

The MONTANA Archivist

SUMMER 2005, VOL. 6 NO. 2

Montana SHRAB Meets with Wyoming and Idaho SHRABs

The Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRAB) held their first-ever joint meeting in West Yellowstone, Montana, on May 20. Each state in the country has a similar board charged with supporting the preservation of historical records within their state. Although Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho all have active SHRABs that promote educational and other activities related to historic records, these boards have never met jointly. The SHRAB members discussed a variety of issues, including legislation, funding, control of state records, Archives Week, and digitization projects. A number of ideas regarding future cooperative projects among the three states resulted from the meeting, including joint educational projects. Board members also exchanged information on their membership and how their respective boards operate. For more information on the Montana SHRAB or this meeting, contact Molly Kruckenberg at mkruckenberg@mt.gov or 444-7482.



Upcoming Events

- June 26-27:** Montana Preservation Workshop, Billings
- June 30:** Managing Paper and Electronic Records and Disaster Recovery workshop, Gillette, WY (Sponsored by the Wyoming SHRAB)
- Aug. 15-21:** Society of American Archivists conference, New Orleans, LA
- Sept. 15-16:** ARMA Workshop on Business Continuity, Great Falls
- Sept. 22-24:** Montana Festival of the Book, Missoula
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1:** Montana History Conference, Helena

Women Artists Archives National Directory: Call for Participation

All archival repositories holding primary source material about women visual artists active in the U.S. since 1945, are invited to be included in **WAAND – the Women Artists Archives National Directory** – an innovative Web directory under development by Rutgers University Libraries and on the Web at <http://waand.rutgers.edu>. Please sign up now to receive our survey form, due to be released in August.

WAAND is designed as a research tool for scholars, artists, curators, students, and collecting institutions around the world, as well as researchers in cultural and intellectual history, American studies, material culture, and women's and gender studies. It will direct users to primary source materials of and about contemporary women visual artists active in the U.S.

Participating repositories will be asked to complete an online repository survey form for each artist in their collections, describing the nature of the primary source materials they hold. The WAAND repository survey form will be ready for release by summer 2005. WAAND users will be able to access data through artist name, archival repository, or collection title. The directory will also be structured for fielded searching on such access points as art genre, style and movement, and the geographic regions of the artist's activity. WAAND has been funded by the Getty Foundation.

WAAND's principal investigators are Dr. Ferris Olin, head of the Margery Somers Foster Center, Rutgers University Libraries, and long-time curator of the Mary H. Dana Women Artist Series at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library, and Judith K. Brodsky, Rutgers distinguished professor emerita in the Department of Visual Arts, Mason Gross School of the Arts, and founding director of the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper (RCIPP). Members of the WAAND Advisory Council include Mary Garrard, art historian and author on women artists and gender studies;

Camille Billops, artist, filmmaker, and founder of the Hatch-Billops Archives, New York; and Janis Ekdahl, retired chief librarian, Museum of Modern Art Library, New York.

For further information or to partner with WAAND, please contact: Nicole Plett, WAAND Project Manager

(732) 932-9407, ext. 27, Fax: (732) 932-6777, E-mail: waand@rci.rutgers.edu, Web: <http://waand.rutgers.edu>.

SHRAB Meeting Held in West Yellowstone

[These are abridged minutes of the SHRAB meeting. For full minutes, contact Molly Kruckenberg at mkruckenberg@mt.gov.]

The Montana SHRAB met Thursday, May 19, 2005, at 3:00p.m. at the Yellowstone Lodge, West Yellowstone, Montana.

Molly Kruckenberg reported on the status of the current SHRAB Administrative Grant, which has funded scholarships, a two-day digitization workshop in Bozeman in June, and a workshop at the history conference this fall. Other than the newsletter, there will be no new publications this year. She also gave a short report on the current status of NHPRC's funding. At this time, the agency is not a part of the FY06 federal budget. However, lobbying efforts are moving forward to restore funding.

