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Using CONTENTdm to Compliment K-12 Curriculum: Southern Nevada--The Boomtown Years

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Using CONTENTdm to Compliment K-12 Curriculum: *Southern Nevada: The Boomtown Years*

Upper Midwest CONTENTdm User Group Meeting
Madison, WI
October 30, 2009

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Setting the Stage for Boomtown

- 2006, Libraries revamp digitization program and begin staff reorganization
- 2007-2008 Implement Digitization Advisory Committee and Project Teams
Launch Nevada Test Site Oral History Project:
<http://digital.library.unlv.edu/ntsohp/>
- 2008 awarded \$95,000 LSTA grant to create large hybrid collection on Southern Nevada during 1900-1925



Writing the Grant

Recipe for grant-writing:

- Three authors, three perspectives (Collections, Administration, Project Management)
- Rationale: collaboration, access to material and local history

But why a grant? What deserves funding?

- Target K-12 teachers, support use of primary source materials
- Discovery...Delivery...and...USE!



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What did we ask for?

In-kind

- Selection
- Equipment/Training
- Project Management
- Web Design
- Application Development

Grant-funded

- 4 positions
- Special Collections processing/research
- Metadata specialist
- Digitization Intern
- Educational consultant



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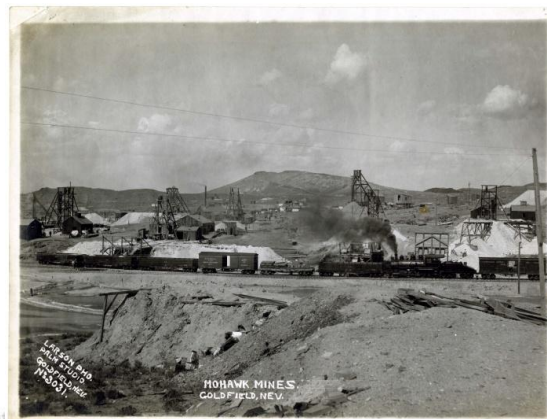
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Project Team

Digitization Projects Librarian *
Digitization Assistant *
Metadata Specialist *
Special Collections Assistant *
Digital Collections Intern
Educational Consultant

*indicates full-time

Web/Multimedia Designer
Web/Digitization Application Developer
Usability Specialist
Humanities Librarian/Liaison
External Relations Specialist
Information Systems Specialist
Special Collections Cataloger
Director of Special Collections
Director of Library Technologies



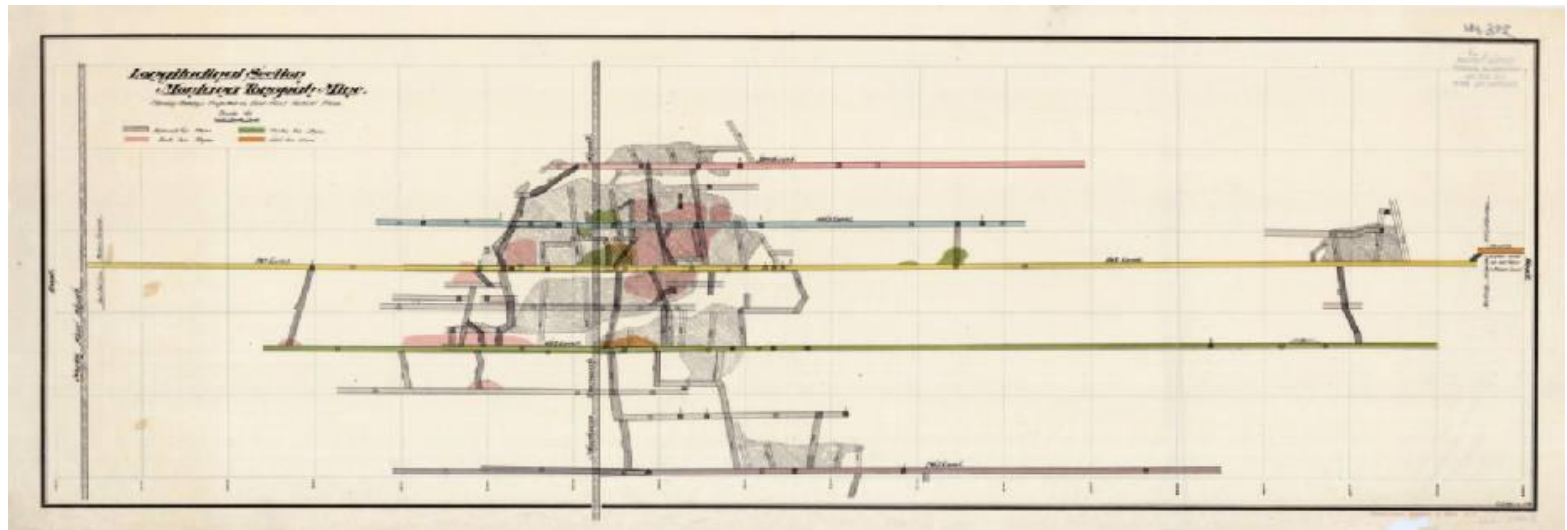
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Integrating Perspectives

