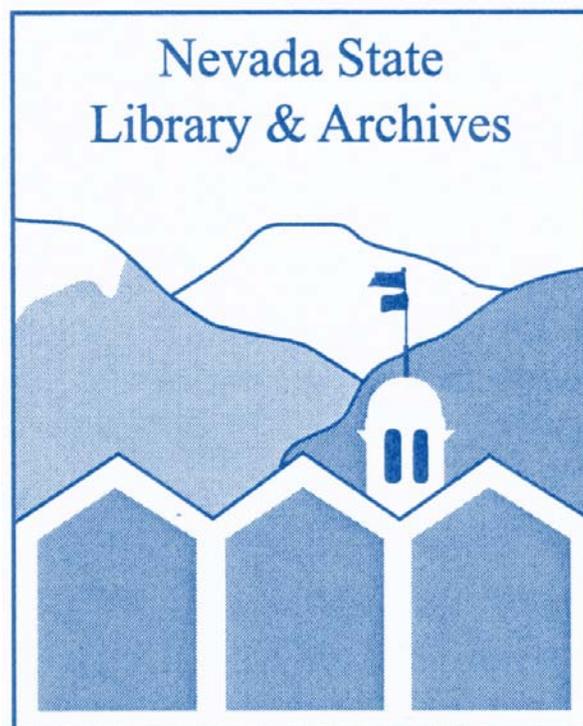


*Nevada's
Cultural
Resources
Survey and
Report
2013*



Personal Note

Nevada history and culture is special to me and I have spent more than 30 years teaching it, surveying the collections and doing everything I could to help preserve them.

In 1981 I was writing a book called *What Time is this Place?* and I made my first tour of Nevada to find out where Nevada's historical resources were. I visited every library, museum, city hall and court house.

I made other tours of the state collecting information on how collections were being maintained for a state plan and report called, *Preserving Nevada's Documentary Heritage* in 1985. The plans included workshops for museums, libraries and archives to preserve and inventory their collections and hold workshops on collection preservation, cataloging collections and book repair. This plan does too.

This study and report was funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services. Special thanks to the sixty-three institutions that completed the Digital Collections Survey; the twenty-six museums that completed the Museums Survey; the State Historical Records Advisory Board; the Nevada Advisory Council on Libraries and Literacy; the Nevada Museum Association; the Nevada Arts Council; Nevada Humanities Committee who contributed to the completion of this report.

Jeffrey M. Kintop, State Archivist

“We must have the optimism to remind each other that Nevada’s long history is one of opportunities realized.”

Governor Brian Sandoval

Connecting to Collections: Nevada's Cultural Institutions Need Help.

In 2005 "A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections (HHI)," a project of Heritage Preservation and IMLS, revealed that our collections of objects, documents, and digital material are not only essential to America's cultural health, but are imperiled and in need of swift protective action.

"America's collections are for everyone. They are discovered billions of times a year in libraries and museums across the country. They enlighten and inspire all of us. Yet they are at risk." HHI

Connecting to Collections is an initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to aid libraries and museums in their efforts to provide the best possible care for the collections.

The Nevada State Library and Archives (NSLA) received a grant from the Institute IMLS to survey the needs of Nevada's cultural institutions as part of its Connecting to Collections initiative to make grants available to states that have strategic plans.

Nevada's recent economic recession affected Nevada's cultural institutions greatly including staff layoffs, reduced hours and operating budgets have placed Nevada's cultural heritage collections at risk. As Nevada reaches its 150th anniversary of statehood it is time to plan for the future of Nevada's past.

NSLA already maintains strategic plans for libraries and historical records repositories to qualify for federal grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) and the IMLS' Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), but there is no strategic plan for Nevada's museums and other cultural centers



Nevada's archives, historical societies, museums and libraries preserve the history of the people and culture of Nevada.



They keep Nevada's history.



Pictures of our families

Past Studies of Nevada's Cultural Collections

Nevada has studied the conditions of its cultural collections many times. NSLA staff and members of the Advisory Board looked at all the plans and studies dating back to 1968.

- Public Administration Service, *Archival, Library and Museum Services in the State of Nevada: A Survey Report*, (Chicago: Public Administration Services, 1968). (centralized department)
- *Preserving Nevada's Documentary Heritage: A Report to the Governor, Legislators and Citizens of Nevada*, with John R. Summerville. Carson City: Nevada State Historical Records Advisory Board, 1985.
- *Preservation and Promotion of Nevada's Cultural Resources*, Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau Bulletin No. 89-5, September 1988.
- *Preserving our Cultural Heritage for the New Millennium*, A video production of Sierra Nevada Community Access Television, 2000. I was consultant and host of this video documentary on different Nevada archives.
- *A Report to the Nevada State Historical Records Advisory Board on the Conditions of the State Archives*. Carson City: Nevada State Library and Archives, 1990.
- *Preserving Nevada's Documentary Heritage: A Strategic Plan, 2007-2011*. Carson City, Nevada: Nevada State Library and Archives, 2007.
- *Nevada Statewide Digital Planning Survey Summary Report, 2009*,
- *A Nevada Statewide Digitization Plan, 2009-2014*.

Each report claimed that Nevada's cultural heritage was at risk. In 1968 the Nevada Council on Libraries contracted with the Public Administration Service in Chicago to study Archival, Library and Museum Services in the State of Nevada. The report concluded there should be a Department of Libraries and Museums to make the most use of existing staff expertise so they would not be duplicated.



How we lived



Where we went to school



Things we are famous for

In 1979, NHPRC funded the Western Council of State Libraries' Western States Materials Conservation Project to determine conservation needs and propose potential solutions through coordinated conservation activities in 18 western. The project recommended establishing a Nevada organization for conservation of its historical collections, workshops to increase awareness for the need for conservation planning, conservation training for librarians, curators and archivists and planning for conservation lab in Nevada.

In 1982 the Society of American Archivists sent a conservation consultant to the Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno. The consultant recommended a survey of the conservation needs of the collection and planning a conservation lab for the collections.

