

TO: Cyril Oberlander
FROM: Joan Berman
SUBJ: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS 2013-2014

NARRATIVE

One of the measures of the value of special collections has traditionally been in the new knowledge created, in whatever format, as the authors have drawn on those collections of unique subject matter materials existing at a broad range of cultural heritage repositories. In turn, those new materials add to the strength of the originating repository. Here at HSU we are especially gratified in 2013-14 to see these publications:

- Gordon, Greg. *When Money Grew on Trees: A.B. Hammond and the age of the timber baron*, University of Oklahoma Press, 2014
- May, Theresa J. *Salmon is Everything: community-based theatre in the Klamath watershed*, Oregon State University Press, 2014
- Farmer, Jared. *Trees in Paradise: a California history*, Norton, 2013.
- Root, Garret. *From sawdust to uranium : the history of electrical power generation in Humboldt County and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Humboldt Bay power plant 1883-2019*, JRP Historical Consulting/Pacific Gas & Electric, 2013
- Corva, Dominic. "Requiem for a CAMP: the life and death of a domestic U.S. drug war institution" *International Journal of Drug Policy* 25:71-80, 2014
- Bowcutt, Frederica. "Tanoak Landscapes: tending a Native American nut tree" *Madrono* 62(2):64-86, 2013
- HSU, various publications, exhibits and performances in celebration of Centennial
- HSU student authored Barnum Papers (*Humboldt's uncivil war* by Jim Garrison and *Strike for peace : Humboldt State College, 1970* by Echo Aloe in 2014)

What all of these publications have in common is that their authors have mined the collections in the HSU Library Humboldt Room and its online presence; some have been directed to Special Collections as a result of their initial Interlibrary Loan requests. These are some of the collections used:

- [Louisiana Pacific/Hammond Lumber Company Collection](#)
- [Marijuana Research Collection](#)
- [Ericson Photograph Collection](#)
- [Rudolph W. Becking Collection](#)
- [Native American Collections](#)
- [Susie Baker Fountain Papers](#)
- [University Archives](#)

The books by Gordon and May will lend themselves to lecture and book signing opportunities in the coming year.

Challenges. Staffing, space and funding continue to be the major challenges for Special Collections. It was thus in 1997 when Edie Butler and I began our 15/17 year tenure and it remains even more critical at this juncture where there are no permanent staff, the Humboldt Room itself is so crowded that there is frequently insufficient space to accommodate our users (especially HSU students), and it is clear that cultivating new collections and/or providing access to them will be dependent on external funding. It will take strong, committed vision and leadership to move forward on any of these fronts, but the rewards for our student and faculty community and our institution, region and profession could be enormous. This and previous [Special Collections Annual Reports](#) provide grounding to encourage a forward-focused transition.

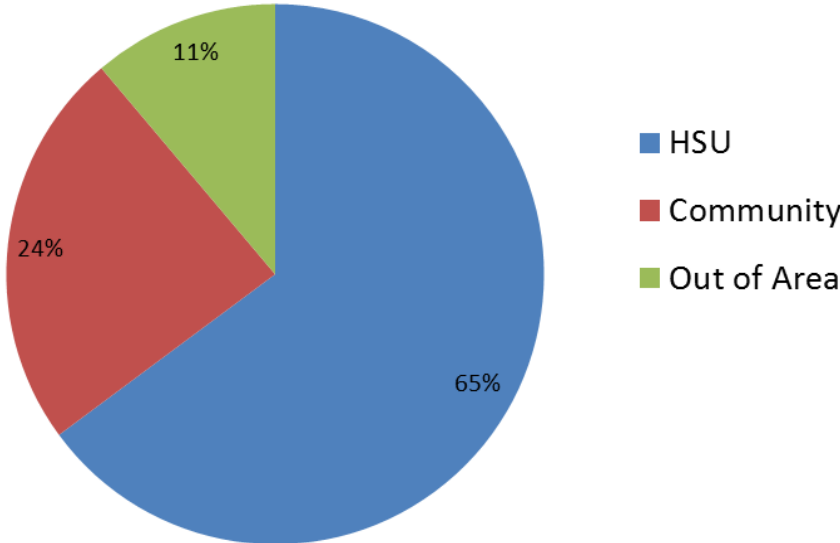
This year's work sets the stage for what can be anticipated with appropriate leadership and commitment. We began the Centennial year with an opening exhibit, *New Reflections of Arcata's History*, in the Library Lobby. This exhibit served to introduce our first born-digital collection, [Arcata Historical Resources Survey 2012](#), and to provide background for new students and staff about the continuing relationship of HSU and its parent city Arcata. Spring semester was marked by our contributions to the Library Centennial Month, including the exhibit, *The Evolution of Information: 100 Years of Library Services*. Summer is seeing three major collections coming into the Library ready for researcher use. We have accomplished the collections work with generous support from the Humboldt Area Foundation, totaling approximately \$50,000 in 2013-14. An additional \$5,000 has been received for 2014-15 to further outreach work with the new Native American collections.

