

NORTHWEST ARCHIVISTS IN BUTTE!

SHRAB Sponsors Workshop and Scholarship

In May of 2006 the Northwest Archivists, a regional archival association serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington, held their annual meeting in Butte, America. The annual meeting is designed to encourage professional development and networking among archivists and others interested in the preservation of and access to historical information and materials.

The pre-conference workshops included an Archives Basics Workshop taught by Arlene Schmuland of the University of Alaska-Anchorage. This 2 day workshop provided individuals with responsibilities for historic or permanent records an introduction to the basics of archival theory and practice through a combination of hands-on practice, group discussion and projects, and lectures. The Montana SHRAB served as a co-sponsor of the workshop, along with Northwest Archivists Inc.

The SHRAB also sponsored a scholarship for one Montana archivist to attend the

conference and workshops. Heather Miles of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum was awarded the \$500.00 scholarship. With this assistance Heather was able to attend the conference and participate in the Archives Basics Workshop. An excerpt from her letter to the SHRAB follows:

Thank you for awarding me the Montana SHRAB Professional Development Scholarship... In applying for the scholarship it was my wish to obtain a grasp of archival operations and requirements... Attending the conference and workshops enabled me to bring back a solid understanding of what was needed in both cataloguing and organizing our archival materials. At the museum we have already begun to utilize the information I gained at the conference ... to set policies and procedures. The museum and I wish to thank Montana SHRAB for the opportunity. The training will benefit the museum now and pay dividends well into the future.

The SHRAB was very pleased to be able to provide the funding for this valuable experience. Kudos Heather!



Upcoming Events

September 19, Montana Secretary of State hosts "Montana Digital Government Summit" in Helena, Montana

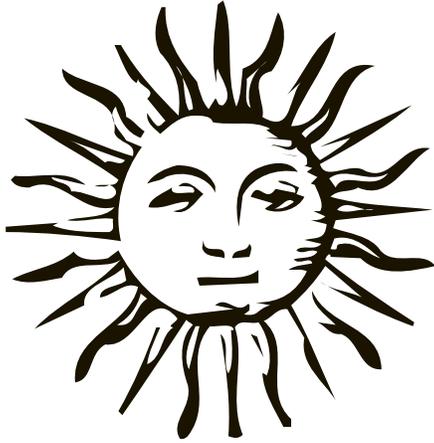
September 28-30, Montana History Conference, Billings, Montana

October 12, SAA holds workshop "The Art of Processing Manuscripts", in Chicago (see archivist.org for more workshops).

October 22-25, ARMA annual conference and Expo, San Antonio, TX

December 5-6, NEDCC sponsors "Persistence of Memory: Stewardship of Digital Assets", Tuscon, AZ

MONTANA ARCHIVIST WINS SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND JOINT MEETING OF SAA & NAGARA



It was a very hot August in Washington, D.C., but

University of Montana Archival Technician, Jennifer Tuleja, did not seem to mind. Ms. Tuleja was a recipient of a scholarship from the Montana SHRAB that enabled her to attend the meetings—along with two thousand other archivists from across the country. Speakers at the event included C-SPAN creator and popular host of Booknotes, Brian Lamb; and

respected journalist, author and Public Radio analyst Cokie Roberts. The joint meeting provided a chance to explore the many shared concerns of archivists and records managers—offering nearly 150 sessions! Ms. Tuleja focused her energies on sessions relating to outreach and advocacy. In a letter to the SHRAB she described her experience:

The conference in Washington affirmed my belief that archivists need to embrace their roles as educators. In order to inform and instruct the audiences we serve...we much go beyond making collections accessible...to actively pursuing teaching opportunities and developing outreach initiatives. In the sessions I attended...archivists, educators and historians, governmental agencies, historical societies and academic intuitions were all working towards dynamic educational and instructional programs designed for students, teachers and the general public.

Ms. Tuleja further states that she was inspired by the discussions of using technology to teach our constituents:

...the development of online archival research tools needs to go beyond traditional catalogs. We can create instruction programs for students that are interactive and placed in electronic environments where they thrive as learners. The Society of American Archivists conference inspired me...it provided me with hope that the archival profession will continue to grow outward, rather than inward; that the profession is ready to be social and interactive...welcome change and continue to provide the highest customer service for an ever widening range of potential audiences.

The SHRAB congratulates Jennifer on obtaining the scholarship to attend the SAA meeting, and encourages other readers to apply!

SCHOLARSHIP MONEY IS STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE 2006 GRANT PERIOD

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. The scholarships are made available through a National Historic Publications and Records Commission grant. A copy of the form accompanies this newsletter. For additional copies or information please contact Jodie Foley at jofoley@mt.gov or (406) 444-7482.



NEW NHPRC GRANT AVAILABLE

The National Historic Publication and Records Committee recently announced a new grant opportunity aimed at archivist and records managers. The Digitizing Historical Records Grant asks for proposals to test and implement cost-effective methods to scan historical record collections and make digital versions available on the internet. Projects must focus on digitizing archival collections of national significance. For more information see www.archives.gov/nhprc/announcement/digitizing.html



SOCIETY OFFERS PRESERVATION GRANTS

In April 2006 the Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) received a federal *Preserve America Grant*. *Preserve America* is a White House initiative developed in cooperation with the advisory council on historic preservation, the Department of the Interior, and other federal agencies. Mrs. Laura Bush, first lady of the United States, serves as the honorary chair of this initiative.

