

July 2008



Archivists at Work

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Did You Know?

Roscoe G. Willson at the age of 19, sold his ponies to buy a bicycle. He then rode that bike from the Dakota Territory to Mexico in 1898.

If You Process It, They Will Come By Susan Irwin

Reference is a fluid, interactive process. It is a mixture of joy, fear and unpredictability. Joy when the materials meet or exceed researchers' expectations. Fear when the researcher who has traveled several thousand miles finds little in the print material you both thought matched the task. Unpredictability in how the collections are actually used.

Most scholars arrive in our reading room having done extensive research. They begin with secondary source material (e.g., books and journal articles) reviewing the literature on the topic. This provides a foundation of analyses, interpretations, explanations, and critiques by experts in the field. It is a fundamental exercise that informs the scholar of what has been written to date, what questions have been explored and what gaps exist. From there, it is a

leap of faith to primary sources. This is where the adventure begins.

Primary source materials include, but are not limited, to original documents such as letters, diaries, meeting minutes, photographs, government records, speeches, drafts of manuscripts, films, and oral histories created at the time of the event or recalled later by an eye-witness. Scholars use primary sources to engage the topic **without intervention and possible distortion**. They can ask their own questions, reach their own conclusions. **Meet our summer scholars on page 3.**

No matter what the course in library school, little prepares you for the reality of contemporary reference. It is not a leisurely pursuit. Increasingly, it isn't even a face-to-face question and answer

interview. The distance researcher, the PhD candidate on a limited budget, the independent author or national media outlet with publication deadlines present both immediate and long term challenges. It requires understanding the researcher's topic, what's worked for the researcher and where the dead-ends lie.

For the archivist-librarian, reference service also means making new information available by processing and cataloguing collections. Academic credentials and careers depend on the **reliability and validity** of the primary sources. In the archives world of limited funding and staff, **deciding what and how you process can not only determine career paths but also set the course for the reputation of the repository itself.**

Expect the Unexpected

In the past year, we processed over 20 collections, which translates to 350 linear feet of print material, over 21,000 photographs and 10,000 slides. We chose these collections to process based on their condition, size, relationship to other collections, uniqueness, and current research trends. The variety of material in a single collection allows for innumerable lines of inquiry. Sometimes the material is hidden right before our eyes! We are often surprised and intrigued by the match between reference questions and collections. Even if you think you know how collections will be used, think again. Here are a few examples of the unexpected.

●The bulk of the *Robert E Gosnell Collection* relates to land development and the radio industry in Phoenix. Yet, the first researcher to use the collection was a musician who bypassed radio and land development in favor of the sheet music and songbooks contained in the collection.

● The *George H. Rothrock Photograph Collection* contains close to 150 images from the 1870s-1890s documenting the landscape, dress and architecture of the time period. However, researchers came here to study Rothrock as a photographer, his mounting cards and his photographic processes.

●The *Roscoe Willson Collection* consists of 2,000 photographs and his newspaper columns. But the element of surprise lies in his hand-written autobiography.

●The newly re-processed Gilliland Photograph Collection added over 1,200 new images to AHF holdings. It was not the photos that drew the most recent inquiry, but rather it was the Eastern branch of the Gilliland family wanting more information about their, previously unknown, Arizona relatives.

●The re-processed *Newton Rosenzweig Collection* is frequently used for its information on downtown development, the Phoenix 40 and the Phoenix charter form of government. But for one researcher, it was the only collection he could find that documented the earliest beginnings of the Phoenix Symphony.

Fact:

*350 linear feet of
print material is
roughly equivalent
to 750,000 pieces
of paper*

“The past can challenge us with eloquent, brilliant, troubling material that widens our present experience and wisdom.”

- David Thelen

Fact:

*1,178 boxes of
material pulled for
researchers
since January 2008*

Surveying Arizona - A New Summer Exhibit

AHF has installed a new summer exhibit “Surveying Arizona.” The exhibit features over 75 photographs from our collections representing six categories of surveys—Air, Water, Land, Military, Mining, and Archaeological.

Also on display—books, maps, archaeological field equipment, and Barry Goldwater’s camera used to photograph his trip down the Colorado River.

Highlights include aerial images of Camelback Mountain taken from a hot air balloon in the 1880s, rarely seen photographs of the Grand Canyon from the 1860s, Apache Scouts and Arizona Rangers, the excavation of Father Kino’s grave, the building of Roosevelt dam and some of the first NASA photographs taken to map soil erosion during the 1970s.

The exhibit runs June 1 - October 1, 2008 and can be viewed in the

lobby of the Hayden Library on the Tempe campus during all hours the library is open.