As an example of future possibilities, a major grant funding opportunity exists around the theme of environmental history, and more explicitly environmental activism. The legacy of collections reflects Edie Butler's work in that area shortly before she retired in summer 2012, under approval from acting Library Dean Wayne Perryman. Potential funders for such an initiative include IMLS or NHPRC, with matches from Humboldt Area Foundation, Save the Redwoods League, etc.

Statistics. Following up on last year's concern regarding lack of user statistics, we can now report that for 2013-14 a total of 1,292 people visited the Humboldt Room during the 18 hours/week during the semester and 8 hours/week vacation/summer schedules. A total of 1,332 questions were asked, both in person and by phone and other electronic media: 864 of these were asked by HSU students and staff, and 780 of these were asked in person. Reshelving held steady at 3,620 items. Use of the photos and maps database dropped from last year's historic high, but remained well above previous years' use at 52,943 searches and 362,701 total records viewed (approximately 11,000 images are online). Two charts produced from our newly implemented statistics form follow.

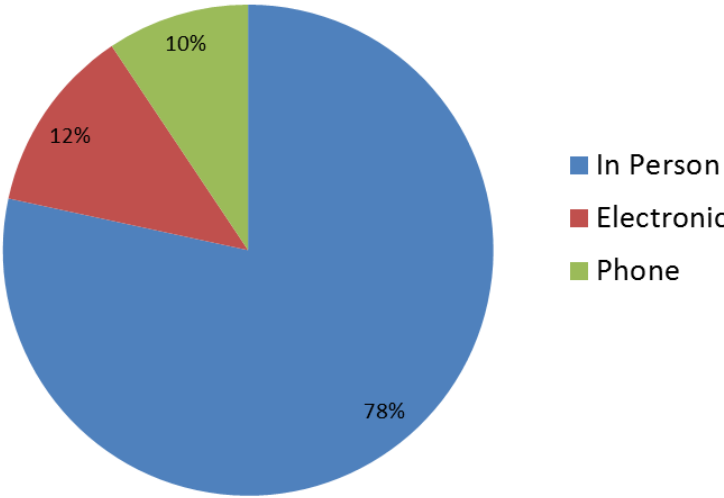
Humboldt Room User Statistics for Academic Year 2013/14

Who Asked Questions



Total Questions 1332

How Did They Ask Questions



Total Questions 1332

Collections. An update report on major collection activity was shared with Library staff on 6-13-14. It covered two new collections (HSU Center for Indian Community Development/CICD and Klamath Forest Alliance Archive) and a major augmentation to the Louisiana Pacific/Hammond Lumber Company map collection initially acquired in 1997. In addition, a collection first mentioned about a decade ago, the Living Biographies project, initially aired on KEET-TV, has resurfaced in connection with the CICD work. This one concerns oral history as a genre, audiovisual as a format, and Native American as a content area – there was a Native American component to the Living Biographies project and this is being donated to Special Collections. We have developed expertise in all of these areas in the past year with the training and work undertaken by Katie LaSala and Carly Marino, and local librarian/archivist/curator contract staff (Susan Gehr, Adrienne Harling and Suzanne Guerra).

