

The Rocky Mountain *Archivist*

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Letter from the President

Jay Trask

It was great to see all of you who could make it to our meeting in Fort Collins. I was finally able to meet a number of you in person. I want to thank everyone who made the conference possible, specifically all of the work put in by Nora Plant, Dot Donovan, and Jessie De La Cruz.

The SRMA board spent a little time reviewing our long-range plan at a recent meeting. The board approved the plan back in February 2020. The four major goals identified were:

Goal 1: To educate our members in the latest developments in the archival profession. Sponsor one annual meeting and at least one educational workshops/training per year.

Goal 2: Promote a community of professionals where collaboration, networking and communication foster professional growth.

Goal 3: Provide resources for preservation and archival practice.

Goal 4: Promote public awareness of archives and archival issues.

The board felt that despite the major challenges of the past few years, we have been doing an admirable job pursuing these goals.

Goal 1: SRMA continues to offer annual meetings and educational workshops. As with many organizations, we needed to adapt to the new reality created by the pandemic. We successfully held virtual trainings and meetings. It also affected how we think about future training sessions and virtual access.

Goal 2: Despite the pandemic,



SRMA made efforts to promote community among archivists. Virtual (and physical) gatherings were held. We continued publishing the newsletter, and reached out to members to see how they would like us to make it a more useful publication. We have added a position to the board to serve to add some stability to our representation on the Journal of Western Archives.

Goal 3: Although the physical Myra Jo Moon collection was dismantled, work is progressing on making a digital equivalent. Work is also being undertaken to improve the preservation kits that are available for members to use.

Goal 4: SRMA does need to explore this goal further. Some of the proposed activities include investigate options for SRMA members to volunteer to help smaller institutions across the state and region and increasing the profile of SRMA through strong branding and identity in the community.

The board also felt that we should add a new long-range goal focusing on the diversity, equity, and inclusion work already underway.

Goal 5: Promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in both archival practice and the archival profession.

I would recommend everyone read the excellent [SAA Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#).

Notes from the SAA annual meeting in Boston

Ellie Hinkle

“We all deserve grace, to be shown it, to show it in turn, and to fully give ourselves the grace we need as people to heal and to process and to rediscover the joy.”

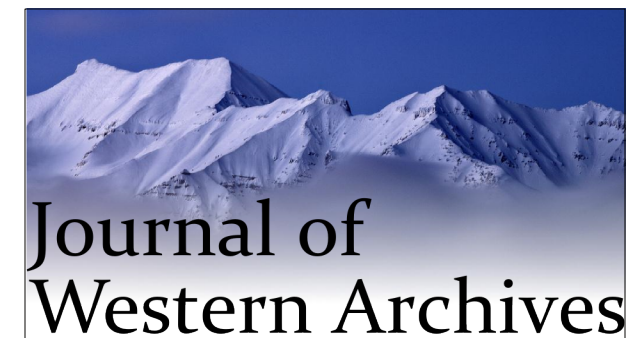
SAA President Courtney Chartier shared this statement as a part of her address during the Annual Meeting this year, as well as during her previous, fully-virtual address in 2021. Grace, healing, processing (the emotional kind, not the archival!), and self-care were themes throughout nearly all the sessions I attended at the Annual Meeting in Boston this year, which I was fortunate to be able to attend with scholarship support from SRMA.

The quote from Ms. Chartier, when she said it initially in August 2021, was aimed at an audience who were in the midst of the Delta variant, having only recently been given a chance to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Things felt

bleak, and everyone was exhausted from a year and a half of isolation and illness and the loss of loved ones. Now, with the world beginning to reopen as the Coronavirus situation improves, it can be easy for us to think that we should be able to return to normal right away – that our work should go back to exactly how it was before the pandemic, and we should be able to feel exactly like we did in the “before times.”

But I think Ms. Chartier’s quote, in many ways, was just as relevant when she said it at the 2022 hybrid meeting as it was in 2021 – perhaps even more so. Just because the external situation is improving does not mean the collective trauma we have encountered over the last two and a half years will magically disappear. The loss we experienced – both of lives and of experiences – will always be there. I started my in-person graduate program in Fall 2019, and from March 2020 until I graduated in May 2021, all my classes were virtual. I will never be able to get back the in-person learning experiences, social opportunities, and exploration of Boston that I missed out on during that time.