In 1985 the State Historical Records Advisory Board's report, *Preserving Nevada's Documentary Heritage* recommended that a paper conservation lab be included in the plans for the State Library and Archives building. The lab was built, but no staff funded.

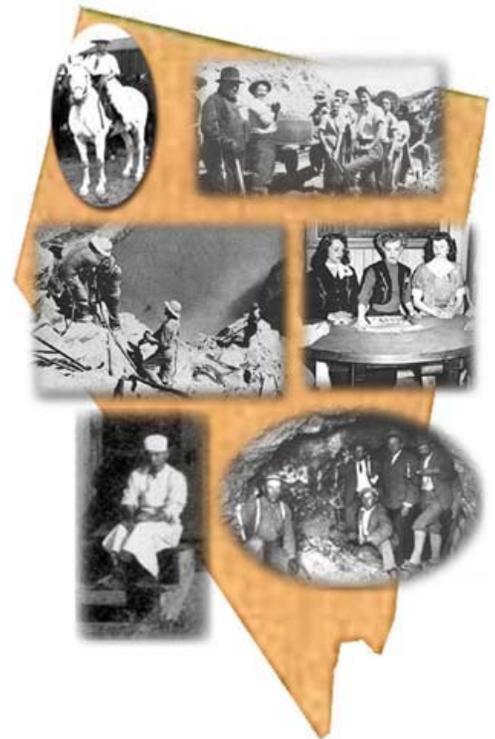
The state finally undertook its own study in 1988 when the 1987 Nevada State Legislature passed Assembly Concurrent Resolution 36 "Directing the legislative Commission to conduct an interim study on the preservation of Nevada's cultural resources."

The Legislative Commission's subcommittee held hearings in Las Vegas, Reno, Elko and Carson City and visited a model program in Washington State and gathered public input.

Among the recommendations, the Commission called for the establishment of a "conservation lab unit" to provide for the protection of the artifacts and collections in the state and a museums' field services unit to provide services to outlying areas. It drafted legislation to create a Commission on Cultural Affairs, whose duties included planning museums and cultural centers. The Legislative Commission recommended that these programs be funded by a ¾ percent increase to the state room tax



Even things we don't want to think about



What we did

on the basis of studies linking tourism to cultural resources.

When the Commission on Cultural was created in 1989 its scope was limited to preserving historical buildings as cultural resource centers around the state. The Governor and State Legislature took an alternate path in 1993 when it created the Department of Museums, Library and Arts.

The new department brought together the Department of Museums and History, created in 1979, the Nevada State Library, Nevada Arts Council and the Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology. It was part of total state government reorganization. There was no cost savings as predicted by the 1968 proposal of the Public Administration Service. Instead a new layer of bureaucracy was created to oversee the department's varied divisions.

The department was again reorganized in 2011 with the Division of Museums and History and the Nevada Arts Council going to Commission on Tourism, the State Library and Archives to the Department of Administration and the State Historic Preservation Office to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

NSLA surveyed libraries and museums on their collections and plans – plans for collection, disaster recovery, digital projects, training needs of staff and volunteers and strategic plans.

Digital Collections

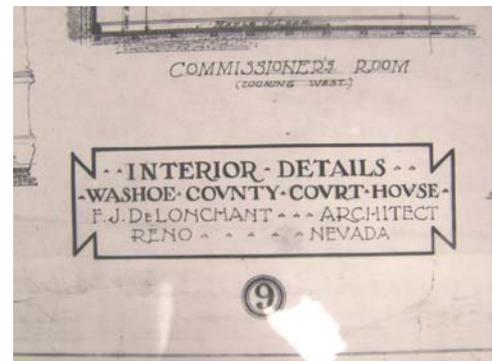
NSLA's survey of Nevada's cultural institutions coincided with two other surveys – the Nevada Statewide Digital Plan Survey and the Nevada Museum's Association survey of its own membership. Project staff coordinated the questions on each survey to avoid repetition. The digital survey covered questions about their Nevada collections and their efforts to make them digital.



How we spent our free time



Our first flags



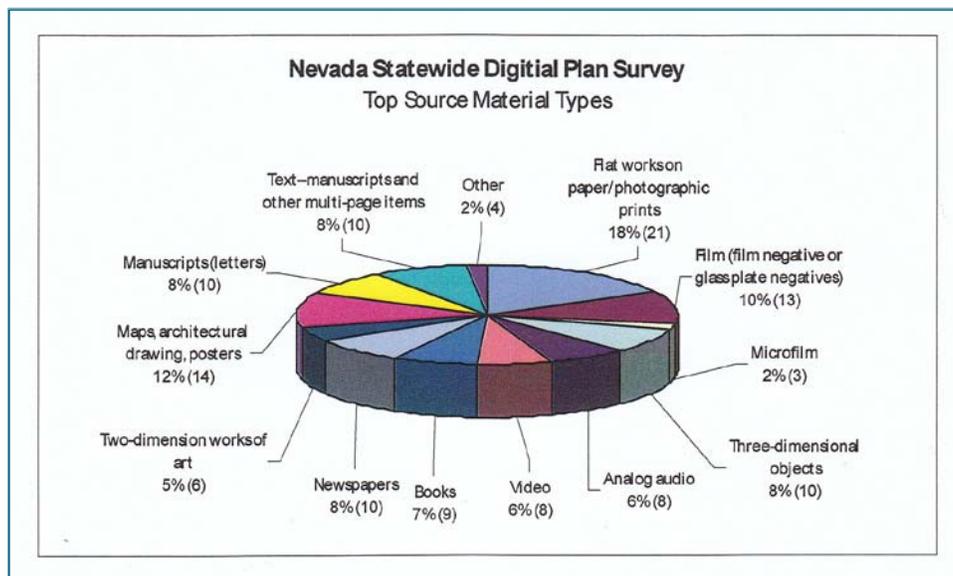
Who designed our buildings

Nevada’s cultural institutions are making their collections digital. In a 2009 study of digital projects NSLA learned that Nevada’s the greatest numbers of responding libraries and museums had collections in the areas of Nevada history and local history, including photographs, maps, manuscripts, audio or video materials, books and textual materials. For example, 80% of them held photographic material on Nevada history and 76% held books related to the topic. Photos, maps and books on mining history and books on Western history were also widely held.