- Terminology- “What is a ‘collection’?”
- Approach- “Whose needs will this collection satisfy?”
- Evaluation- “What do we consider success?”



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Educational Specialist

Qualifications

- Familiar with K-12 curriculum
- Familiar with national/state standards
- Instructional design background
- Educational technology experience
- Ability to design teaching activities using primary materials
- Ability to analyze teacher needs as target user for digital collections

Assigned tasks

- Consult with grant authors to develop plan for educational content
- Attend training, seek out models
- Study primary sources/standards
- Design teaching activities and web content
- Design assessment method

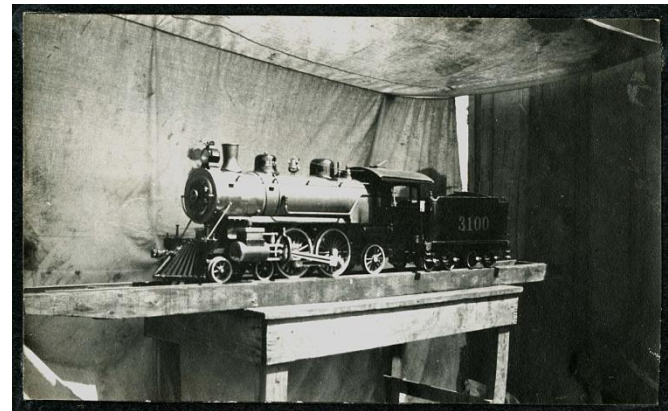


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Deliverables- education content

1. Documentation of current digital collections landscape
2. Collaborative plan/model for partnership with library/IT
3. Teaching activities matched with digital images matched with teaching standards
4. Inquiry questions, scavenger hunt, and resources content
5. Site map for educational content portion of web site
6. Targeted survey questions for teachers
7. Ideas for web site enhancement



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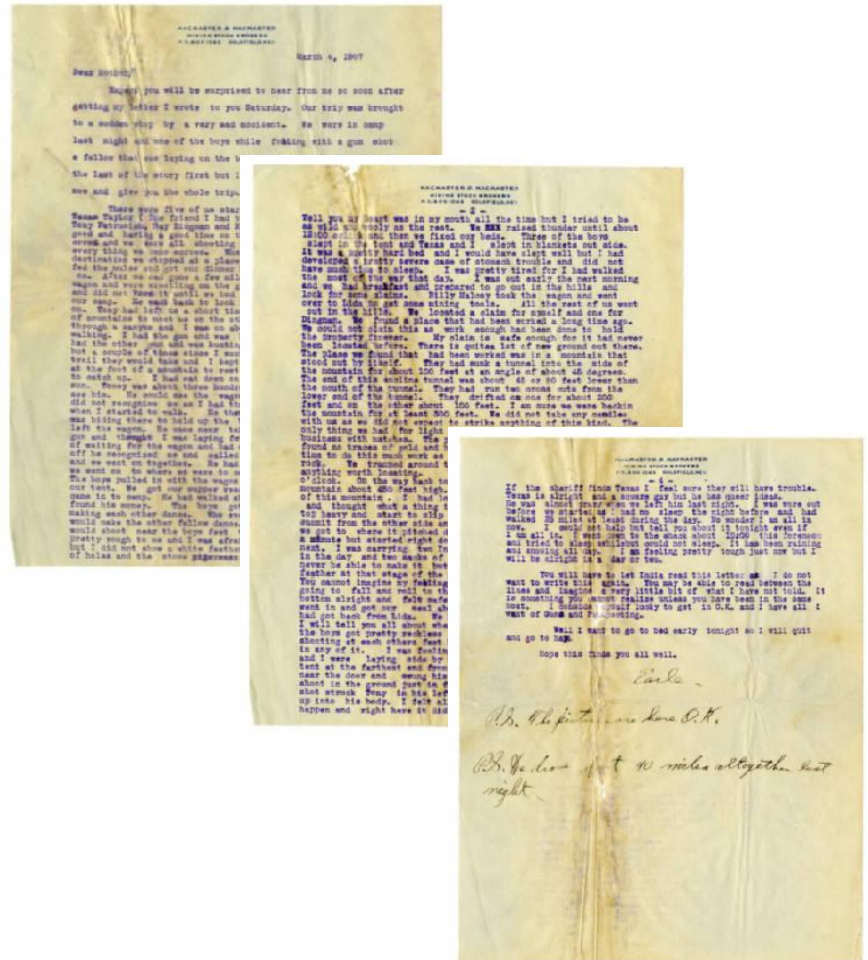
Sample Teaching Activity

