

srma

*The Rocky Mountain*  
**Archivist**

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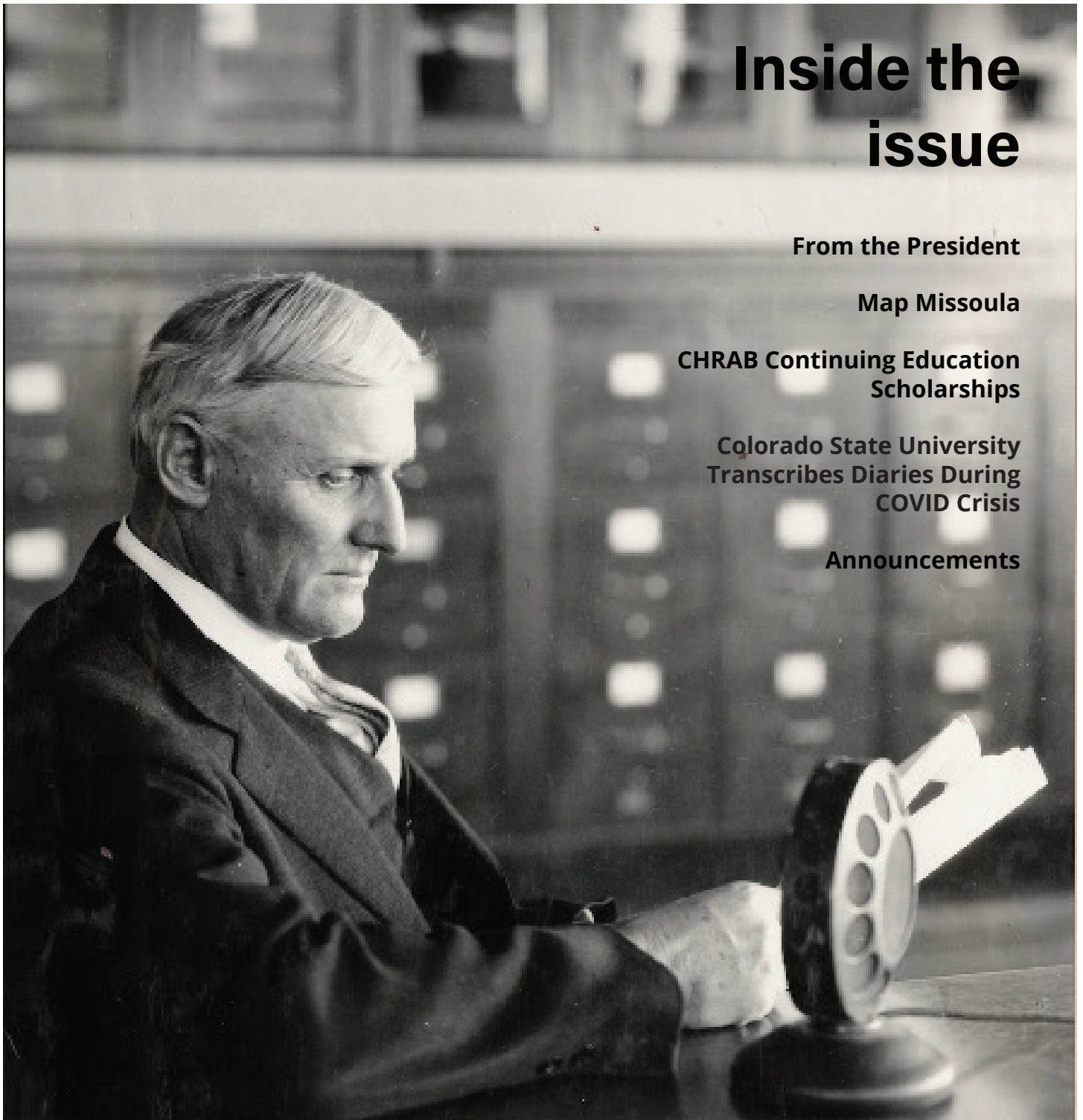
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## Welcome back to the SRMA Newsletter!

You'll notice we missed our Spring 2020 edition. Like everyone else, SRMA went on a brief pause this spring, as we all dealt with lockdowns at home - and being locked out of our archives and collections. I wish we all could say that we're in a better place now, but I know that we're all still grappling with the questions of how and when to reopen to the public, how to safely re-enter our spaces, and how to re-envision our work as archivists in a mostly virtual environment. During this complicated time, SRMA is here to support you.