Kruckenberg reported on a two-day digitization workshop to be held June 6 & 7 in Bozeman. Donna McCrea spearheaded this project and asked the Collaborative Digitization Program to conduct a workshop in Montana. McCrea put together funding for the workshops through the SHRAB, the University of Montana, and the Montana State University. She also submitted a grant to the Montana Committee for the Humanities, which was funded. These funds will considerably reduce the cost of attendance to participants.

If the workshop goes well, McCrea suggested offering this as a pre-conference workshop at MLA.

The workshop could also be offered at the MAM conference, which is in Fort Benton next year. SHRAB members all agreed on that the workshops would be good to offer again, given their popularity. A discussion of the use of training funds in general followed, with agreement that training should be offered, with an emphasis on scholarships and on-site training. Shea suggested the possibility of offering a joint scholarship with MAM.

Kruckenbergh moved on to a discussion of the on-going topic of updating the SHRAB's strategic plan. Members agreed that there is a need to survey institutions in Montana in order to do the update properly. Shea noted that MAM is planning to update their heritage resources directory, which includes many types of cultural institutions. He suggested that we could partner with MAM on updating the heritage directory and include questions about needs (training, types of problems they find most pressing, etc.). A suggestion was made that we could also work with the Montana Travel office or UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research to help design a survey but carry the survey out ourselves. We could also ask the MCH for a joint SHRAB and MAM grant to conduct the survey.

The next item raised was whether the SHRAB should sponsor a workshop as part of the annual Montana History Conference. The members agreed that yes it should. The group agreed on a half-day workshop on appraisal for research value and donor relations with a combination of archives and museums focus and a half-day workshop on participants' actual appraisal problems.

Allison-Bunnell raised the subject of advocacy training and asked if there was an interest in the group for this. Kim Allan Scott raised his concerns about the relevance of the archival profession and heritage institutions. He noted the importance of cultivating environmental groups and the historians who are most closely connected with them in order to show our importance in supporting their work. The history-buff base is

shrinking rapidly and with it much of the natural interest in archives.

The traveling archivist came up as another topic. Members agreed to encourage organizations to use the SHRAB scholarships to do regional training by bring someone to them to do training. A suggestion was made to have kits available to do as much hands-on training as possible. This might be a workshop to work on for next year: develop the workshop and have supplies available for participants to work with. The group agreed that this would be a good workshop for the MAM conference in Fort Benton.

The next meeting will be held September 30 in Helena in conjunction with the annual Montana History Conference.

NEH to Provide Support for Continued Development of the Northwest Digital Archives

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Oregon State University Libraries \$300,000 for continued development and expansion of the Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA). The NWDA provides integrated access to regionally significant archival and manuscript materials in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington through a union database of Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids available online at: nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu.

Many of the participating institutions lie within the Columbia River watershed, giving the records they hold a geographic unity that extends beyond the borders of the individual states. Significant subject commonalities include the major economic forces in the region – agriculture, forest products, fisheries, and natural resources; urban and rural social and progressive movements; local, state, regional, and national politics; outdoor recreation; Native American language and culture; and the place of religious communities in the region. In many ways, the separate collections at the participating institutions represent one massive

interrelated collection that documents the political, cultural, and natural history of the Northwest region.

The 2-year project (to begin July 1, 2005) will build on the strong foundation established by initial funding awarded by NEH to the OSU Libraries for establishment of the consortium in July 2002. As of early April 2005, the NWDA database includes 2,385 finding aids describing archival collections at 16 repositories. The new NEH funding will support the addition of at least five new institutions to the consortium and a minimum of 1,600 finding aids to the NWDA database from a minimum of sixteen institutions (five new and eleven continuing). Participating institutions include the Idaho State Historical Society (new); Montana Historical Society; the University of Montana; City of Portland Archives (new); Oregon Historical Society; Oregon State University; University of Oregon; Center for Pacific Northwest Studies at Western Washington University; Eastern Washington State Historical Society (new); Gonzaga University (new); Pacific Lutheran University; Seattle Museum of History and Industry (new); University of Washington; Washington State Archives (6 branches); Washington State University; and Whitworth College.