"What's Your Angle"

Grades 6-12

Asks students to review letters following a shooting in Goldfield in 1907.

Reflect upon differences in how the event was reported in a series of letters and consider elements of bias, perspective, and honesty.

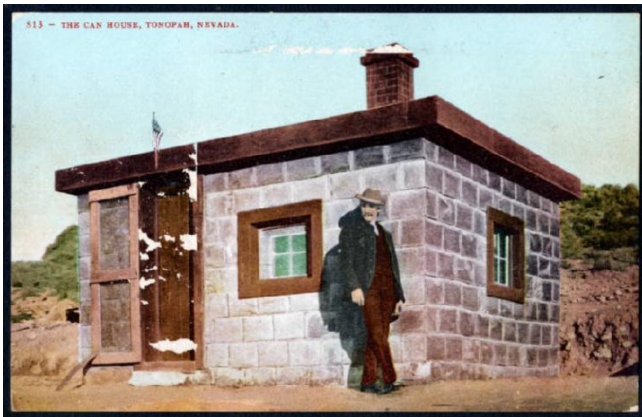


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Assessment

1. Web statistics
2. Interactions: commenting/rating on site
3. E-mails and requests for more information/image requests
4. Instruction sessions / demonstrations



Final Grant Report- Benefits

- Connect users to information
- Increase exposure to primary sources
- Increase use of primary materials
- Enjoyable experience for users
- Development of online communities (Web 2.0)
- Successful collaboration
- Mentorship

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Outcomes

- **Over 4,000 digitized items**
- **Education content:**
 - **34 inquiry questions**
 - **36 teaching activities**
 - **Scavenger hunt**
 - **66 p. of standards for 12 subjects/grade levels**
- **Implementation of custom application development (dmMonocle; dmBridge)**
- **Survey comments**
 - “We would definitely partner with UNLV on another project.”
 - “I will forever be a better researcher because of this project”
 - “Thank you! I teach 4th grade in Las Vegas and this site will be used frequently in the next school year”
 - “Excellent! My family member worked on the Salt Lake Line and to have so much available helps my research immensely.”
 - “We are drooling over your new collection!”

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Promotion

- Announcements (electronic and print)
- Press (local paper, library newsletter, organization newsletters, etc.)
- Library community
- Harvesting (MWDL) and Web 2.0 (Wikipedia, blogs, Facebook, etc.)
- Nevada cultural heritage institutions
- UNLV Community (Education Department, History Department)
- Targeted e-mails
 - Public school district
 - Private schools
 - Home-schooling networks
 - Curriculum Materials Library patrons



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Lessons Learned

- A good hire on a grant can make all the difference!
- K-12 educational support a growing area for future UNLV digital collections
- Allow time to develop a plan in straightforward language
- Choose realistic goals and set realistic deadlines, especially for grants
- Understand that there will be continuing support costs/resources



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Future Directions

- Continue to collect feedback and refine collection
- Add more content to educational section of web site
- Create ability for teachers to upload activities
- Create more interactivity
- Continue education partnership
- Instruction sessions for undergrads / demo collection

Form 2291 C. S. U.

TELEGRAM		SYMBOL	X	CLASS OF SERVICE REQUIRED		Indicate by X in proper line the class of service required. Do not specify preferred service if other service will answer the purpose.
Time Filed	-----M	Px		Preferred	Immediate delivery	
		Dx		Day	Delivery during day	
		Nx		Night	Delivery by next morning	

W. H. Croustock

Since my C-21 complications
has arisen which prevented sending
our report will get our
out soon as possible. Meanwhile
Road Trucks, C 25
As. H. Alatis



Demo

<http://digital.library.unlv.edu/boomtown/>

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