### Fall Continuing Education Webinars

In lieu of an in-person fall meeting, SRMA will be hosting a series of virtual continuing education webinars. We are still in the planning stages for these webinars, so please stay tuned for more information. Thank you to everyone who filled out the survey earlier this summer indicating your preferences for topics! We will miss seeing everyone's faces in person. Stay tuned as well for information in early 2021 about our spring meeting; at this point, it is unfortunately too early to tell whether we'll be able to meet in person.

### COVID-19 Documentation Projects

This spring, SRMA began compiling a list of archives documenting our communities' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. This list is now available on our website under our "Resources" page: <https://www.sr-marchivists.org/resources/covid-19-documentation-projects/>

Please email [srmaonline@srmarchivists.org](mailto:srmaonline@srmarchivists.org) if your archives is conducting a COVID-related documentation project and you would like it added to our list.

### Diversity, Inclusion, and Racial Justice

In June, in response to the Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality and racial injustice, the SRMA governing board joined the Society of American Archivists and many other regional, state, and local professional organizations representing archivists to publicly condemn racial injustice in our society and profession. You can find the full text of SRMA's statement on our website: <https://www.srmar-chivists.org/>.

As important as these words are, it was more important to all of us on the SRMA board that we actively move into action to support Black archivists and archives, as well as the documentation of the histories of Black, Indigenous, Latinx/Chicanx, and other people of color in the Rocky Mountain Region. SRMA can and should do more; as we wrote in our statement, "All archivists... have an ethical responsibility to disavow racism daily in the ways we collect archival materials, provide access to our collections, engage with our communities, and create and support opportunities for instruction using our collections."

Our first action is to create **SRMA's Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice Task Force**. For more information, please see the article in this issue. We are sending an open call to any interested SRMA members who would like to serve on the Task Force. The Task Force will conduct its work between September 2020-March 2021 and will help the SRMA board to develop long-term, actionable goals to support diversity, inclusion, and racial justice in our organization and profession. Please feel free to reach out to us at [srmaonline@srmarchivists.org](mailto:srmaonline@srmarchivists.org) if you are interested in serving on the Task Force or have questions.

Our second action will be to offer a webinar as part of our fall continuing education opportunities that touches on practical ways to incorporate racial justice and cultural sensitivity into our daily work as archivists. Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, I highly recommend that you check out the Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia's "Anti-Racist Description Resources." This has been a hugely valuable resource for me and my faculty and staff at the CU Boulder Archives, as we grapple with the ways our own archives has been guilty of racist descriptive practices and other exclusionary practices.

What a long, strange trip we've all found ourselves in since March. And what a strange, thrilling, and very challenging time it is to be an archivist. I hope you all continue to be healthy and safe. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if there's anything you'd like SRMA to help you with during this time: [megan.k.friedel@colorado.edu](mailto:megan.k.friedel@colorado.edu). We are here for you.

All the best,  
Megan Friedel

## **SAA Scholarship Awardees Chosen**

SRMA is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2020 SRMA SAA Scholarship. Scholarships are being issued to:

**Jessica Gerber   Kate Johnson   Angela Naumov   Jennifer Sanchez**

The scholarship fund was supported by the generous gift of an anonymous donor.

The scholarship recipients were selected by the scholarship committee:  
Heather Bowden, SRMA Past President and Chair of the Scholarship Committee  
Patty Rettig, SRMA Treasurer  
Erin Shafer, SRMA Program Director and Outreach Coordinator  
Aaron Ramirez, SRMA Preservation Member-at-Large

# Map Missoula

Bethany Kelly, Montana CHRAB Archivist Intern

Sam Scott, Real Property Projects Coordinator, Missoula County Clerk & Treasurer



The Montana SHRAB Student Archivist project is funded by the NHPRC.

The Missoula County Clerk & Recorder in Montana recently began “Map Missoula”, an initiative focused on increasing accessibility to historical archives and property information. After seeing the success of online resources such as the Missoula Property Information System in providing a platform for aerial imagery and land surveys, Missoula County realized there was an opportunity to build a platform to engage and educate residents, researchers, and history buffs. The confluence of digitized archives and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) provides the opportunity to connect historic Missoula with the one that exists today.

The efforts began with documents contained in the Clerk & Recorders’ archives such as hand drawn tax assessment maps. The project grew with the inclusion of local institutions, such as the museums, community centers, historical societies, and the University of Montana’s library and archives. The collection has grown steadily to include historic photographs and artworks of or inspired by Missoula County.

