of staff working in the building each day.

It is difficult as an Archivist & Records Management Specialist to telework. The bulk of our jobs rely on working with physical items. However, I got creative, and teleworking gave me the opportunity to focus on some fun digital projects that might not have taken priority otherwise. One of the projects that I am most proud of, was making records related to Women's Suffrage available online. Before the pandemic, we had identified and digitized about 150 records related to suffrage and the 19th Amendment. While working at home, I created extensive metadata for each item, and organized it into a spreadsheet. I also renamed the image files in preparation for long-term digital storage and organization. These steps made uploading the records and metadata to CONTENTdm relatively easy.

One of the best parts of this project was reading the passionate correspondence contained in Governor J. B. A. Robertson's Papers. I really enjoyed reading the letters and pamphlets created by various local and national Suffrage and Anti-Suffrage groups. It was exciting to read correspondence from prominent women including Carrie Chapman Catt and Kate Barnard. With the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in August of this year, I was excited to have some of these materials available online in time for the anniversary.



"Mella Supplemento," no. 60, undated. Benson Latin American Collection. (Photo: University of Texas Libraries.)

Social distancing with the Suffragists made me reflect on the history of women's rights and voting rights in the United States. While the 19th Amendment is largely recognized as giving women the right to vote, we must acknowledge that it only gave this right to white women. In fact, it would be many decades before women of color had the right to vote. The 24th Amendment (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965) eliminated poll taxes, the use of literacy tests, and other racist, discriminatory practices used to prohibit people of color from voting. It is also important to acknowledge that voter suppression still exists in this country, and there is still much work to be done to ensure voting is an easy and accessible process. The suffrage records in the Oklahoma State Archives are a small piece of the puzzle, but they are an important part of our social and political history to preserve and make accessible to the public.

The Women's Suffrage collection can be found on Digital Prairie here: <https://digitalprairieok.net/>

REPOSITORY NEWS



Dallas Municipal Archives Receives Grant for Audio and Video Digitization *John Slate, CA, Dallas Municipal Archives*

The Dallas Municipal Archives is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas. The project will transfer, preserve, and make publicly accessible selected audio and video recordings from collections of the Municipal Archives. Included are historic recordings of WRR, the oldest licensed radio station west of the Mississippi; local and visiting African American artists, musicians, and theater and dance productions of the city's South Dallas Cultural Center; historic transcriptions from the City of Dallas Aviation Department concerning JFK and Air Force One.

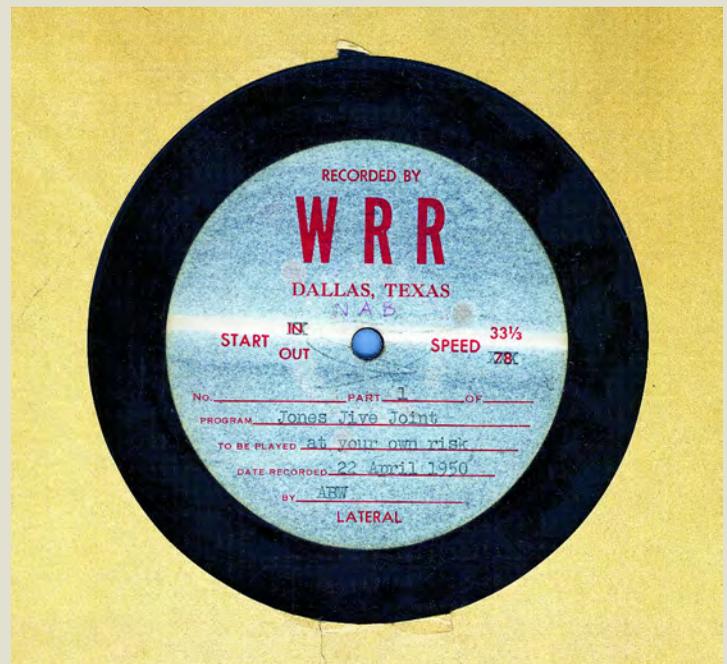


The WRR recordings and the South Dallas Cultural Center recordings in particular document the vibrant programming of two city-owned entities whose history is endangered due to unstable native recording formats. Among the WRR materials are rare unique recordings on fragile transcription discs and original in-house programming by the station on Dallas arts, music and culture from the 1940s to the 1990s. The South Dallas Cultural Center video and audio include performances and lectures by both local and nationally known musicians, authors, and political figures. The digitized materials will be distributed freely through several publicly accessible, free platforms.

