Oviatt Library Digital Collections
An Overview
What are Digital Collections?

- Online collections of historical documents assembled for knowledge representation
- Derived from archival collections
- Can be broad or specific in scope
- Searchable databases and/or exhibition narratives
  - Text
  - Images
  - Audio
  - Video
Why Digital Collections?

Motivating Factors

- Extend the reach of archives
- Increase access to individual, cultural and organizational knowledge
- Preserve and facilitate memory
- Provide evidence-based research, teaching and historical narrative development
- Engage in digital knowledge/heritage discourses
- Guide users to physical archival holdings
How Digital Collections are Organized and Searched

• Digital collections are flexible to accommodate multiple configurations
  o Singular collection database (archival focus)
  o Format or subject specific database (thematic focus)
  o Virtual exhibits (narrative focus)
  o Or combinations of the above

• Added metadata ...
  o enables document retrieval relevant to user inquiries
  o provides contextual information
  o provides administrative information
  o provides technical information
Creating Digital Collections

- Digital collection goals are articulated
- Documents selected from archival collections
- High-resolution (preservation), low-res (access) scans
- Access copies and metadata merged into CMS
The Digital Collections
Collaborative collection of over 4000 objects representing the history of the San Fernando Valley from 1897-2003

Content contributions from 36 local museums, historical societies, private collections and other heritage institutions including the Oviatt Special Collections and Archives
Urban Archives
Latino Cultural Heritage Digital Archives

- Digitization funded by Hispanic-serving Institutions grant (2001)
- CSUN qualified for funding with Hispanic enrollment of 30.2%
- Objective: Improve accessibility of Latino heritage primary sources, and teach skills to incorporate them into research
- Features photos and records from 12 collections

Antonio and Luz (Mendez) Calvo Family Collection

Supreme Council of the Mexican-American Movement Papers

Julian Nava Collection
Collection funded by a grant from Metabolic Studio (Annenberg) to celebrate the centenary of the Los Angeles Aqueduct

Database contains 100 years of correspondence, photographs, speeches, minutes, and graphics regarding water development in Southern California

Selected primarily from six archival collections including the ‘Catherine Mulholland collection’

Features interactive displays to access materials by provenance, subject and temporal/geographic coverage
Urban Archives
Virtual Exhibits

**In Our Own Backyard – Resisting Nazi Propaganda in Southern California, 1933-1945**
Original exhibit – 1989
Exhibit traveled to three additional venues from 1989-1990.

**20 Years of Culture Clash**
Latino/Chicano comedy and theater troupe
Original Exhibit, 2004
International Guitar Research Archives

- Founded by Professor Emeritus, Ron Purcell
- Digitization supported in part by Augustine Foundation grants (2009, 2010)
- 380 works for guitar, 2500 rare and out of print guitar recordings, and correspondence involving major 20th century guitarists

COLLECTIONS:

- Vahdah Olcott-Bickford Correspondence
- C.C. Easley Scores
- IGRA Discography
Old China Hands Archives
Faces of Tientsin, 1946: Photographs by Harold Giedt

- Original mounted exhibition selected by Prof. Bob Gohstand (2007)
- Digitized photographs documenting the experiences of foreign missionaries, military men, journalists and villagers in Tientsin, China
- Harold Giedt was born in Shanghai, the son of missionary parents, and was stationed in China as a marine in WWII

Geidt’s friends with local children, 1946
CSUN University Archives

A database of selected photographs, ephemera, 3-D objects and other records representing a sample of the history of CSUN

Virtual Exhibit

Fifty and Fabulous – Oviatt Library Celebrates a Half-Century of Education Culture and Community
Original exhibit, 2008-2009
University Archives
Daily Sundial

- Student newspaper of the California State University Northridge
- Database features years 1957 through 2014
- Planning underway to digitize gap from 1991-2007
Tseng Family collection of Chinese antiquities

- Gifted by Chinese-American entrepreneur, preservationist and philanthropist, Roland Tseng.
- Part of a $38 million gift to California State University Northridge

Features bronze and jade objects spanning over 6000 years of Chinese History

Glass weight – Qin-Han dynasties

Bronze ritual dragon vessel
Institute for Arts and Media Photographs

- **The African American Collections** is an NEH funded collaboration between the IAM (founded by Prof. Kent Kirkton) and the Oviatt Library to create a database of over 15,000 photographs from prominent African American photographers of Los Angeles.
- Includes photographs of African American communities, politicians, civil rights leaders, actors, and musicians.
- **The Border Studies Collection** features the works of photojournalist, Julián Cardona, documenting the recent economic violence in Ciudad Juárez and surrounding areas.
Using Digital Collections

- Items can be searched across all or within specific collections
- Both simple keyword and advanced searching enabled
Archival Resources in the Classroom

• Primary media provide excellent stimulation of critical and analytical thinking
• Students learn by forming their own inquiries within the framework of an assignment
• Digital resources are flexibly integrated into assignments across multiple disciplines

Guided Resource Inquiry Tool (GRI)

Research Fellows, Ellen Jarosz and Steve Kutay, have created the Guided Resource Inquiry Tool to mediate both course and information literacy objectives using online archival materials
Assignment is paired with resources (right) selected by the instructor.

**Group 3: ViCA**

**Assignment Prompt**

The Special Collections department in the Oviatt Library has assisted your curriculum by creating a digital module of a few business communication artifacts for each group. These artifacts are real business communication documents from organizations/business of decades past. Each group of 2-5 documents is from a single organization or business and generally involves one specific topic. Your job is to research the history surrounding the documents and to use this information along with the information you’ve learned about effective business communication, format, conventions, appropriateness, and ACE to think critically about the document and form a THESIS about business communication. To this extent, your presentation will be persuasive. Use these questions to help you form a thesis:

1. What are the documents about? What is the context surrounding the documents? (try to find out time, place, history, conventions—anything you can about the documents that will help you and your audience understand them)
2. Who are the people behind the documents? The organization/business? What does that tell you about the documents?
3. What do you already know about the conventions of business communication documents? How can that information aid you in analyzing and understanding these documents?
4. How are the documents similar to current business communication documents? How are they different? Have some conventions
GRI – Research Tutorials

Students follow paths of links to selected Information Literacy resources online to assist the completion of the assignment.

Research Tutorials

The following tutorials are recommended to assist you in the completion of this assignment. These are intended to provide an introduction to research concepts and practices or augment what you already know. Please follow the path for a brief description and access to each of these tutorials.

1. What are Primary Sources?
2. How to Use a Finding Aid
3. Using the Oviatt Special Collections and Archives
4. Using OneSearch for Books, Articles and More

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http://digital-library.csun.edu/

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