To learn more about the exhibit listen to the podcast.

www.thelibrarychannel.blog.asu.edu/2008/06/12/ep77_surveyaz/?riedWebauth=1



Barry Goldwater Dime Novel Collection

The designation “dime novel” refers to a variety of publications, including story papers and five and ten cent weeklies, that were printed from 1860-1926. The pulp fiction of the day, they provided an exciting escape for their readers. The stories represent several genres such as Wild West adventures, detective stories, urban outlaws, and romance.

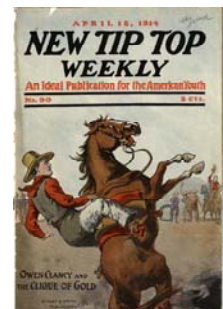
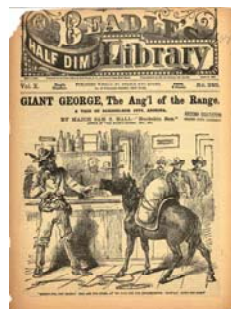
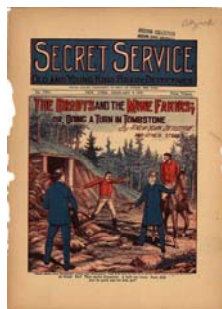
While some stories stand alone, many were printed in a serial format with recurring characters

such as Buffalo Bill or Nick Carter. In addition to stories, some versions included brief news-of-the-day snippets. The most well known dime novel series had national circulations, with some issues selling over 300,000 thousand copies. Dime novels gave way to pulp magazines in the late 1920s, which in turn gave way to mass market paperbacks beginning in the 1950s.

It was the cover art that caught our attention during processing.

Dime novel cover illustrations set the standard for lurid and melodramatic images. Looking for a way to highlight the art of the dime novels, we decided to add the images to the finding aid. Each of the 67 covers were scanned and inserted next to the title and date of the issue. This is a departure from the standard finding aid template, but the images definitely add visual impact. See the finding aid online.

www.ahfweb.org/download/dimenovels_mss_156.pdf



AHF Summer Scholars

Readers of this newsletter know that we track and report user statistics, reference services, researcher profiles and research trends. This is part of a larger universe that the library profession calls information seeking behaviors. We are hard wired to search, analyze, describe and share information with AHF patrons, members, the AHF board and each other.

From the beginning, we saw AHF as an academic repository serving scholars at every level the world over. The collections were too good not to promote to the very audience we wanted to serve. Towards that end, the AHF Board launched the 2008 Summer Scholars Program previously reported in our winter newsletter. We are pleased to profile the two winners here.

“From the earliest years, I knew I wanted to teach.”



Jason LaBau is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Southern California. He is a native Phoenician, well versed in Arizona culture and politics. His thesis *Phoenix Rising: Arizona and the Origins of Modern Conservative Politics* attempts to balance previous studies that have focused on California at the expense of other sunbelt regions, effectively cutting Barry Goldwater from his Arizona roots. Jason’s goal is to take a closer look at Arizona politics, kingmakers, and behind-the-scenes operators. While visiting AHF, he

will use 14 different collections. His mentors and members of his dissertation committee include Professor Philip Ethington at USC and Dr. William Deverell of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West.

“I don’t think anyone fully understands the impact of what Del Webb created in Arizona.”



Drew Meyers is a PhD candidate in History at the University of Michigan. A native of Ohio, he is a winner of several prestigious academic awards and fellowships. His thesis *Sun Citizens: The Culture and Politics of Retirement 1950-2000* examines Sun City as a case study for the senior rights movement and postwar conservatism. This will be the first full-scale analysis of the growth of retirement communities as a suburban, cultural and political phenomenon. The project is described as pioneering and ambitious. To reach his goal, Drew will be the first to use the Behavior Research Center (Earl deBerge) collection for its rich polling data. Professor Matt Lassiter, who chairs his dissertation committee, describes Drew as talented, committed and a born collaborator.

While the financial awards are modest (\$500 each), the outcomes have already exceeded our expecta-

tions. In August, Jason will speak on postwar Phoenix and the origins of the conservative Republican Party at the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association. Drew will debut his work for the Urban History Association Conference this November. More importantly, they have forged a friendship that holds much promise for future collaboration. We anticipate long term relationships with both scholars as they travel their career paths.

National Collaboration



UofA librarians, Gene Liptak and Yan Han

AHF recently participated in the US Agriculture Information Network, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant. This digitization project involves six states. UofA served as the Arizona grant representative. This grant will make available online rare documents regarding US agriculture. AHF loaned over 50 rare and fragile items to the project. We now have electronic copies of these items for patron use.