Founded in 1988, The Summerlee Foundation is a mission-driven organization dedicated to the support of animal protection and the preservation of Texas history.

For more information contact John Slate at john.slate@dallascityhall.com.

WRR employees at work, 1950. (Photo: Dallas Municipal Archives.)



Label from a 1950 transcription disc recording. (Photo: Dallas Municipal Archives.)

REPOSITORY NEWS



WRR Radio's Centennial Celebration
Kristi Nedderman, Dallas Municipal Archives



"Texas' First Radio Station" exhibit main entrance. (Photo: Dallas Municipal Archives.)

August 5, 2020, was WRR's 99th birthday. To kick off the station's hundredth year, the Dallas Municipal Archives, in partnership with WRR, curated an exhibit to share the station's history. The Municipal Archives has a deep collection of WRR papers and photos, dating from 1921. John Slate and I had a wonderful time researching our content, connecting with former WRR employees, and working with the current WRR team.



Exhibit removal from NorthPark Center. L-R: Amy Bishop, Kristi Nedderman, Barry Samsula, and Dave Whitfield. (Photo: Dallas Municipal Archives.)



Pages from final WRR panels. (Photo: Dallas Municipal Archives.)

We created ten, 8-foot by 4-foot panels, one for each decade of the station's history, and two, smaller introductory panels. Unveiled on August 5, 2020 at NorthPark Center in Dallas, in mid-September, we moved the exhibit to its second location at the Hall of State in Fair Park. In 2021, the exhibit will be installed at both Love Field and Dallas City Hall and possibly other locations.

WRR, the United States' first fire and police dispatch network, originated in 1920 to serve the citizens of Dallas. With the dispatching process working smoothly, operators began broadcasting music over the air between fire department alarms to confirm continuity of transmission. In August 1921, WRR became the second commercially-licensed radio station in the country and the first west of the Mississippi River. Ninety-nine years later, the station is still a North Texas favorite.

For more information, contact Kristi Nedderman at kristi.nedderman@dallascityhall.com.

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REPOSITORY NEWS



New Archival Acquisitions at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum Highlight African Americans in the West

Kimberly Roblin, Director of Dickinson Research Center & Curator of Archives, Donald C. and Elizabeth M. Dickinson Research Center, National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum

The American West is difficult to define and far more complex than stereotypes suggest. It is a destination, an experience, an idea, and for some even home. The Dickinson Research Center, at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, preserves and shares these diverse stories and reveals the West one photograph, one manuscript, and one voice at a time. Earlier this year, the Museum purchased 23 items from the Steve Turner Collection of African Americana that span six decades and tell significant and often overlooked stories.

Studio portraits of Rose Jackson, a formerly enslaved woman who moved to Oregon from Missouri, challenge the common perceptions of who traveled west on wagon trains. A set of photographs from Fort Scott, Lawrence, and Topeka testify to the large numbers of African Americans who settled in Kansas after the Civil War. A stereoview of a freedman's cabin in the Muscogee Nation, Indian Territory, speaks to earlier enslavement by Creeks, Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Seminoles, as well as the subsequent growth of all-Black towns in Oklahoma. Grafton Tyler Brown's printer samples literally illustrate his pioneering role as one of, if not the earliest, African American artists, lithographers, and cartographers in California; and two editions of the newspaper, *The Forum*, provide a glimpse into San Jose, California's, African American community and the chief interests and concerns of the day.

Learn more about Rose and other individuals in *Find Your West*, our

recent blog post. To learn more about the Dickinson Research Center, visit us online or email us at askarchives@nationalcowboymuseum.org.

Images: L: Rose Jackson, ca. 1868, Oregon. Steve Turner Collection of African Americana. Dickinson Research Center. National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. RC2020.001.106.2.

R: Mt. Zion Baptist Church, ca. 1900. Bakersfield, California. Steve Turner Collection of African Americana. Dickinson Research Center. National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. RC2020.001.135.1.



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The exam will also be offered at Pick Your Site locations.

For a Pick Your Site location to be considered, three regular applicants must select the same city on their application form.

Deadlines:

Early Bird Registration Deadline: February 15, 2020 at 11:59PM EST: \$26.00.

After 2/15/20, the Regular Registration Fee is \$52.00 and Registration Deadline is May 31, 2020 at 11:59PM EST.