Looking forward, the images will be pinned to digital maps of the area and historic maps will be overlaid on current ones using ArcGIS allowing the public to browse, interact, and engage with the community, while linking them back to the holding institutions. With the help of the Montana SHRAB and a student intern working remotely from Denver, the Missoula County project will demonstrate how traditional and nontraditional archival institutions can come together to enrich their community through access to their history.

# Announcements from your SRMA Board

## Join SRMA's Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice Task Force

The SRMA governing board has formed a Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice Task Force to identify long-term, sustainable actions that SRMA should take to promote diversity, inclusion, and ethical behavior, as well as to address racial justice issues, in our organization and profession, now and in the future. Actions the task force may consider include: establishing an ongoing committee to address diversity, inclusion and racial justice issues; educational opportunities; scholarships in support of archivists of color; recruitment to the profession and organization; outreach and engagement; organizational policy changes; and more.

We are looking for up to 8 current SRMA members to join the task force. Task force members will begin their work in September 2020 and serve for no more than 6 months. The task force is expected to produce a detailed report of their findings and recommendations, which will be presented to the SRMA board and made available online to all SRMA members no later than April 2021.

**If you are interested in serving on the Diversity, Inclusion and Racial Justice Task Force, please email task force co-chair Aaron Ramirez at [aaron.ramirez@pueblolibrary.org](mailto:aaron.ramirez@pueblolibrary.org) by August 21st.** The task force members will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis.

We hope you will consider serving on this task force and supporting SRMA's crucial work to support diversity, inclusion and racial justice!

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## Fall Meeting Cancellation

In response to the global pandemic and for the safety of our members, the SRMA Board has decided to cancel the 2020 Fall Annual Meeting. However, in its stead, we will be hosting a multi-event, virtual continuing education program for our members. Details about this program will be coming soon to all members. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Thank you.

# Colorado State University Transcribes Diaries During COVID Crisis

Helen Baer, Patricia J. Rettig, Clarissa Trapp, and Victoria Lopez-Terrill,  
Colorado State University Libraries

In January 2020, Archives & Special Collections at Colorado State University launched its first crowdsourced transcription project, the [Delph Carpenter Diaries](#). Patricia Rettig, archivist for the Water Resources Archive, and Helen Baer, head of the digital repositories unit, led the project. They initially evaluated three transcription platforms, FromThePage.com, the Library of Congress' Concordia, and Zooniverse.com. Prior to launching the project, they spoke with a colleague at the Huntington Library about its transcription projects, receiving advice on how to handle potential pitfalls.

The “Father of Interstate River Compacts,” Delph E. Carpenter (1877-1951) served Colorado as a lawyer, state senator, and river commissioner. He wrote, negotiated, and promoted the Colorado River Compact, among others. Carpenter’s papers in the Water Resources Archive document these and other professional activities, as well as his personal life and family.

The project leads advertised the project in CSU’s *SOURCE* newsletter and through social media and targeted emails to the water community, donors, and regional professional organizations. It was originally slated to run as a pilot with three diaries from January through April, but by mid-April, with the COVID-19 crisis in full swing, it was clear that more volunteers were available. The project leads received funding to extend access to FromThePage through August, and to purchase an account that would allow for more than one project. Transcriptions continued, assisted by Libraries full-time and student staff members working from home. Between March and June, seven more diaries were added.

In June, the Archives launched a second transcription project from the Papers of Charles A. Lory in the Colorado State University Archives, [the Lory Diaries](#), kept by the fifth president of Colorado Agricultural College (now CSU). From 1909 to 1940 Lory oversaw significant expansion of the college. He was heavily involved in many local and national organizations, most of which focused on water use, agriculture, and higher education. In addition to his professional activities, the diaries also provide a glimpse of Lory’s personal life.

Led by Clarissa Trapp, digital and archives librarian, and Victoria Lopez-Terrill, librarian and assistant to the coordinator of Digital and Archives Services, the Lory diaries project started with four diaries and ballooned to seventeen by July. Project advertising was similar to the Carpenter project’s and targeted the CSU community quarantined at home. Jenna Allen, Libraries director of communications, also wrote a [#SummerofLory](#) Twitter series. As with the Carpenter project, many transcribers were paid Libraries staff and students working remotely. The project got an outsized boost from fourteen Circulation and Help Desk student employees unable to work onsite in Morgan Library.

For both projects, staff provided online assistance. One method was to create cheat sheets using page snippets to assist transcribers with deciphering the handwriting. Another was to give both standard and customized transcription conventions as appropriate, with these

appearing at the bottom of each transcription window. Staff also encouraged comments through the platform and answered questions as promptly as possible.