The Arizona Historical Foundation proudly sponsors the Barry M. Goldwater Award at the annual Arizona History Convention. The award is given for the best convention paper on Arizona History. Susan Irwin, Interim Director, had the pleasure of presenting the 2008 Goldwater Award to Heidi J. Osselaer, Ph.D. for her paper, *Nellie Trent Bush: Arizona Politician*. Dr. Osselaer received her Ph.D in History in 2001 from Arizona State University. Her paper grew out of research for her dissertation, *A Woman for a Woman’s Job: Arizona Women in Politics, 1900-1950*.

**Congratulations
Dr. Osselaer**



Leping He, "The wizard behind the curtain..."

Q:
Did Barry Goldwater graduate from ASU or UofA?
Answer on back cover

Did You Know?
The Sacks Collection was one of the first donated to AHF



Cory Williams, ASU student standing in front of the Sacks Collection.

Introducing Leping He, Cataloger Extraordinaire

We've written extensively in our newsletters about reference, researchers, and resources. In the library/archives world, cataloging and reference services are inseparable. Without cataloging, no one would know that the resources exist. **Cataloging is the hidden infrastructure. Reference is the public interface.** The affiliation with ASU increases our capacity to function as a full-service repository.

Cataloging finding aids as original material is not for the novice. It's

not even for most librarians! In fact, cataloging is fast becoming a lost art. It requires advanced and specialized training. It is highly technical with a language all its own. The wizard behind the curtain - the one who pulls the levers and levitates our holdings globally is Leping He. He is a senior cataloger in the Hayden Library Department of Bibliographic and Metadata Services.

Leping He's work literally gives life to our manuscript collections. He does in days what cataloging

departments elsewhere do in months. He has provided us with excellent service on many levels: (1) his deep understanding of OCLC (Online Computer Library Center); (2) his overall cataloging experience; (3) his attention to detail and personal standards of excellence; (4) his sense of "customer service;" (5) his accountability, problem-solving, outcomes, and flexibility.

We asked him to contribute the following article to share his perspective on original cataloging.

AHF Finding Aids Cataloging and OCLC By Leping He, ASU Catalog Librarian

In January 2003, I came to work at Hayden Library as a replacement for the retired Social Catalog Librarian. For nearly five years, whenever I have walked to my office through the hallway on Hayden Library 4th floor and glanced through the glass walls, I have been impressed by these hard working AHF staff who have been so successful in acquiring, organizing and disseminating Arizona historical records and determined to make their accomplishment better known to the public.

It has been a year since I have taken the responsibility for AHF finding aids cataloging. Here, I avail myself of the anniversary to talk briefly about my work with AHF and OCLC.

In order to provide AHF with a cost-effective, qualitative and timely cataloging service, in the spring of 2007, ASU Libraries decided to send AHF finding aids to OCLC for cataloging. OCLC is the world's largest online library utility and its TechPro department provides custom cataloging services for libraries with tight staffing and lacking language or cataloging format expertise. For

over a decade, OCLC has completed numerous foreign languages cataloging projects for ASU Libraries, and both the cataloging quality and records turnaround time OCLC has provided are excellent.

As the primary OCLC contact for AHF finding aids project, I am responsible for contract setup, price negotiation and records review to ensure cataloging complies with national standards. For AHF finding aids cataloging, OCLC offered a great price, high quality cataloging and fast record delivery.

Over the past year, I reviewed dozens of AHF finding aid records cataloged by OCLC. I found these records were of such a high quality that only a few typos were identified. The records are always sent to AHF staff for review before I enter these records into ASU online catalog. Most of AHF finding aids are complex and lengthy. They range from 2-24 pages with subject headings ranging from 7 to 445. It is an understatement to say that cataloging is very time consuming. However, both AHF staff and I have been extremely pleased with

OCLC's timely records delivery. It takes only a few days.

Defined largely by AHF staff who prepare the finding aids are access points under which an archival collection or an individual archival item may be searched and identified. A finding aid MARC record usually contains access points like names, places, subjects, documentary forms, occupations and functions. In the online environment, these access points are indexed to allow patrons to search faster and precisely.

Cataloging of AHF finding aids is a process of analyzing, organizing, describing and recording information that explains the holdings and provides guides for patrons to access the contents of AHF archival collections. Description of elements in a finding aid, such as collection information, individual items it contains, record series, creator's history, scope and content, and container list, is based on AACR2R (*Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules Revised 2nd ed.*), DACS (*Describing Archives: A Content Standard*) and LCSH (*Library of Congress Subject Headings*). These elements are

AHF Finding Aids Cataloging and OCLC (cont.)

then recorded in MARC (*Machine Readable Cataloging*), which permits global exchange and access through networks such as OCLC and ASU online catalog.