For more information about the Certified Archivist examination, go to the ACA website
(www.certifiedarchivists.org/get-certified)

The Academy of Certified Archivists
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Albany, New York 12203

518-694-8471

aca@caphill.com

www.certifiedarchivists.org

TALK OF THE REGION



Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO)
Summer/Fall 2020 Updates

Rebecca Romanchuk, Archives and Information Services, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 2020 TARO Steering Committee Chair

TARO 2.0 News

TARO's NEH implementation grant activities continue, with substantial work being done this year by our UT Libraries development team (known as the Valkyrie Squad) to define the core functionality of what we're calling TARO 2.0. The squad is establishing workflows, designing and building the back-end, developing a file compliance checking tool, and configuring the end-user interface that will become the new TARO website. A series of all-hands meetings were held in October to bring together the stakeholders (our Steering Committee and our subcommittee chairs), the Valkyrie Squad, and the person appointed as TARO Product Owner during the grant, Carla Alvarez, Benson Latin American Collection US Latina/o Archivist as well as a long-serving TARO Steering Committee member and former Standards Subcommittee co-chair. These meetings allowed us to see a demo of the new TARO 2.0 system at its current stage of development and discuss and plan for how EAD finding aids in TARO can comply with descriptive and encoding standards to take best advantage of the new search, browse, filter, and sort functions. Our metadata analyst, Devon Murphy, has begun their year-long term with us to analyze index term usage in our members' finding aids, produce reports showing where corrections are needed, look at ways to automate those corrections where possible, and create subject heading training tools for members. Devon will create allowed lists of approved headings for index terms used in TARO, develop a set of browsing terms for our new website, and explore how TARO can contribute name terms to the Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) project, <https://snaccooperative.org/>. We're also working with graphic designer Neil Barrett on designing a fresh look for our website, including a new color palette and logo. Our NEH grant activities continue through April 2022 and will integrate user experience testing to help us shape the new TARO to better fit researchers' needs.

TARO Steering Committee November Election

Elections for two TARO Steering Committee officer positions are being held in November, with voting open to the TARO membership November 9-17. Positions on the ballot are vice chair/chair-elect (a three-year commitment, 2021-2023, serving the second year as chair and the third year as immediate past chair, each with specific duties) and secretary (service is for two years, 2021-2022). Watch for our November 18 announcement of election results on the TARO Today blog, our TARO member email list, and social media and message boards of SSA and other Texas professional archival groups. At least one position opens up on our Steering Committee every year, so if you're an archivist or librarian at a TARO member repository, we encourage you to think about being a nominee in our next election in 2021.

NAFAN Awarded IMLS Grant

The California Digital Library announced in July that the National Archival Finding Aid Network (NAFAN) project has been awarded a \$982,175 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS – National Leadership Grants for Libraries grant program) to conduct a two-year research and demonstration project designed to build the foundation for a national archival finding aid network. This work will be undertaken in collaboration with OCLC and the University of Virginia Library and in close partnership with statewide/regional aggregators and LYRASIS (ArchivesSpace). Full information is available at the NAFAN project wiki, <https://confluence.ucop.edu/display/NAFAN>. TARO has pledged to participate in these NAFAN grant activities, and we'll keep you posted as those unfold.

Join TARO!

Is your institution interested in becoming a TARO member? There are two ways to join. One is through our Summerlee Foundation grant-funded New Member Initiative, which supports vendor encoding of finding aids to help new or dormant TARO member repositories participate in TARO. This initiative now has 13 participants, and we seek several more to join every year. The project is overseen by the immediate past chair of the TARO Steering Committee (which for 2020 is Carla Alvarez) and supported by a quality assurance team of seasoned encoding volunteers from TARO member repositories. Contact current TARO Steering Committee Chair Rebecca

Continued on page 25

TALK OF THE REGION

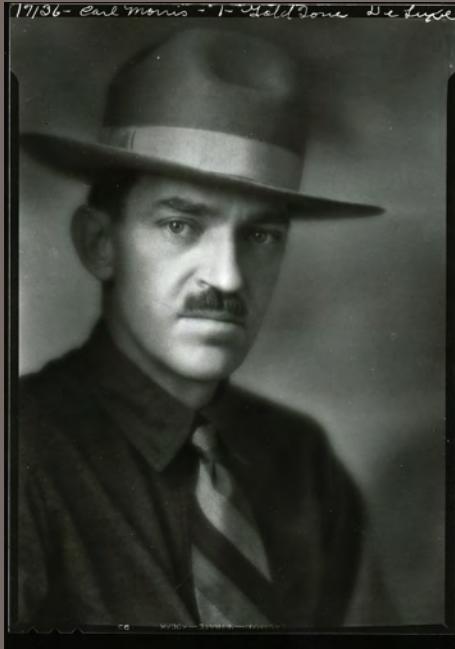


Processing and Digitization of the Earl H. Morris Papers at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