I also know that many of us, myself included, have been impacted mentally and emotionally during the pandemic. I feel scatterbrained



Journal of Western Archives

The *Journal of Western Archives* is a peer-reviewed, open access journal sponsored by Western regional archival organizations. The journal focuses on contemporary issues and developments in the archival and curatorial fields, particularly as they affect Western archives and manuscript repositories.

Contributing to the Journal

If you are interested in contributing to the journal or serving as a peer reviewer for journal content, please contact the managing editor at jwa.editor@gmail.com. Article submissions may also be made online at the journal website.

JWA

<http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/westernarchives/>

all the time, it seems that I’m always running late for everything, and I am quite forgetful, even though I have always been much the opposite. I have been in my current position for less than a year, and it is a dream job for me, but sometimes I feel like I cannot stay focused on my work even though I am deeply passionate about it. It is extremely frustrating for me. I know we will all eventually process and heal from the ways that we have suffered, and perhaps regain some sense of “normalcy” again. But we still will have experienced losses and faced challenges that

cannot be reversed, and we have to learn to give ourselves grace for how our brains and hearts have responded to this challenging time.

But there is more to this than just giving ourselves space to heal. In our society, there has long been a mindset that everyone must always give 110% to their jobs, no matter what. Ms. Chartier spoke of “voluntary” labor that is often required of staff, particularly in academic institutions, that forces employees to work more than full time on projects that are technically outside of the scope of their job descriptions. Perhaps this pandemic, while challenging and heartbreaking in many ways, has given us a jumping off point to reevaluate our grace versus “110%” mindset – to take a step back and really see whether what we are asking of ourselves and our team members is actually attainable and respectful of boundaries. We must ask if we are giving the necessary grace, time, and support needed to complete the work – both to ourselves and to those we oversee – and if we are allowing ourselves and

others to set boundaries where necessary.

These were the most important lessons I took away from the SAA Annual Meeting this year. Am I giving myself enough grace? How can I extend that grace to others? In time, I hope these questions will help me “to heal and to process and to rediscover the joy.” I hope they will for you too.



Do you have projects or thoughts to share? Consider featuring them in the next issue of the Rocky Mountain Archivist!

Contact willjgregg@gmail.com with submissions.



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SRMA membership survey

Thanks to everyone who recently completed the SRMA membership survey. The survey will help the Membership Coordinator align our organization with the views of its members.

2023 support for newspaper digitization

Leigh Jeremias

Don't worry we know it's still 2022! We decided to give

everyone (including ourselves!) a little more time and open the applications for our 2023 support program early.

The Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection (CHNC) New Content Support Program for newspaper digitization is designed to help cultural heritage organizations across our state increase free online access to historic community news through the CHNC. We want to help local communities add their historic stories to the larger Colorado digital newspaper footprint. Last year's program supported 7 institutions, including the Glenwood Springs Historical Society and the High Plains Library District, and added more than 10 new titles to

CHNC.

About CHNC

A service of the Colorado State Library, the CHNC currently includes more than 2.6 million digitized pages, representing more than 620 individual newspaper titles published in Colorado from 1859 through 2021. Due to copyright restrictions, the CHNC does not always include newspapers published after 1927, but the CHNC can digitize beyond 1927 if publisher permission can be secured by our partners or if it can be determined that copyright has not been renewed.

On-going support for maintaining, developing, and providing access to the CHNC is paid for with state and federal funds administered by the Colorado State Library. We continue to add new pages to the CHNC when community funding is located to pay the costs of digitization.

Awards

Program funding will be awarded for: the digitization of newspapers on microfilm or in original format; the processing of digital files including segmentation of pages into articles, advertisements and illustrations; the creation of metadata; OCR transcription of newspaper text and inclusion in

