

Appendix 2: Posters

Eleven posters were presented at the symposium. The following are a few examples. The collection can be seen at <http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/2015-symposium-unconference/poster>.

Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Project: "Providing Access to the Archives of the American Geographical Society"

James Pridmore, Co-PI, St. Anselm's Librarian, UWM Libraries
Robert Jaeger, CLIR Project Archivist






AGS-NY Archives Storage AGS-NY Archives Reading Room UWM temporary storage room AGS-NY Archives Room at UWM




Inuit sketch by Robert Flaherty, circa 1913 L.L. Hayes Expedition artifacts and logbook, 1860

Granted to: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
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In late 2011, the UWM Libraries received a grant from the Andrew Mellon Foundation through the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to organize and process the Archives of the American Geographical Society.

These archives date from the Society's founding in 1851 and include approximately 350 cubic feet of material, with documents relating to well-known figures in American exploration and the larger field of geography from the mid-nineteenth century through most of the twentieth. Highlights include log books of early Arctic expeditions, the papers of Robert E. Peary (who served as President of the Society), the American flag carried by Capt. Charles Francis Hall on his second Polar Expedition, and correspondence with such individuals as David Livingstone, Franklin D. Roosevelt (a Councilor) and William H. Seward to name only a few.




Flag from C.F. Hall's 2nd Polar Expedition, 1869 Early correspondence




Before & After: Lincoln E. Bloor's lantern slides Processing the collection: Sample of box and corresponding page in the finding aid

UWM Libraries

HEARD BUT NOT SEEN:

Making the audible visible at the Martha's Vineyard Museum

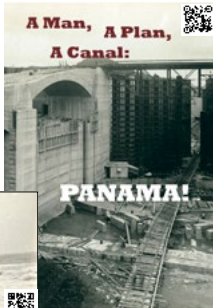
Introduction

The Martha's Vineyard Museum's oral history collection contains over 1,400 individual recordings. At the onset of the project, the main problems were as follows:

- Inventory existed only in a number of excel spreadsheets and did not have a central location.
- Exhibits, when using oral historians, often used only text.
- Because of this, budgetary decisions prioritized as-needed transcriptions over providing description and properly maintaining the inventory.

These problems had the following effects:

- Exhibit design was weighted towards objects because they were more easily discoverable by non-oral history staff.
- Inventory maintenance and record descriptions often fell to volunteers.



CROWDSOURCING PROJECT

One example of a reimagined volunteer project is a crowdsourcing project. One volunteer breaks the interviews into five-minute segments. These segments are then sent to other volunteers who listen to the five-minute segments then write a brief description of the clip. When they send back their description, the next segment is sent to them.

The format of this project allows volunteers with schedule constraints more flexibility and provides off-site options for volunteers. The serialized descriptions make the experience more product-like for the volunteers while simultaneously making it easier for museum staff to home in on particular sections of untranscribed interviews.

Solutions

The museum adopted the Past Perfect museum database software so that disparate elements of the collection would have a unified catalog. The entire oral history collection was inventoried and cataloged into Past Perfect, replacing the previous inventory with a centralized catalog.

- Updating and centralizing the inventory made it easier for both museum staff and researchers to identify useful items in the collection.

Preservation and access copies of digitized sound recordings were arranged according to this new records management system. Recordings that had not previously been digitally preserved were digitized, and the files placed in a central location.

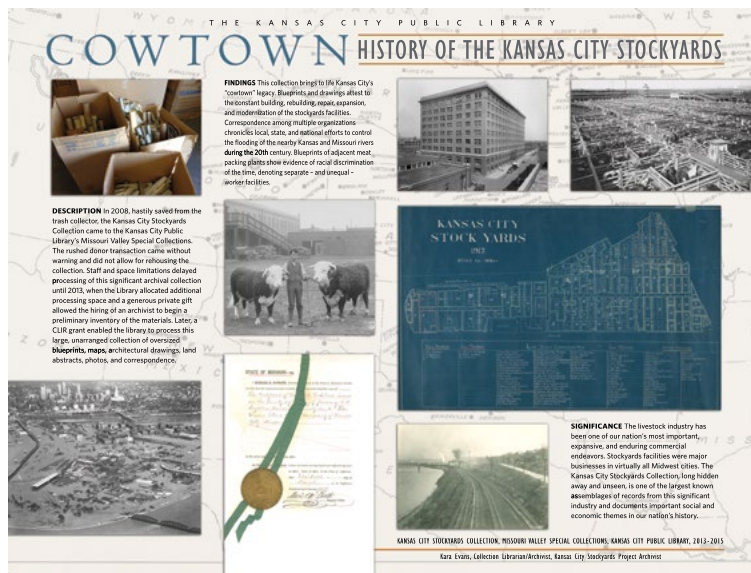
- Increasing accessibility and improving organizational arrangement facilitated the use of "audio-only" interviews for both exhibits and research.
- Volunteer projects were reimagined to fit varying skillsets and time commitments.
- Creating projects that were not out of volunteers' "comfort zone" cut down on volunteer training time, better descriptions, and happier volunteers.

The new cataloging procedures were documented in an oral history processing manual specifically designed for the museum's collection, in accordance with other procedures and policies at the institution. The QR code to the right links to the manual.

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COWTOWN HISTORY OF THE KANSAS CITY STOCKYARDS

THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY



FINDINGS This collection brings to life Kansas City's "cowtown" legacy. Blueprints and drawings allude to the bustling building, including meat operation, and modernization of the stockyards facilities. Correspondence among multiple organizations chronicles local, state, and national efforts to control the flooding of the nearby Kansas and Missouri rivers during the 20th century. Blueprints of adjacent meat-packing plants show evidence of spatial discrimination of the time, denoting separate - and unequal - worker facilities.

DESCRIPTION In 2008, hastily salvaged from the trash collector, the Kansas City Stockyards Collection came to the Kansas City Public Library's Missouri Valley Special Collections. The rushed donor transaction came without warning and did not allow for rebrowsing the collection. Staff and space limitations delayed processing of this significant archival collection until 2013, when the library allocated additional processing space and a generous private gift allowed the hiring of an archivist to begin a preliminary inventory of the materials. Later, a CLIR grant enabled the library to process this large, unarranged collection of oversized blueprints, maps, architectural drawings, land abstracts, photos, and correspondence.

SIGNIFICANCE The livestock industry has been one of our nation's most important, expensive, and enduring commercial endeavors. Stockyards facilities were major businesses in virtually all Midwest cities. The Kansas City Stockyards Collection, long hidden away and unseen, is one of the largest known assemblages of records from this significant industry and documents important social and economic themes in our nation's history.

KANSAS CITY STOCKYARDS COLLECTION, MISSOURI VALLEY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 2013-2015
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