There is great opportunity to build on this work in the coming year. Susan Gehr's grant funded 4 hours/week (temporary librarian) to facilitate outreach and staff training using Special Collections Native American collections is one example. Suzanne Guerra's knowledge of the LP/Hammond Collection can help facilitate a lecture and/or book signing by Greg Gordon, and Carly Marino is well poised to follow up on the double Living Biographies projects.

Multiple avenues are available for collaboration with faculty and students and the community to use our collections in support of their curricular and research interests. As usual, there will be opportunities for student assistants and interns to further their career interests by working in Special Collections in a variety of capacities.

Space. Several years of planning for additional storage of processed collections was accomplished by June 2014 with 9 sections of shelving to accommodate 540 record storage boxes in place in the former "surplus furniture" area of the basement. One collection (Redwood District Council of Lumber and Sawmill Workers) was moved there from identified unsafe (too high) conditions in the basement and two new collections (HSU Center for Indian Community Development and Klamath Forest Alliance) are coming in (already processed) this summer. In addition 5 smaller collections have been grouped and moved from another shelving area in the basement, freeing up space for newly inventoried University Archives materials. Processing space continues to be addressed only on an ad-hoc basis depending on the collection and/or the project gaining attention.

Space in the public reading room, the Humboldt Room, is currently the most critical space issue as the "easy" solutions have been exhausted over the last 17 years. *(For more information on space needs see [Special Collections Annual Reports](#) - especially the [Space Report from 2004](#) and the [Annual Report for 2005-06](#), each of which provides an alternative space proposal, the first in the Library lower level and the second on the second floor of the Library, new wing.)*

Professional development. Katie LaSala attended American Library Association Annual Conference (June 2014) and Carly Marino attended Society of American

Archivists Annual Conference (August 2014) as well as a workshop for the California Audiovisual Preservation Project (October 2013). Both also presented instructional sessions for HSU librarians on, respectively, the Photograph Database and the Northwestern California Newspapers website.

2013-2014 Goals accomplished included:

- ***Survive Centennial, while continuing to make more of those University Archives collections available; create the amalgamated University Archives Pamphlet Collection finding aid.***

We survived! The [HSU Archives Pamphlet Collection](#) now has a searchable Container List, reflecting a great deal of behind the scenes work by Katie on this collection, primarily in anticipation of and response to Centennial emphases. The Library Centennial celebration month in March featured an exhibit, *The Evolution of Information: 100 Years of Library Services*, curated by Katie and the accompanying talk by Joan, as well as two local film screenings hosted by Carly. (See entries in the [Blog](#))

Two additional Centennial projects that we tried for were not successful. The first was an application for campus funds to digitize the *Lumberjack*: not funded at the campus level in successive attempts. The second was digitizing the *Yearbook* as part of the campus funded OpenLibrary pilot project: unfortunately, technical problems have precluded full implementation of that effort.

- ***Implement recommendations regarding the HCC Pamphlet Collection and update the Northwestern California Newspapers website.***

Much was accomplished, including the successful submission of a poster presentation (*Permanence in an Ephemeral Collection: The History and Future of the Pamphlet Collection at Humboldt State University Library*) by Carly for the Society of American Archivists annual conference that she will be attending in August 2014. Work on the Newspapers website has become a summer 2014 project due to other opportunities and constraints.

- ***Add/update finding aids on California Digital Library/Online Archive of California.***

This goal needs to be addressed within a broader planning effort towards collections cataloging where finding aid location could be an aspect within its parameters using the table of collections, developed and maintained by Cheryl. Joan made a request to Cataloging towards the cataloging of Special Collections collections.

- ***Address two additional format/genre areas, maps and oral history, preparing summary collection descriptions and identifying additional collections to be processed.***

Both Katie and Carly took on oral history. As Carly started working on identifying Humboldt County Collection oral histories, she became aware of the [California Audiovisual Preservation Project](#) and was encouraged to attend the implementation workshop. This proved to be an excellent grant funded opportunity to digitize selected materials for access through [California Light and Sound](#). She collaborated with other local repositories to “nominate” items for processing – 45 for HSU, 5 for Ferndale Museum and 7 for Humboldt County Historical Society are currently available (new and/or updated cataloging of these items with online links still need to be made). Based on that track record, Carly was able to submit a second group of items that will soon be available as well (28 for HSU and 9 for HCHS). She has also been invited to participate in an all-day audiovisual heritage “outreach” workshop on Thursday September 18th, 2014, in Berkeley, for CAVPP participants (travel paid by CAVPP IMLS grant).