A consortium administrator will oversee training; coordinate and monitor the work of the participating institutions and the data conversion contractor and submission of finding aids to the database; implement procedure and policy decisions made by the NWDA Executive Committee; and coordinate dissemination activities. A data conversion contractor will provide initial encoding of approximately 1,300 finding aids and a minimum of 300 finding aids will be encoded directly by staff at participating institutions.

The NWDA will continue its work with the Online Archive of California (OAC) to explore creation of tools and the means for creating a union search interface across consortia. The NWDA leadership will work closely with its advisory board and a consultant to develop a long-term business plan to provide sustainability for the consortium.

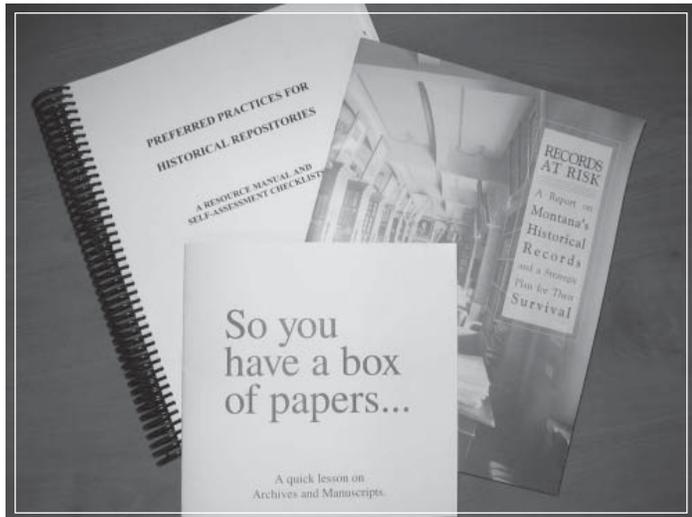
Larry Landis continues as the Consortium Director; questions about the NWDA can be directed to him at larry.landis@oregonstate.edu or (541) 737-0540.

Training / Education Funds Available

The Montana SHRAB is pleased to announce the continued availability of training and education funds to archivists around the state. Through a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the SHRAB is offering scholarships of up to \$1,000 to attend training and/or educational workshops and courses on topics related to historical records. These funds can be used for any type of training or education as long as it is related to the management or preservation of historical records. The funds are available for local, statewide, regional, and national courses. For an application for these funds, please contact Molly Kruckenberg at 444-7482 or mkruckenberg@mt.gov.



Publications Still Available



Copies of the Montana SHRAB's manual, *Preferred Practices for Historical Repositories* are still available, free of charge. This publication is a checklist and self-assessment manual and provides information on a wide variety of management and preservation topics related to archives and museums. Copies are available from Molly Kruckenberg, 444-7482 or mkruckenberg@mt.gov. Additional copies of the SHRAB's other publications, including *So You Have a Box of Papers...* and the quarterly newsletter are also available.

Digital Projects Workshop Held in Bozeman

Two workshops, "Digital Project Planning" and "Introduction to Scanning: Workshops for Cultural Heritage Institutions" were held in Bozeman on June 6 and 7. These two full-day workshops were designed specifically for volunteers and staff of Cultural Heritage interested in learning how to put their resources on the Web. The Collaborative Digitization Program presented the workshops. More information about the CDP is available at <http://www.cdpheritage.org>.



The workshop was co-sponsored by the Montana SHRAB, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library of the University of Montana-Missoula, the Renne Library of the Montana State University; and the Montana Historical Society.

Board Members

Jodi Allison-Bunnell, Missoula

Sean Chandler, Fort Belknap

Ellen Crain, Butte

Judy Ellinghausen, Great Falls

Peggy Gow, Deer Lodge

Molly Kruckenberg, Helena

Donna McCrea, Missoula

Sami Pierson, Libby

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