The influx of student employees brought a faster transcription rate and extra challenges. The quick transcription of Lory diaries required more staff reviewing support. Some of the student employees were less familiar with cursive handwriting and CSU history than other transcribers, and their error rates were much higher. Project leads reached out to offer one-on-one video conferencing meetings to share tips and answer questions.

Both projects will continue into Fall 2020, with staff on the lookout for similar opportunities.

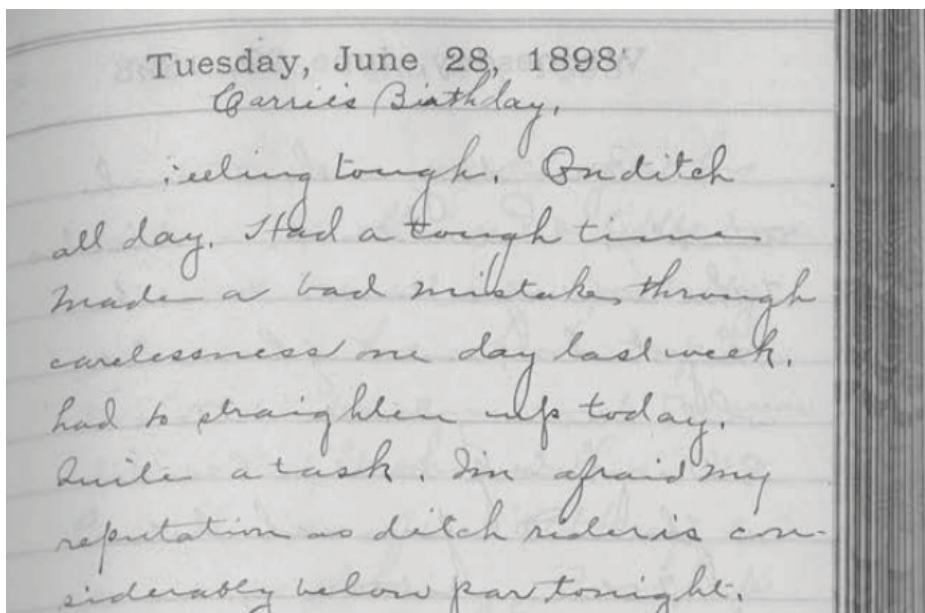


### Image Credits

Front Page Image:  
Dr. Lory seated at a table with a large microphone in front of him.  
Lory Papers, CSU Archives

Above: Portrait of Delph Carpenter at his desk in the Colorado State Senate chambers.  
Carpenter Papers, CSU Water Resources Archive

Left: Charles Lory journal entry scan available for transcription on FromthePage.  
Lory Papers, CSU Archives



# CHRAB Continuing Education Scholarships

Sara Fitzpatrick

Audio and Media Archivist, Colorado State Archives

The Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board (CHRAB) processes several applications for continuing education scholarships in archival studies. With funding from National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), three scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded to applicants interested in attending in- or out-of-state courses given by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) or professional conferences such as SAA's annual meeting. Applications for the CHRAB Continuing Education Scholarship 2020-2021 are now being accepted. Below are summaries written by the 2019-2020 awardees detailing their experience and future application of their discovered knowledge.

**To apply for these scholarships, please visit:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmunUWSpgPtt1tvQKBEeBdIIlgax-1h2t0INl\\_co40x9RIug/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfmunUWSpgPtt1tvQKBEeBdIIlgax-1h2t0INl_co40x9RIug/viewform?usp=pp_url)

## **Alison Farnham's SAA Conference Experience: August 2019**

The SAA Conference in Austin, Texas was an amazing learning opportunity! I learned very practical information that is relevant to my digital archive project. I am currently working on digitizing information about the families that are buried in the Lone Tree Cemetery, in Telluride, Colorado, that make up the history of Telluride. This includes oral histories, newspaper articles, photographs, and genealogical information. At the conference, I not only learned how to make my project more accessible to patrons, but also what exactly to digitize, how to preserve this information, how to recruit and retain volunteers, how to find digitization help, and how to promote my project. Specifically, I learned about how to make this project more accessible to patrons. I learned that the Oral History Archive Interest group is currently working on an element priority sheet that will help me to identify what metadata is important to include in Islandora records, to help family members to discover information on their loved ones. I learned about wikidata and that strong subject headings in records increase the likelihood of patrons discovering my work. In addition, I learned to digitize popular items that are interesting and appealing to the public. This is how I will define the scope of my project. To ensure that nothing is lost, I learned to make three copies—one copy is in the digital repository, one copy is on an external hard drive, and another copy can be placed on an external server. To recruit and retain volunteers, I need to contact people that have personal, family ties to the cemetery. I have already been in touch with a man whose family I'm currently working on. He has provided family photographs and newspaper articles. This information would have taken me a long time to dig up, but was easily attainable by this gentleman. I also learned how important it is to develop and maintain professional relationships with volunteers so that they are likely to continue to help. Not only did I learn about volunteer recruitment, but also about many professional organizations that would be interested in my project and provide me with help. For example, the State Archives is an excellent place to ask for digitization help. And the State Genealogical Society will want to know of all of the genealogical information that I have recorded. Finally, project promotion is very important to gain community support not only to