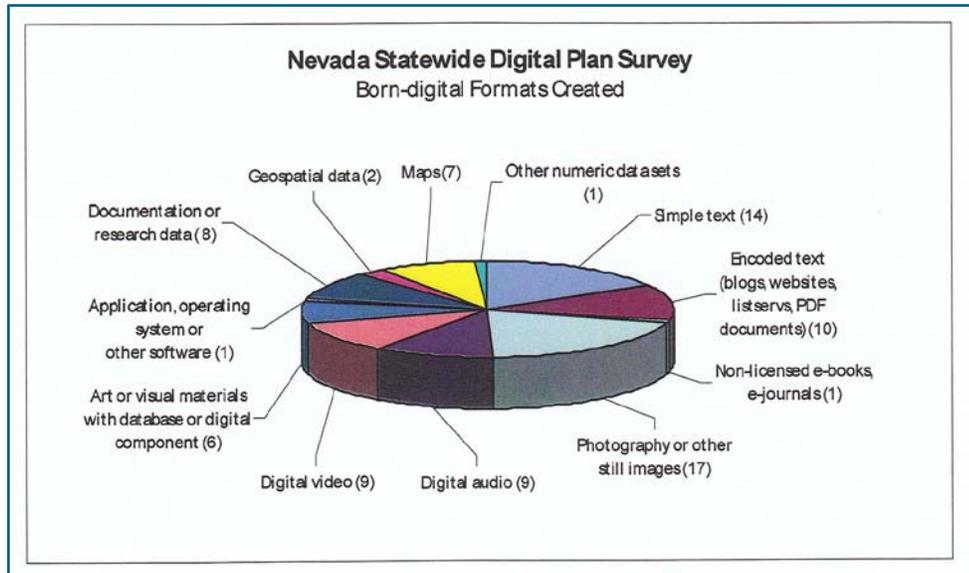


University of Nevada sports teams of the past

Gaming, Politics, Geology and Ghost Towns also had high concentrations of book holdings, and there were numerous photographic collections on ghost towns as well. Responding institutions felt image materials (69%) and text materials (54%) would be most valuable to Nevada residents, based on their experience working with the public and knowing the types of resources requested.



In the 2008 survey of digital collections NSLA found out that Nevada's libraries and museums are digitizing their collections for exhibit and research. Almost all of the digitized collections relate to Nevada history and culture.



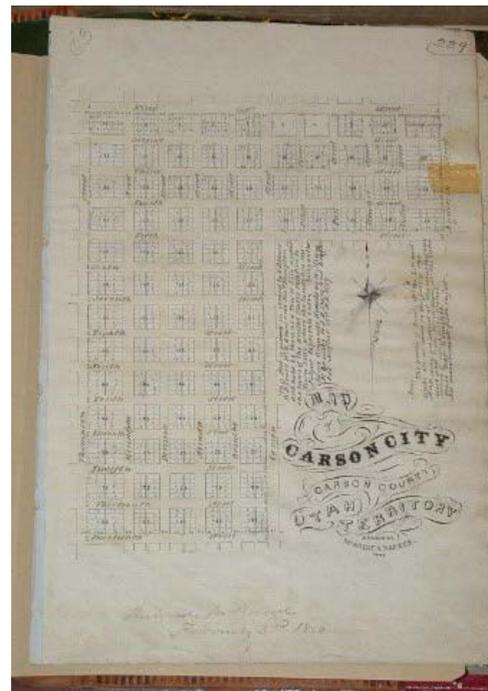
They are not just scanning documents. They are collection digital formats – movies, audio, photos and websites. Nevada’s twenty-first century culture is being recorded digitally.

More than half of Nevada’s cultural heritage organizations are creating digital content for their websites and in house collections from wide range original formats. The top material types for digitization include:

- flat works on paper/photographic prints (18% of the content held by 21 institutions)
- maps, architectural drawings and posters (12% of the content held by 14 institutions)
- film materials (negatives or glass plate negatives) – 10% of the content held by 13 institutions

They are not just scanning documents. They are collecting digital formats – movies, audio, photos and websites. Nevada’s twenty-first century culture is being recorded digitally.

The Digital study also reported that in 2008, the majority of institutions had neither written policies nor procedures that address digital holdings including: mission and goals, digital collection development, emergency preparedness, exhibitions



Maps, architectural drawings and posters are being scanned for online research

and presentation, strategic planning for digital projects, public services issues for digital items, or rights and licensing.

Seventy-seven percent of the respondents do not have a digital preservation plan, even though these organizations expect to retain their collections for the long-term (e.g. more than 10 years). As of the fall of 2008, over 96% of the respondents were backing up their data. Throughout the digital preservation field, it has been established that “backup is not enough,” and a variety of approaches, policy, documentation and human resource allocation is needed to assure long term access to digital collections.

Sixty-one percent (40) of the institutions reported not having a separate information technology department; rather information technology needs were met by either the department handling their own needs, outsourcing to an internal unit other than the library/archive/museum or a combination of these approaches

Fifteen potential digitization training topics were listed in the survey. The survey found that the topics of greatest interest included copyright/rights management, funding of digitization projects, digital preservation, understanding digital standards and procedures, understanding technology and options for digital images.

Only 13 of the 61 respondents currently collaborate with other cultural heritage organizations in their digital initiatives. Most collaborative relationships were with other state institutions or were multi-type collaborations. Only three organizations reported having formal agreements or contracts to establish collaborative relationships. This finding points toward collaboration as a way to cooperatively grow individual and statewide digital offerings.

Digital Collections

- 77% have no preservation plan for digital collections.
- 61% have no Information technology department.
- 77 % have no policies, procedures to address their digital holdings.



Things created with new technologies require special care and they need to be transferred to new formats before the old ones vanish.

Training Needs for digital projects

The digital survey found that the topics of greatest interest included:

- Copyright/rights management,
- Funding of digitization projects,
- Digital preservation,
- Understanding digital standards and procedures, understanding technology and options for digital images.

Analog – audio and video collections.