Will Gregg, Project Archivist, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

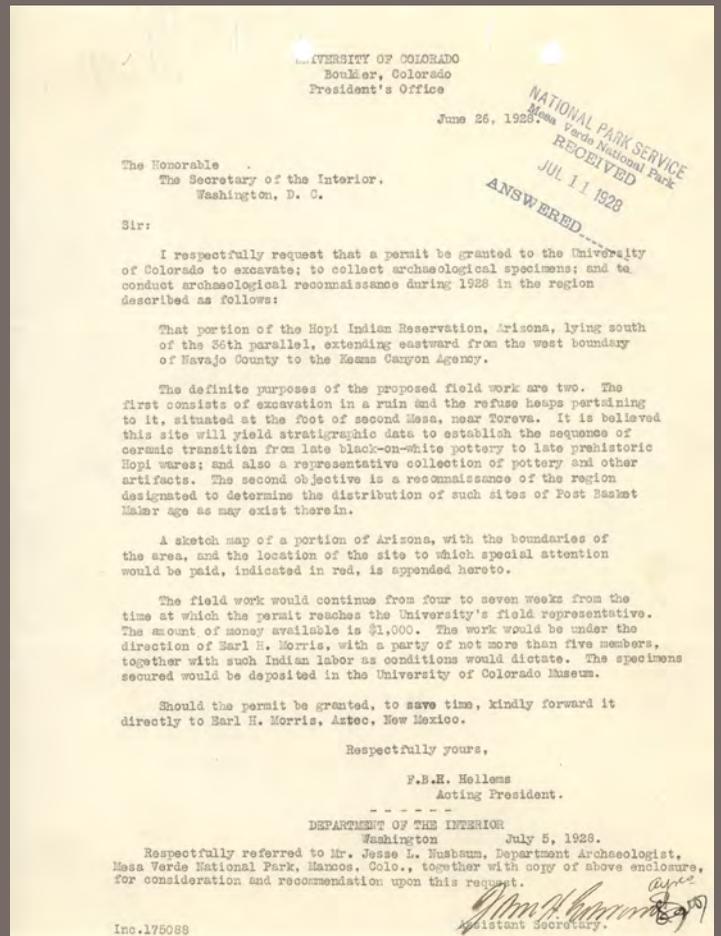
"I can suggest that digging up the past may not be as remunerative as hunting uranium, but it is a heap more fun, and I do not regret the choice I made ..."

With this statement archaeologist Earl H. Morris (1889-1956) summarized his life and work in a lecture nearing the end of his career. The speech, given to the Colorado Historical Society circa 1950, commemorated a prolific career in which Morris worked at sites across Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Mesoamerica. He is best known for his excavations at Aztec Ruins National Monument, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, at sites near Red Valley, AZ, and between the La Plata and Mancos rivers in Colorado and New Mexico.



Portrait of Earl Morris. 1936.EHM07.03_024.01_001. (Photo: University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.)

On his death and through later accessions, a portion of Morris' field notes, correspondence, and photographs were given to the Museum of Natural History at the University of Colorado (CUMNH) totaling approximately 38 linear feet. One of the most important collections in the museum archives, the papers trace the growth of 20th century archaeology, document interactions between Native American tribes, archaeologists, and the federal government, provide a perspective on the look and feel of communities in the Four Corners region, and assist in identifying human remains and associated funerary objects that fall under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The collection also



Letter from CU President to the Secretary of the Interior. 26 June 1928. EHM02.08_001_002_001_001. (Photo: University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.)

contains a wealth of correspondence with A. E. Douglass and other dendrochronologists at the University of Arizona.

In the decades after Morris' death in 1956, museum personnel used the papers to develop a number of publications and exhibits. Lack of formal processing limited the research potential of the collection, however, and years of subsequent use raised doubts about the original order. Seeing the continued importance of Morris' archaeological work, curators and staff in the Anthropology section of CUMNH sought funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to process and digitize the collection. Funding was awarded and work began in October of 2019 led by a project archivist with the assistance of a graduate student in the Museum and Field Studies program.