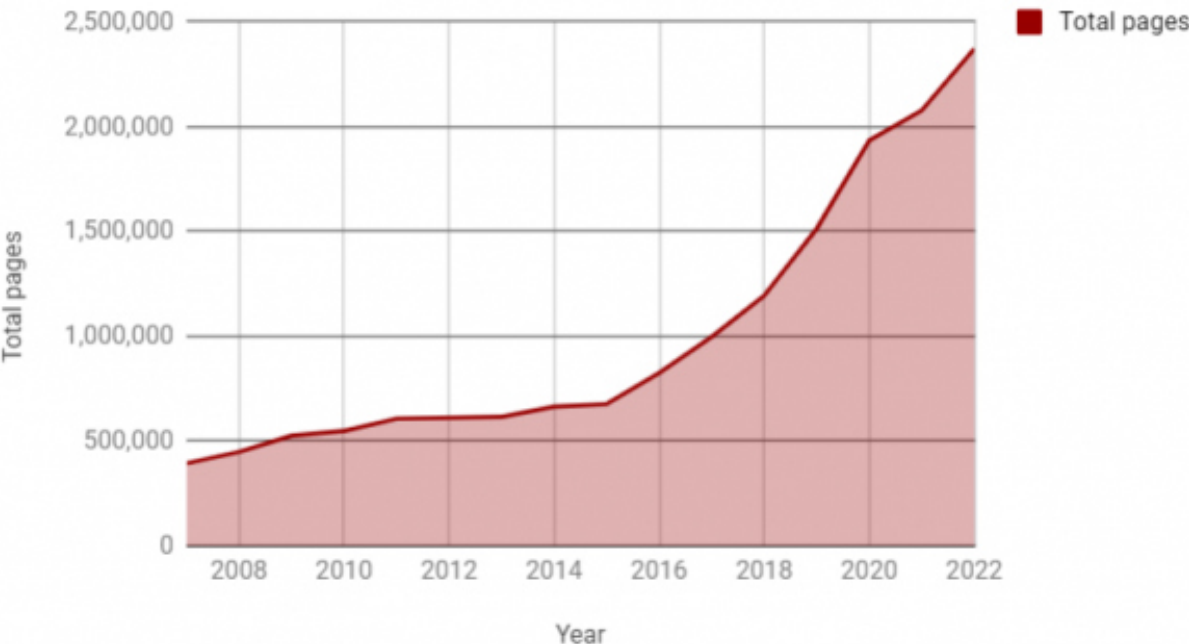
the CHNC online database. Support awards can only be used to offset the cost of digitizing newspaper pages for inclusion in the Colorado Historic Newspapers Collection, and will be applied by the Colorado State Library to support the actual digitization process and through the existing CHNC vendor partners. Best of all, the CHNC team project manages the entire process.

In February of 2023, CHNC will award \$15,000 in support for newspaper digitization projects. Institutions can apply for a maximum of \$3,000 of support funding and a minimum of \$1,500 towards the digitization of newspapers for inclusion in the CHNC. All support awards require a 25% cash match. For example, if an applicant requests and is awarded the maximum support funding of \$3000, their cash match would be \$750 for a total digitization project of \$3750. The cash match needs to be provided to CHNC by April 1, 2023. The amount of funding requested by applicants will determine how many projects will be funded.

Who can apply

We strongly encourage institutions that are not currently CHNC partners to apply. Special consideration will be given to newspaper content

Total pages vs. Year





that is underrepresented in CHNC such as geographic areas, ethnic groups, social movements and non-standard content types such as newsletters and bulletins.

Private individuals wishing to apply for support funding should be partnered with a local cultural heritage organization such as a library, archives, museum, friends group or association. Single individuals without affiliation will not be considered.

Application process

Complete all questions on the application form, found [here](#). Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications received on or before February 1, 2023 will be considered.

Successful projects will be

selected by the Program Committee. Projects will be evaluated on the historical significance of the proposed newspaper title, support of content areas that are currently underrepresented in CHNC and plans for community engagement. Special consideration will be given to institutions that are not currently CHNC partners or to partners that wish to add a new title to CHNC.

Application rubric

Total available points = 50 pts

- Completed form = 5 pts
- Historical significance of title(s) = 1 – 10 pts
- Support of Content Areas not currently represented = 1 – 10 pts
- New title to CHNC = 10 pts
- New Partner to CHNC = 5 pts

- Plans for ongoing community engagement and promotion = 1-10 pts

Project period or timeline

The project time period is from February 15, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Any supported project needs to be in process by September 1, 2023.

Deadline & Awards

Completed applications must be received on or before February 1, 2023. Awardees will be notified by February 15, 2023.

Questions and additional considerations

The program does not cover

indirect costs and cannot be used for any purpose other than the digitization of newspaper content to be added to CHNC. If you have questions about the support program, the application process, or about newspapers available for digitization or if you would like a cost estimate please contact [Leigh Jeremias](#). If you are considering applying to support a newspaper title that may be in copyright (issues published after 1927) please contact Leigh prior to the application submission so copyright holder permissions can be discussed.

Contact Leigh at ljeremias@coloradovirtuallibrary.org

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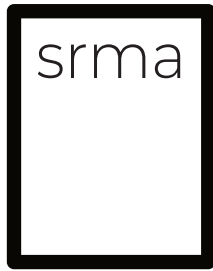
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david.fasman@du.edu