A number of Nevada collections contain analog recordings both audio and video tapes. Whereas state news organizations routinely erased today’s content on videotapes for tomorrow’s news, Nevada’s cultural institutions have been saving them. The Nevada Historical Society has hundreds of historical vignettes called *Tales from the Nevada Historical Society* recorded for radio in the 1980s; State Museum recorded many of its historical programs in the museum.

The Nevada Arts Council began documenting Nevada’s folk arts and folk life since 1989. Lastly the Western Folklife Center in Elko kept slides, audio and video recordings of the Cowboy Poetry Gathering for thirty years. These collections recorded and preserved, folk dances, musical and artistic performances, ethnic festivals folkways and the world famous Cowboy Poetry Gathering that is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

The State Archives has recordings of Nevada’s Legislative sessions from 1965 on Dictaphone belts, reel to reel and cassette tapes. Slides were taken for public presentations now replaced by Power Point presentations. These collections of analog audio and video will need to be converted to digital formats before the machines that recorded are gone.



Making a lariat from the Nevada Arts Council's Folk Arts Program



The Folk Arts Program has many analog audio and video formats



The Las Vegas Clark County Library digitized the *Las Vegas Age*

Museums

NSLA used a study of the Nevada Museum Association, funded in 2010 by the Nevada Humanities Committee. Thirty-six museums were identified and twenty-six completed the survey. State Archives staff visited each of the museums in 2012 to see if any of the answers had changed. Nothing had changed in their responses.

In 2010 the twenty-six reporting institutions have 91 full-time, 117 part-time and 524 volunteers (full and part-time). Together they reported 494,084 on-site visitors (of which 78,169 were students) and 346,712 website visitors.

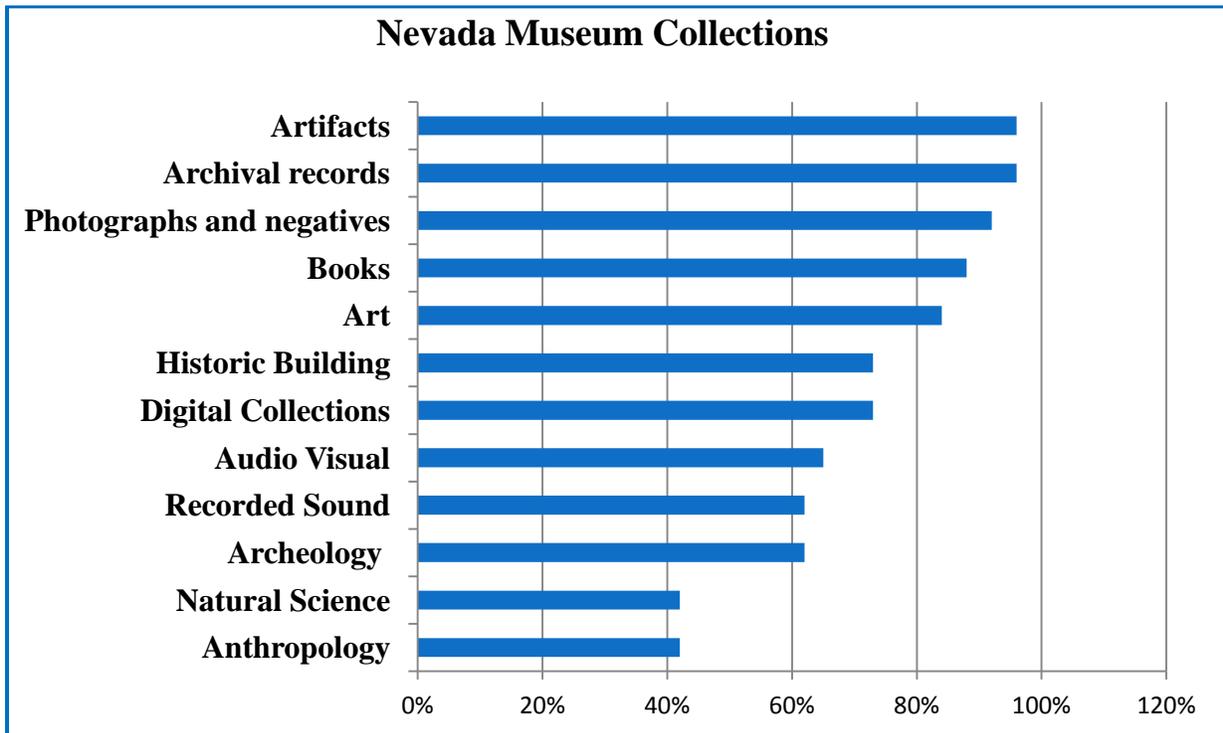
Almost seventy percent of Nevada's museums are running out space for their collections. They have backlogs in cataloging collections. Most of them do not have a disaster recovery plan. All of them identified training needs for their staff and volunteers.