In conjunction with the Centennial efforts and agenda, Katie identified approximately 65 oral history tapes for processing. She worked with HSU Media Services on reformatting from cassette tape to digital files (39 tapes completed to date), with Cheryl Conner re transcription (and is doing some herself to learn the process – 28 transcripts have been digitized), and with Humboldt Digital Scholar re access platform. These items will also need to be cataloged and linked to HDS.

Joan presented a maps training session for librarians on 5-22-14 highlighting updates to the [Humboldt Room Map Collections](#) web page.

- ***Clear up as much as possible of backlogs inherited from predecessors as well as those generated by Joan and Edie over the last 15 years, employing MPLP principles, and fully documenting all that remains for our collective successors.***

Heroic efforts were made ☺ Katie and Joan completed a prioritized inventory of the remaining University Archives materials and Katie succeeded in processing several boxes of same. Joan demolished the natural resources related Edwards donation of about 20 boxes, with a few minor additions to the collections, and attempted to do the same for the similarly sized donation from the Northcoast Environmental Center: both consisted primarily of government publications and technical reports. More remains to be done with the NEC donation, but it has been substantially diminished. As noted above, Katie and Carly tackled various oral history and media collections. An unexpected donation from retiring local archaeologist Janet Eidsness was an additional “opportunity” for Joan as many of the materials were of local Native American interest: some of this may still come in through the HSU Cultural Resources Facility. Joan made progress on the Carranco Collection. Many smaller items have been integrated into the collections, especially as Joan has been working on clearing her office; she also made a full review of serial titles needing binding.

A partial listing of projects identified as needing attention has been prepared.

- *Plan for future staffing of Special Collections.*

This has been on hold since the departure of Dean Grenot in November and the interim appointment of Anna Kircher, and the two successive attempts to replace the retiring Special Collections Librarian/Social Sciences Librarian (Joan) were not approved by Provost Snyder (Special Collections Librarian, 2012-13, and College of Professional Studies Librarian, 2013-14). Katie LaSala and Carly Marino are currently in full-time, temporary one-year appointments for 2014-15 covering the positions occupied by Edie Butler (retired August 2012) and Joan Berman (retired July 2014). This follows their temporary appointments in 2013-14. Carly's time-base has been increased from .6 to full-time, replacing a portion of Joan's time; both Carly and Katie are also scheduled for work outside of Special Collections in 2014-15.)

2014-2015 Goals. I am not projecting goals for the unit, though much is implicit above. Personally I am looking forward to an active year as librarian emerita, concentrating on a history of the Humboldt State Library and a new version of my bibliographic work on Indians of Northwestern California. While I do not wish to be a "retired annuitant" I am happy to provide informal consultation if wanted, reflecting my 42 years of service as a librarian at Humboldt. (I have filled out a volunteer form and am anticipating completing processing a few more collections, as my predecessor, Erich Schimps, did before me.)

STATISTICS

| | Reshelve | HR ref/ 3 rd count | Photo Searches | CDL/OAC Searches | AY Hours Open M-F |
|---------|----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2013-14 | 3620 | /1332 | 52,943 | 34,986 | 18/wk |
| 2012-13 | 3626 | n.a. | 63,303 | 51,539 | 18/wk |
| 2011-12 | 4097 | n.a. | 40,925 | 113, 125 | 18/wk |
| 2010-11 | 3695 | 1350/1356 | 31,304 | 109,680 | 22/fall, 8/sp |
| 2009-10 | 4015 | 1180/1110 | 40,503 | 38,812 | 24/wk |
| 2008-09 | 5046 | 1518/1848 | 23,039 | 21,414 | 32/fall; 26/sp |
| 2007-08 | 5804 | 1615/2574 | 22,196 | 32,064 | 42/wk |
| 2006-07 | 5340 | 1525/2663 | 24,948 | n.a. | 42/wk |
| 2005-06 | 6391 | 1858/2851 | 40,469 | n.a. | 42/wk |