Of all AHF finding aids I sent to OCLC, the largest one was the AHF *Subject Photograph Collection* which contained information representing over 15,000 photographic images, 30 linear feet of shelving space and five months of AHF staff time. To create a MARC record for this finding aid, the OCLC cataloger spent four days and assigned 445 subject headings for topics, events, people, organizations, and places specified by AHF staff who highlighted them in yellow marker in the container list. Please see the record in ASU online catalog.

<http://library.lib.asu.edu/search/?SEARCH=ahf+subject+photograph+collection>

It has been one year since I have been providing cataloging services for AHF and it is just the beginning of cooperation between AHF, OCLC and ASU Libraries. In closing, I would like to thank AHF staff for providing me with a great opportunity to serve your cataloging needs, for appreciation of my work and for keeping me informed of the progress of the very large Goldwater finding aid (500+ pages). This will require special cataloging strategies. I am looking forward to this challenge and to many more years of collaboration.

New Manuscript Collections

Western Artists Collection (MSS 152)



The artists represented in the collection are from the West or whose art includes western themes. The files include background material and profiles of the artists and material such as artists' resumes and statements, newspaper clippings, photographs, slides, negatives, and exhibition brochures.

Newcomen Society of the United States (MSS 153)



The Newcomen Society was established in 1923 by railroad executive L.F. Loree of New York. Meetings were held throughout the United States and Canada at which Newcomen Addresses were presented by leaders in their fields. The addresses profiled the life-story of corporate organizations and those who built their respective enterprise. The collection contains printed copies of addresses given between 1993 and 1997.

Sacks Collection of the American West, 1830-1912

Benjamin Sacks was a Johns Hopkins trained physician known for his contributions to the medical literature in cardiac pathology. When his medical career was cut short by ill health, Dr. Sacks turned his research talents and intellectual rigor to the history of the American West. As an historical consultant to the Arizona Historical Foundation, Sacks indefatigably searched out relevant, obscure sources in research libraries and archives across the nation, fastidiously examining hundreds of thousands of pages of periodicals, U.S. government publications, government archival records and un-indexed newspapers.

Sacks compiled note cards containing bits of information, and filed them by subject. Stored in four card catalogs, the index includes over 100,000 hand-written, cross-referenced, index cards. Sacks often copied primary docu-

ments by hand, and filed them in boxes to keep his research in order. There are five components to the collection: the index cards with full bibliographic citations, and the copies which are divided into biography files, subject files, documents, and microfilm.

One of the distinguishing hallmarks of this index is its comprehensiveness. The very scope and variety of sources is unusual. Topics include changing border relations with Mexico, Confederate occupation of Southwestern lands, migrations of peoples to Arizona, military and civilian relations with Indians, exploitation and stewardship of natural resources, beginnings of Western towns, frontier law enforcement, railroad development, mining and famous and obscure individuals. The attention to detail is an unusual, remarkable quality that is often not seen in collections of

this size.

Over the course of 20 years, Dr. Sacks created the most extensive annotated bibliography known to exist on the history of Territorial Arizona and the borderlands. For more information see our website at http://www.ahfweb.org/collections_sacks.html. A biography of Benjamin Sacks is also available at http://www.ahfweb.org/collections_sacksbio.html.

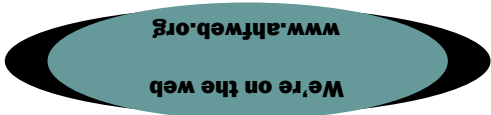


Dr. Sacks and Cary Grant on the movie set of "People will Talk".



Congratulations to our new Emeritus Board Members Dot Webb (left) and Nancy Kinney (middle) pictured here with AHF President Rebecca Albrecht.

Thank You to Charlie and Jennifer Sands for their time, efforts, and expertise in making the silent auction event a huge success!



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Meet Chris Magee



I graduated from the University of Texas - Austin in 2008 with a BA in History and American Studies and wrote my senior thesis about the cultural impact of Selena Quintanilla-Perez and Janis Joplin. Throughout my undergraduate career, I played in both the UT Longhorn Marching Band and Basketball Band. My father works at ASU in the Biodesign Institute and mother works for the Chandler Unified School

district. Further, my sister is a librarian for the Los Angeles County Library System.

During the summer of 2007, I processed the Robert E. Gosnell Collection at AHF and became so enthralled with archives that I decided to apply to graduate schools with a focus on archives. I applied to Texas and the University of Michigan and had the good fortune to be accepted by both schools. Ultimately, I decided to stay at my alma mater to work towards my Masters degree. After completion of my Masters, I plan to pursue a PhD in Information Sciences. This summer, I am again interning at AHF and will work on the papers of Senator Barry M. Goldwater.

A:
Neither.
He left UofA after one semester to run the family business after the death of his father.
Answer from page 4

*This question came from a sitting U.S. Senator (not from Arizona) to settle an office debate.