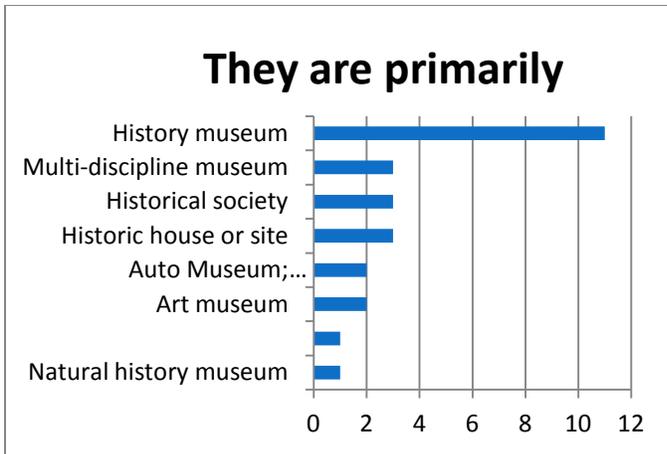


Twenty-six museums completed the survey

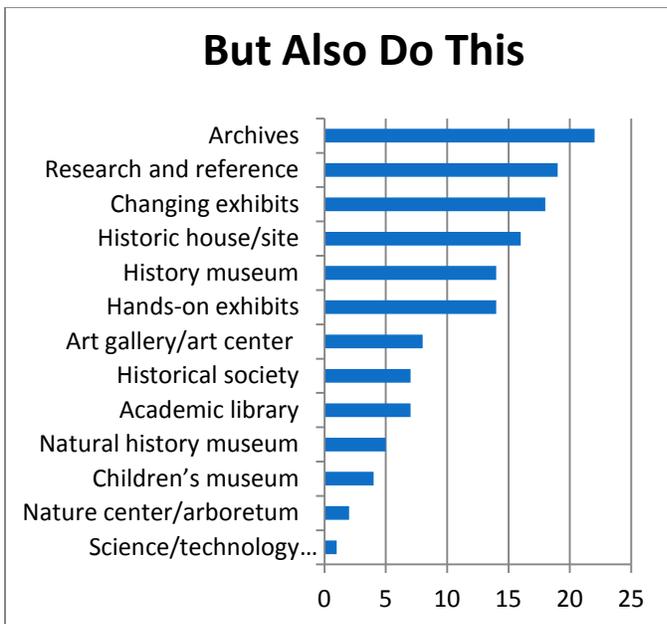


Museums exhibit our past

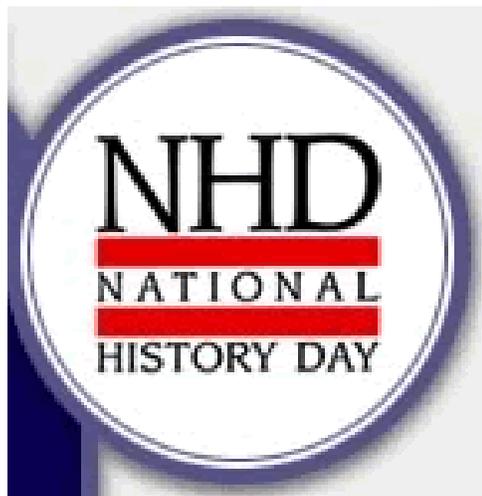




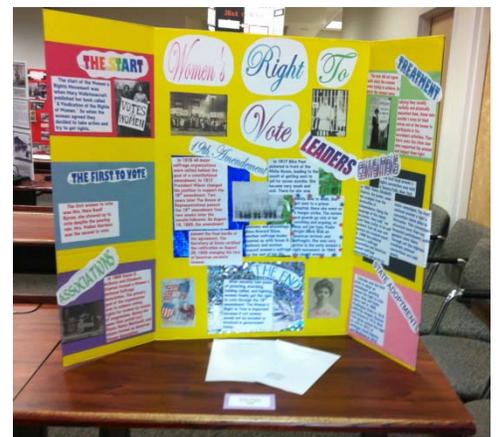
Lost City Museum preserves prehistoric buildings



Humboldt County Museum



National History Day sponsors a Night at the Museum for students researching their projects



Museums and libraries help students with National History Day projects

26 Museums Responded

- 58% have a strategic plan
 - 64% have no emergency or disaster plan
 - 36% have a disaster plan and trained staff
 - 27 % have enough space
 - 69% need 50-100% more collections storage
 - 35% survey of condition of all collections
 - 39% only a portion of the collections
 - 62% Volunteers or staff did survey
 - 23% consultant or CAP
-

-
- 65 % have alarmed doors
 - 69% have fire alarms and sprinklers
 - 54% do not have temperature or humidity controls
 - 81% control light levels
 - 65% have security alarms
 - 65 % have fire alarms
 - 57% have Security cameras
-



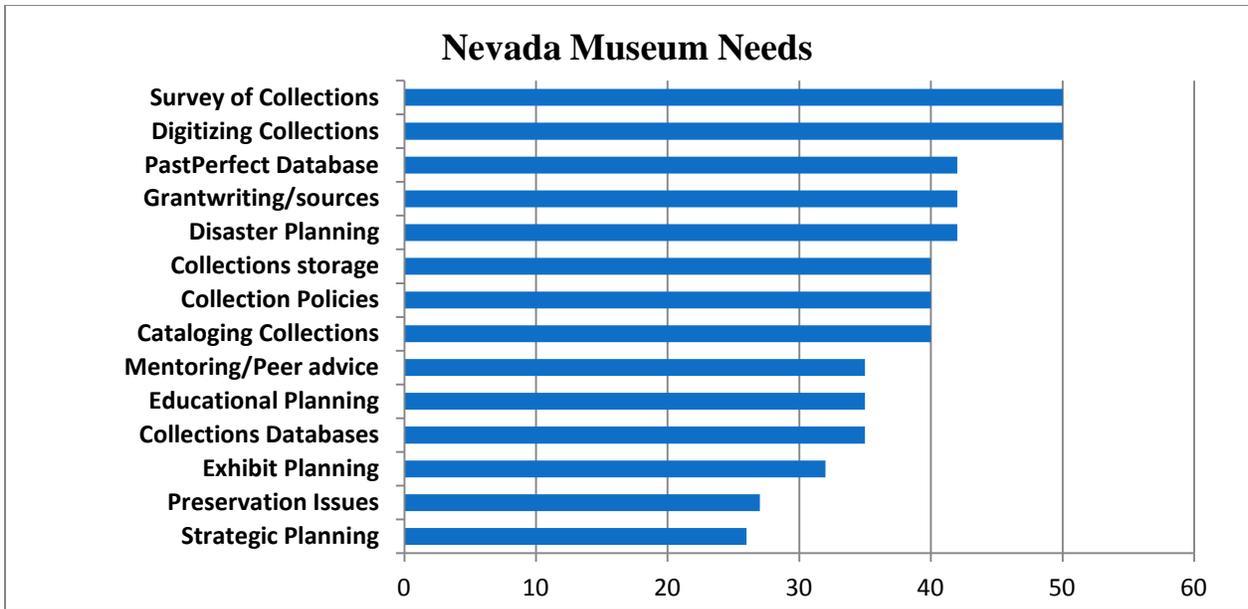
Some collections are well preserved



Some collections need conservation



Nevada needs professionals to do the conservation work



Out building at the Dangberg Ranch



Fourth Ward School has a new archival research room and vault



Sparks Heritage Museum and Cultural Center



Nevada Museum of Art has a library and an archives

Planning for Disasters and Recovery

The most compelling need is planning and training in disaster response and recovery. Only half the libraries, museums and cultural institutions have emergency or disaster recovery plans. NSLA held disaster planning and recovery workshops for libraries, museums and cultural institutions in the 1990s and early 2000s. Many of the plans written are not current because staff, emergency services and local resources change every year. Disasters happen.