The Montana *Preserve America* grant is \$150,000 and must be matched by \$150,000 in non-federal funding. Funding will be used to support statewide efforts to celebrate and preserve Montana's rural traditions and places, in part through a re-grant program. The Montana Rural Heritage Experience Program re-grants will support *Preserve America* designated communities that have demonstrated a commitment to recognizing, designating, and protecting local cultural resources. Grants are to assist local economies find self-sustaining ways to promote their cultural resources through heritage tourism. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process and each grant will require a dollar-for-dollar, non-federal match, which can be in the form of cash or in-kind donated services for grant-assisted work. The grant and the non-federal match must be expended during the grant period (8 – 13 months) and funds are reimbursed after the project is complete. The minimum grant request is \$3,000 federal share (resulting in a total project cost of \$6,000). The maximum grant request for any project is \$15,000 (resulting in a total project cost of \$30,000).

Round One of the grant process is complete and four communities will share \$35,000. A second round of sub-grants has been announced with a deadline of November 1st. To obtain sub-grant application and guidelines please contact Melisa Kaiser Synness, federal grants manager at mkaisersynness@mt.gov.



CLOSEST TO HOME PROJECT

In November 2005 the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) received a two-year grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) which included \$170,869 to support a project designed to lay the groundwork for stronger local government archives in each state. The project will analyze current conditions and determine what services, standards, and funding strategies will work best to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to local government records.

Local government records represent the foundation of the U.S. archival system and are truly “Closest to Home,” created and used in the communities in which we, as citizens, live and work. They are arguably the records that most affect our daily lives and those of our neighbors, documenting our marriages; the education of our children; the homes, land, and businesses we own; the social services we receive; and civil and criminal legal proceedings in our communities.

A nine-member Task Force is overseeing the project. Three consultants are working to prepare reports on the key issues affecting local government records of long-term value including electronic records and other technologies, including imaging systems; funding mechanisms at the national, state, and local levels; education and training for local government officials and the archivists who care for their records; the impact of federal and state mandates on records of long-term value at the local level; and ensuring that users of all kinds have ready access to local government archives.

The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) has also established the Local Government Archives List (LGAL) in support of the NHPRC-funded Local Government Archives (LGA) project, “Closest to Home.” Everyone with an interest in local government records in any capacity is invited to subscribe to the LGAL. To subscribe send an e-mail to: LocalGovt_Archives-subscribe-request@lists.maine.edu. You will receive an e-mail in reply, asking you to confirm your subscription request by going to the web address indicated, or by sending a confirmation email with your subscription confirmation number (provided in the e-mail you received). For further updates see the CoSA website <http://www.statearchivists.org/index.htm>.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE LAUNCHED IN AUGUST

The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) launched an Emergency Preparedness Initiative to protect vital records in future disasters. CoSA's partners in this initiative include the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Emergency Preparedness Initiative seeks to have basic statewide emergency preparedness procedures in place in all 50 states and enhance communication and coordination among key agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, including state archives and records management programs, state emergency management agencies, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Although spurred by the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, the Initiative recognizes that records are at risk from other natural disasters – tornadoes, floods, earthquake, and more – as well as a wide range of other threats, including fires, broken pipes, explosions, cyber attacks, and malicious acts. CoSA is working with State Archives to determine their current preparedness strengths and weaknesses to provide benchmarks

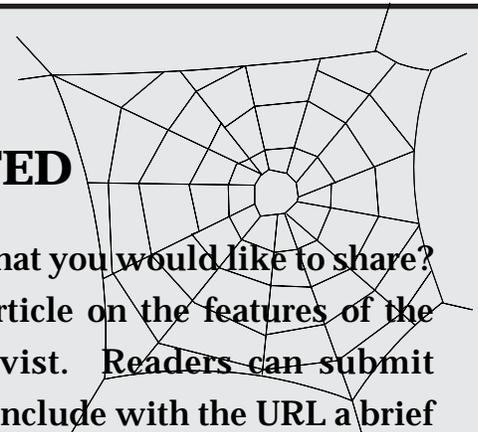
to measure progress in implementing planning and preparedness measures. They are also encouraging all historic records repositories to create a Pocket Response Plans (PRePs), based on a CoSA-developed template, that contain the agency's communication and action plans for the first 24-72 hours after a disaster. Folded to credit-card size and inserted in a Tyvek envelope, the PRePs can be carried easily in staff members' wallets. The PReP template and order form for the envelopes is available online at <http://www.statearchivists.org/prepare/index.htm>.

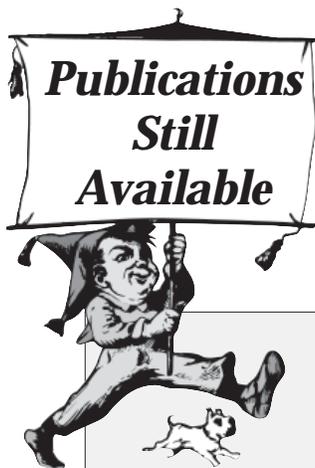
DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING TOOL ONLINE FROM NEDCC

The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) recently released dPlan, the online disaster planning tool. The tool, a free web-based fill-in-the-blank template for writing institutional disaster plans, was created by NEDCC and Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library services and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. To use dPlan or to view the introductory demo, go to www.dPlan.org.

WEBSITES WANTED

Do you have a website that is particularly useful that you would like to share? If you provide the URL we will write a short article on the features of the website and publish it in the Montana Archivist. Readers can submit suggestions via email to jofoley@mt.gov. Please include with the URL a brief statement on how the website is used in conjunction with your archival or records management duties. Each newsletter will feature a new website, beginning with the winter issue.





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 Jodie Foley at (406) 444-7482 or jofoley@mt.gov.

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