Due to the place-based nature of archaeology, a geographic scheme was employed in rearranging the

Continued on page 25

TALK OF THE REGION



Above: The Temple of the Warriors at Chichen Itza after restoration overseen by Morris. 1927. EHM07.02_009_033.
Below: Earl Morris and archaeologist A.V. "Ted" Kidder take a rest. Undated. EHM07.03_024.01_007. (Photos: University of Colorado Museum of Natural History.)



collection. Morris' own understanding of the geographical demarcations in his work were employed in dividing the materials into series and subseries. Since Morris used the same divisions in describing the objects he excavated, we believe that this scheme allow researchers to associate objects in the museum with their archival contexts.

After rearrangement, many of the documents and photographs slated for digitization were processed to the item level to improve intellectual control and to facilitate placing restrictions on digitized material for reasons of cultural sensitivity (guided by the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials) as well as in compliance with the Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Digitization proceeded in-house with the help of an undergraduate volunteer.

Though digitization targets were adjusted in light of COVID-19, a sizable portion of the collection is now digitized including approximately 2,750 photographs

and 388 documents representing 2,450 pages. Most of these images are now available online through the museum's database (<http://anth-web.colorado.edu/ProficioWebModule/MADetailG.aspx?rID=EHM&db=group&dir=ARCHIVES>) and will become available on CU Digital Library in months to come. The collection finding aid is available at <https://archives.colorado.edu/repositories/5/resources/2431>. CUMNH thanks NHPRC for making this project possible.

TARO Updates (from page 23)

Romanchuk at rromanchuk@tsl.texas.gov if your repository wants to become a new TARO member through this initiative. Also contact her if your repository would like to join TARO as a self-sustaining member able to create its own EAD finding aids (repositories using ArchivesSpace can export EAD finding aids using these steps available on the TARO Today blog, <https://sites.utexas.edu/taro/submitted-finding-aids-now/using-archivesspace/>). There has never been a better time to join TARO, where institutions across Texas contribute description of their diverse archival collections to a finding aid consortium used by researchers worldwide.

Stay in Touch

TARO working wiki: <http://texastaro.pbworks.com/>

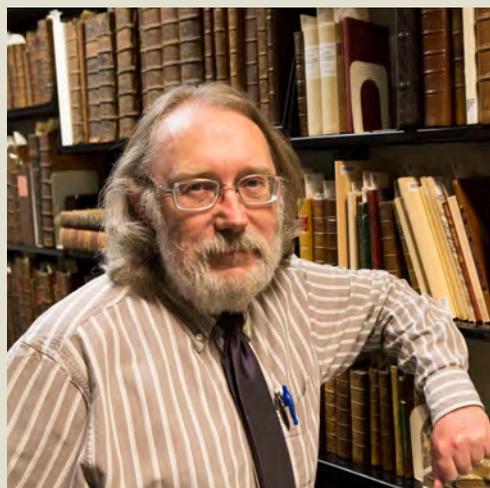
TARO Today: <http://sites.utexas.edu/taro/>

TARO Best Practices Guidelines: <http://bit.ly/2Alonsy>

LEADERSHIP LOG



Krishna Shenoy, Co-Editor, *Southwestern Archivist*



Mike Widener

Mike Widener will retire from Yale University in April 2021 after 15 years as the Rare Book Librarian in the Lillian Goldman Law Library. Mike joined SSA in 1990 while he was a student in the Graduate School of Library & Information

Science, University of Texas at Austin. He was the Archivist/Rare Book Librarian and later Head of Special Collections at UT-Austin's Tarlton Law Library from 1991 to 2006. During his tenure at Yale, Mike and co-author Mark S. Weiner won the 2018 Joseph L. Andrews Award for Legal Literature from the



Shelley Gayler-Smith

American Association of Law Libraries for Law's Picture Books: The Yale Law Library Collection (Clark, NJ: Talbot Publishing, 2017), the catalogue of their landmark 2017 exhibition at the Grolier Club in New York City. Mike will remain on

the faculty of the Rare Book School, University of Virginia, where he has taught a week-long course, "Law Books: History & Connoisseurship," since 2010.

In August 2020, **Shelley Gayler-Smith** successfully passed the Certified Archivist exam through the

Academy of Certified Archivists. Shelley has been the University Archivist at the University of Dallas for the past 3 years and has been a faculty librarian for 5 years. She also holds a Master of Library Science degree from Texas Woman's University.