Charred remains of a ledger from the 2001 fire at the Silver City Community Center

Fire at the Midas Museum 2005

“The schoolhouse burned on November 6, 2005. It was likely arson, although NDI's official report said "indeterminate cause." Nothing else burned in Midas that night -- not even the WPA outhouses in the school yard.

We were also surprised at how total the devastation was. That fire was so hot that even the arrowheads, the prehistoric stone tools, and the mining crucibles were torched. Things that you wouldn't think would burn turned to ash. It was unbelievable.

One of the many outcomes of the fire is that we don't know exactly what all was lost. We hadn't gotten around to doing an inventory of all of the artifacts, documents, and photos that were in the building, and the exhibits were built so quickly that we didn't keep a running list as we went.”

Dana Bennett



The Friends of Midas rebuilt their school museum after the fire in 2005

Only half the libraries, museums and cultural institutions have emergency or disaster recovery plans. NSLA held disaster planning and recovery workshops for libraries, museums and cultural institutions in the 1990s and early 2000s. Many of the plans written are not current because staff, emergency services and local resources change every year.

Other Cultural Collections – Court Records

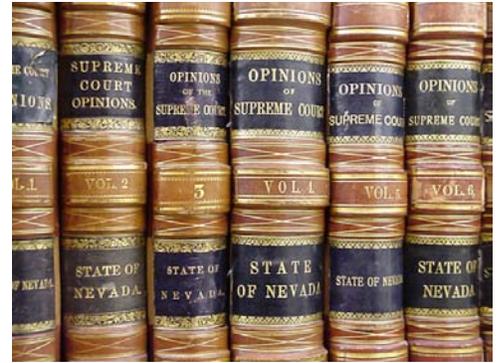
The importance of Nevada’s district court records was emphasized in Jeffrey M. Kintop, “Mining Nevada’s Legal History: Going to the Sources,” *Western Legal History*. 2010. Historical records are mostly used by court staff and attorneys, but genealogists, historians, the media and authors use them too.

Outside of the purview of this report but ancillary to the study of cultural collection, the Nevada Supreme Court organized the Commission on Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records in 2009. The commission appointed a Court Records Preservation Subcommittee to study the best methods of preserving and retaining Nevada’s trial court records.

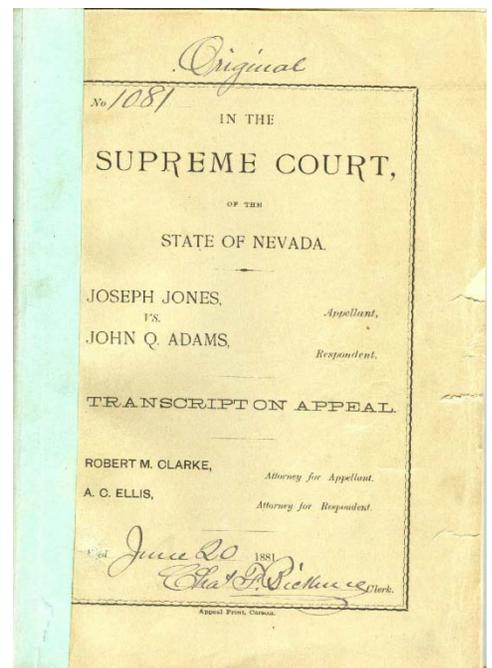
The subcommittee surveyed the court records in Nevada’s seventeen counties. Court records are divided into two types, oversized volumes containing judgments, proceedings, probate records, petitions, calendars and court minutes, and case files. There are a total of 2,461 volumes. In six of the courts, the volumes were excellent to good and the rest were showing wear and tear. Six counties had microfilmed them and eleven keep them in paper. Churchill County stores its volumes in the Churchill County Museum and Archive. Court house fires in the nineteenth and early twentieth century damaged records in both Storey and Humboldt counties.

The records most at risk are the earliest records. They date back to 1862 and the case files were folded three or four times, secured by a rubber band or ribbon, clamped together with grommets and filed in a file case built for that purpose. These documents have been folded for so long and have become brittle making them difficult to unfold. There are 1,603 tri-fold drawers in eight of the counties, which is approximately 900 cubic feet. None have been microfilmed.

This year the legislature amended the State Library and Archives’ statutes to allow NSLA to consult, assist and make its services available to the state’s



Opinions of the Nevada Supreme Court in the State Archives



Jones vs. Adams redefined Nevada Water Law



Esmeralda County Courthouse

District Court system. The courts have to keep these books and case files as permanent records, but they have no mandate or budget for their preservation. NSLA staff members were appointed to this Commission to help with its planning.

Recommendations for Nevada's Cultural Institutions.

Nevada's cultural institutions exist because of their collections. They not only preserve archeological sites, buildings, artifacts, manuscripts, diaries, photographs and maps, they are also becoming increasing digital in the twenty-first century. They are not only digitizing their collections for preservation and public use, but also collecting digital things in the collections. Nevada's implementation project needs to include the following things.

Collections Need Plans

These collections, old and new, must be safe, secure, inventoried and accessible. These institutions must have plans to preserve them for Nevada's Bicentennial. Plans have to be written and updated at all times, no matter how ambitious they seem to be, to take advantage of opportunities when they arise. They need plans for collections, facilities, disaster preparedness plans, staff training and preservation of collections. Nevada's cultural institutions have strategic plans, but care of collections should always be part of the plan.

Plans should be written by a group so that the group takes ownership. If it is written by one person, then it is dependent on that person. If it is developed as a group, the group takes ownership. Plans should be written with the input of: management, staff and advisory boards. They have to be written down because people retire or move on to other jobs, sources of supplies and expertise change and there might be new ways doing things.

Plans work. In 1990 Governor Bob Miller asked State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) to assess the State Archives, which included a



Collections need safe storage



Maps and architectural drawings do not need to be stored flat

processing backlog of more than 5,000 boxes of state records. In 1997 the Legislature funded a two-year project hire three archivists and four archives assistants wrote administrative histories of state agencies, descriptions of records and re-boxed, re-folded and cataloged and created databases for all of it.

For 25 years NSLA planned a new building, before it was funded. It was always on the table. The State Museum in Las Vegas was identified as a need since 1968. The first one opened in 1982 and now it's part of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. Fourth Ward School began planning an innovative archival vault and research room in 1999. It became a reality in 2010. The vault is a free standing fire-proof vault in a historical building. It was built without compromising the historical integrity of the building.

Nevada has some statewide plans for digital collections and the preservation documentary collections.

The Statewide Digital Plan (April, 2009) was developed under the leadership of the Nevada State Library and Archives (NSLA) and the Statewide Digital Advisory Committee (SDAC).

Over the next five years the library and cultural heritage community will focus on these goals:

Goal I: Provide online access to digital collections held by Nevada cultural heritage organizations and allied information providers that are distributed throughout Nevada.

Goal II: Develop & implement standards/best practices that will support access to Nevada's digital collections.

Goal III: Develop a leadership/governance structure that will support the growth and sustainability of a standards-compliant digital initiative created by Nevada's cultural heritage organizations and allied information providers.

Cultural Collections Need Plans

They need plans for

- Collections
- Digital Collections
- Facilities
- Disaster Preparedness
- Staff Training and
- Preservation of Collections.



Collections need to be cataloged



Analog audio and video tapes need to be converted

Goal IV: Establish a collaborative digitization model where the full range of types and sizes of Nevada cultural heritage organizations and allied information providers can participate.

Three of the five goals of SHRAB's five-year strategic plan include recommendations that relate to this study.

Goal 2: Nevada shall achieve Best Practices in Electronic Record Keeping.

Goal 4: Foster and Support Programs to Protect Nevada's Shared Documentary Heritage from Disasters, Deterioration and Neglect.

Goal 5: Mobilizing Collective Funding Resources to Support Documentary Heritage Programs

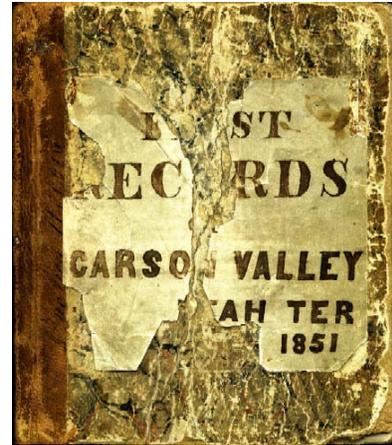
These plans can be part of a larger plan to include other cultural collections.

Training Needs

Nevada libraries have a Statewide Continuing Education Advisory Committee that produces a five-year continuing education plan for library staff. It includes collaborative projects with other cultural institutions, collections development and development of good digital projects. It has in the past focused on archival care and disaster recovery. The museums do not have any plan or guiding board or committee and has to rely on its professional organization, the Nevada Museum Association for guidance.

Nevada needs expertise in keeping its collections. We need to build professional expertise in caring for collections in our state. Training needs to be scheduled and repeated to account for new staff and volunteers. Staff and volunteers need training in

- Storage and handling
- Facility planning
- Inventory & cataloging
- Preservation and conservation
- Disaster recovery



Scanning old records can preserve them and make them available online



Collections need to be cataloged



Workshops and classes are needed to teach staff and volunteers how to preserve the past

- Grant writing

Since the 1990s NSLA and SHRAB have been providing training, workshops and classes in:

- Preservation of collections
- Book repair
- Disaster planning and recovery
- Doing digital projects

They do them as part of grant projects to meet their strategic plans.

We can send people to workshops; hold conferences and workshops hold online webinars. NSLA has developed an E-Records Forum model for training for electronic records that has been successful. The forums are live training held in Carson City and broadcast live to Las Vegas so speakers and audience can interact live. The presentations are recorded and made available for later training and presentations are posted on NSLA's website. This is a good model for future training.

Professional assistance

Cultural institutions need to have professional assistance onsite. Some states have programs for travelling archivists and some have humanists in residence to provide for consultations and training. The Nevada Arts Council has circuit riders for art organizations. Call them Librarians, archivists or curators, but they should have knowledge of preserving collections.

There is professional help available in adjoining states. California has Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS) and there are conservators in California, Utah and Arizona that have indicated a willingness to help. Nevada should contact them and create a list of those who could assist Nevada in developing a circuit rider program for Nevada cultural collections.



Nevada's cultural collections need professional assistance

*Nevada Arts Council's
Circuit Rider
(NCR) provide affordable technical
assistance to nonprofit arts and
cultural organizations. Grant
recipients use consultants on the
Nevada Circuit Riders Roster to
address specific issues and/or
challenges such as advocacy, board
development, fiscal and
management, fundraising,
marketing programming, planning
or technology.*

Access to Preservation Services

Nevada's cultural institutions need access to preservation services in the state – for item level conservation and preservation treatment and for reformatting older analog video and audio to newer, sustainable digital formats.

Nevada has two conservation labs in the state. NSLA has a conservation lab that was completed with federal and private grants without full-time staff and the Lied Library opened at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and included a modern conservation lab with professional staff.

Grants could support project staff for individual projects at first. Then the new collections advisory group could use the recommendations from the early collections plans to support staffing for NSLA's conservation lab.

NSLA's Imaging and Preservation Services Program can convert cassette tapes, videotapes, and 35mm slides to digital formats. It can convert microfilm to digital images and digital images to microfilm. It can also scan oversize books, maps, posters and architectural drawings with an overhead scanner that does not touch the original documents.

Statewide Cooperation: Nevada's Cultural Institutions Must Organize

There is no overall organization that focuses on Nevada's overall cultural heritage. There are historic preservation groups, State Advisory boards that focus on libraries and literacy, historical records, state museums. There are professional organizations for libraries and museums, but these deal with the totality of the operations of these institutions including. There is no advocate for the cultural collections.