Nicholas Wojcik

Nicholas Wojcik recently joined the University of Oklahoma Libraries as the new Scholarly Publishing Librarian. Prior to this appointment, Nicholas served as the Collection Manager for the Native American

Languages Collection at the Sam Noble Museum from 2011 - 2020. Nicholas earned his Master of Library and Information Studies (MLIS) degree and a Bachelor's degree in Art History from the University of Oklahoma. Since 2018, he



Holly Hasenfratz

has served as the Chair of SSA's Publications Committee and Editor of *The Southwestern Archivist*.

Holly Hasenfratz, Archivist & Records Management Specialist in the Oklahoma State Archives, passed the Certified Archivists Exam in August.



The Society of Southwest Archivists has lost a powerful advocate for archives. Dr. David B. Gracy II died peacefully in his home in the early morning of Saturday, September 26. Gracy was born on October 25, 1941, to David Caldwell and Alice Tillar Gracy in Austin, Texas. Gracy

earned bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in history from Texas Tech University. And he would remain true to his schools throughout his life.

Gracy's professional activity was legendary. He was founding editor of *Georgia Archive* (now *Provenance*), the first archival journal published by a state or regional organization. He served on the editorial boards of *American Archivist* (1976 to 1979) and *Libraries and Culture* (1985 to 2005), where he also served as editor (2005 to 2011). For a generation of archivists he was known as the author of the seminal volume *Archives and Manuscripts: Arrangement and Description* (SAA, 1977).

Gracy's leadership also included serving as president of SAA (1983 to 1984), during which time he initiated the "Archives in Society" program to focus on the value, relevance, and significance of archives and archivists to all members of society.

Dr. Gracy was many things to many people: an archives evangelist, a mentor, a teacher, a colleague, even a train conductor at times. He was interviewed on the podcast "An Archivist's Tale" and if you have access to JSTOR, there is an entire journal volume of *Information & Culture* devoted to Dr. Gracy's career. To view an oral history interview of Dr. Gracy that was conducted by Jim Fogerty in August 2009, [click here](#). We encourage you to leave a remembrance wherever you feel comfortable, be it through his obituary website, SAA's website, through social media, through an e-mail to a colleague, or just privately with a short moment of silence.

Donations

We were all saddened about the recent passing of Dr. David B. Gracy. As most of you know, SSA has a graduate student scholarship named in his honor. Since the last newsletter, SSA has received \$2631 in donations to the scholarship fund, all in honor/memory of Dr. Gracy.

Our thanks to the following donors:

Mark Lambert

Sarah Jackson

Paul Scott

Daniel Alonzo

Kristy Sorensen

Susan Floyd

Dylan McDonald

Abbie Weiser

Richard Quartaroli

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Information about making a donation can be found on the SSA website at <http://southwestarchivists.org/donate>

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c/o Nicholas Wojcik

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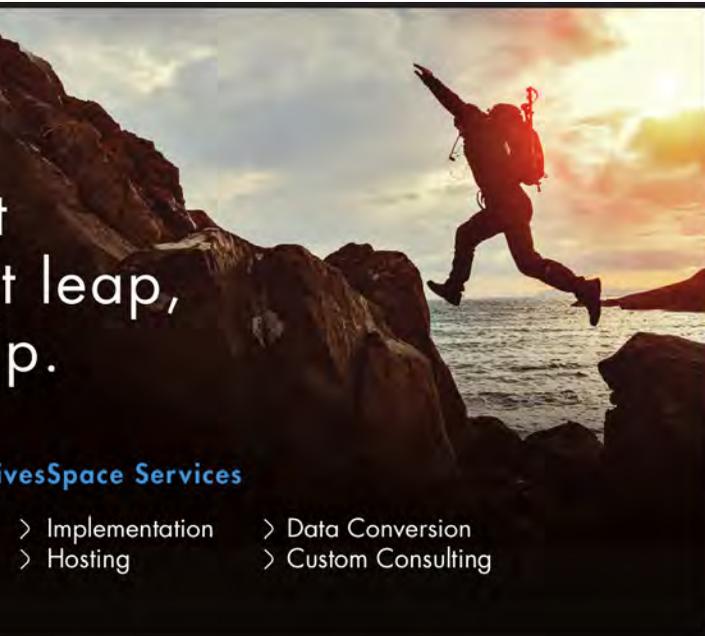
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