In the 1980s and 1990s Nevada's cultural organizations used to occasional conferences, called OASIS held for museums and historical preservation organizations. Similarly there was an informal group called the Conference of State Historical and Information Agencies (CNSHIA) that met annually and did collaborative projects to



The State Constitution is scanned for an exhibit



Some collections need reformatting



Nevada's Cultural Institutions must organize

preserve and make Nevada's collections more accessible. This should start again. Cultural organizations are stronger as a united group than they are individual institutions or even as professional organizations.

There should be convocation of Nevada's advisory boards for museums and history historic preservation, libraries, arts and humanities to discuss the future of Nevada's cultural collections. They should also organize a group of cooperating institutions whose staff can train others who need training, maintain a collection of disaster recovery materials to be shared when needed and when possible and send staff to assist in disaster recovery.

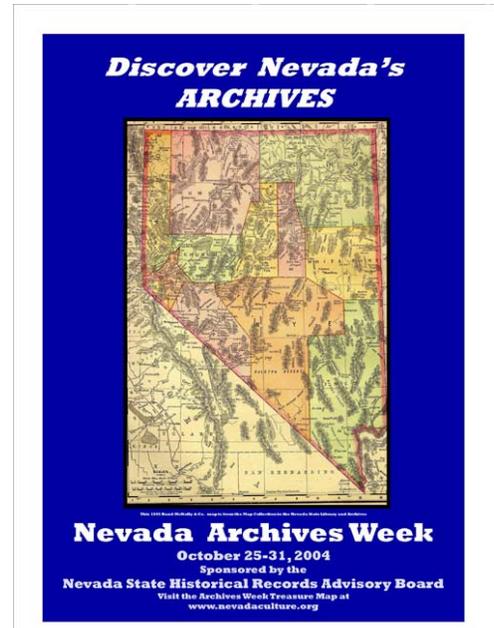
A good model for Nevada might be California Preservation Program In 1992 a task force was formed by the California State Library to design a preservation program for California to meet preservation education, training, and assistance needs. The resulting California Preservation Program (CPP) has received funding from the California State Library since 2001.

This collections preservation group should also:

- To provide help and assistance to those who need it.
- To maintain a list of conservators and disaster recovery specialists
- We need to use our grant funds to:
- Hold an annual conference on collections

The convocation for collections should also help with advocacy for collections. Nevada has professional organizations – Nevada Library Association and Nevada Museum Association, Nevada Humanities and Nevada Arts Council and several historic preservation organizations that create public awareness and lobby.

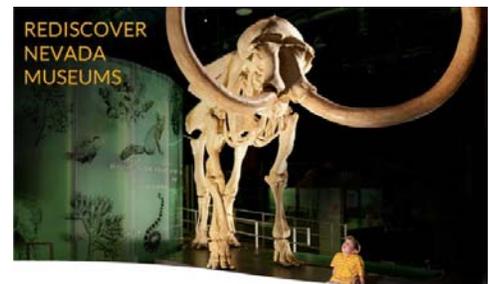
Most are limited to what they can do during the Legislative sessions, but they are free to talk to elected representatives at all levels when it is not on session. During election years they should send questionnaires to candidates asking them for their



Collections need to be publicized



Nevada Constitution's new exhibit



Mammoth exhibit at the Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

opinions on cultural collections, libraries and rate the candidates like the Nevada Education Association does during election years. It is important to know what they are thinking before they are elected, for example, find out when was the last time they were in a museum or library.

Conclusions

Nevada's cultural institutions and organizations should hold a statewide convocation to learn about the needs of their collections as a whole.

- They should then organize a Nevada Preservation Program based on California's model.
- The Nevada Preservation Program should form a Steering Committee, which should maintain a website, offer training in disaster preparedness and response, and provide assistance with preservation needs, assessment surveys and program planning.
- The program should use existing resources and expertise to make a schedule of workshops for staff and volunteers and maintain these workshop offerings on a continuing basis.
- The state library, archives and museum agencies and professional organizations should apply for grant funds to support these workshops.
- They should also establish a grant funded program for a circuit rider for cultural collections.
- The State Library and Archives and Preservation program at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas Special Collections should help provide assistance to the state's cultural collections using their conservation labs. Grant funds could help with this program.
- The new Nevada Preservation Program should be the advocate for Nevada's cultural collections for public awareness and public support.



Nevada State Library and Archives in 2013



Nevada State Library in 1910



Sparks Heritage Museum

Thanks to the Nevada Statewide Digital Advisory Committee and the Nevada State Historical Records Advisory Board for the work done on these studies

Nevada Statewide Digital Advisory Committee

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Digital Collections from the Special Collections Department of the Universities of Nevada, Reno and Las Vegas

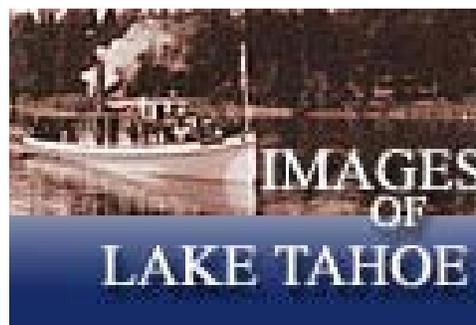
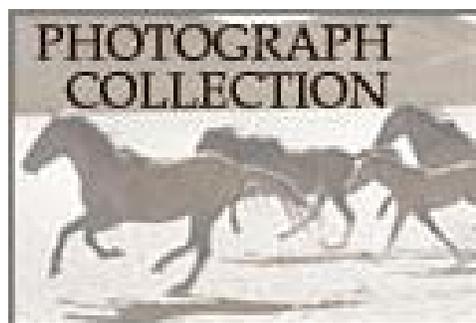




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- Nevada State Museum
- Nevada State Museum-Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno Special Collections
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas Special Collections
- Humboldt County Museum
- Sparks Heritage Museum
- Lost City Museum



Panorama Exhibit at Nevada State Museum



Preparing the Nevada Constitution exhibit