recruit volunteers, but also to develop strong community ties. Community members will have an emotional interest in this project, since their loved ones are buried in this cemetery. By doing a library program and utilizing social media, I can help get the word out there about my work. This also helps to promote the library, since the project will provoke interest in community members that have lived in Telluride for a long time.

### **Ashley Yager's American Association for State and Local History Conference Experience**

With the CHRAB grant, I attended the American Association for State and Local History annual conference in Philadelphia, PA. The speakers, sessions, and exhibitors were all exceptional. Two sessions, however, really stood out in helping me achieve my current goal of bringing together archival material for the City of Loveland. The City has no formal archive, with material mainly spread out across the museum and library. In two sessions, "Working Collaboratively: Digitizing the Records of Philadelphia's Historic Congregations" and "Exploring Digital Solutions to Preserve and Share Our Heritage," two organizations showcased how they were able to team-up with like-minded organizations to combine content with a streamlined online search. In the first session, the presenters shared their project called "Philadelphia Congregations Early Records" that was funded through a CLIR grant. Through this grant, they have been able to digitize historic records physically located throughout the city and bring them together in an online database. The Center for Knit and Crochet, who put on the second session, had a similarly interesting model that I am exploring. They have created a digital repository that both cultural institutions and individuals can upload to and use. For example, a search might yield you results of a knitted cap in a museum and the pattern that was used to create that cap in another institution's archives. Using this idea of a digital repository could work well for the City of Loveland to digitally bring together their physically separated collections. The ability to crowdsource is also an exciting idea once we identify gaps in our collection. This conference was wonderful to attend, sparking ideas on how we might be able to handle our records and discover information on the grants that are out there to help us achieve our goals.

### **Katie Sauter's SAA DAS Course Experience**

With old media stashed away here and there in the American Alpine Club Library storage, I felt a sense of urgency to find out what is on the old floppy discs, cds, and other old media that I have little experience using. The SAA DAS course, Digital Forensics for Archivists, seemed like the perfect learning opportunity to deal with this old media. The course is designed for archivists and librarians without a technical background, though I found it to be a bit advanced for my average technology experience and knowledge. Another sticking point is that I work with all Apple/Mac computers and brought along a MacBook laptop to the class. This provided me with a different experience from other attendees that had the good fortune of using PC laptops. There were certain activities that I just could not partake in with a Mac. Despite these challenges, I did learn several methods of how to find digital data on many different formats of media. It was also helpful to talk to the other attendees and hear about the media their institutions possess. The most interesting thing I learned is how to recover deleted or damaged file information. This course was helpful in learning all about files and bitstreams. With this knowledge, I plan to retrieve information from obsolete storage media.

# Community Announcements

## Bev Allen Retirement from CSU Pueblo

Bev Allen happily retired from the University Archives of Colorado State University Pueblo on May 31, 2020. Before coming to CSU Pueblo, Bev worked at the Colorado Fuel & Iron Archives in Pueblo, Emory University Special Collections in Atlanta, and the Missouri Historical Society. She also worked as an archival consultant in Atlanta and Colorado Springs. She is the author of *Practicing Oral History to Connect University to Community* (Routledge, 2018). She looks forward to spending more time acting and travelling (when that's possible again), papermaking, reading, camping, hiking and playing lots of Celtic music.

Due to COVID-19, CSU Pueblo froze all open positions which means that the position of University Archivist may not be filled this academic year. Since the Archives is a one person shop, that means that access will be very limited for the foreseeable future. Researchers needing assistance should contact Julie Johnson, [julie.johnson@csupueblo.edu](mailto:julie.johnson@csupueblo.edu), 719-549-2361 for the time being to see what kind of research help may be available.

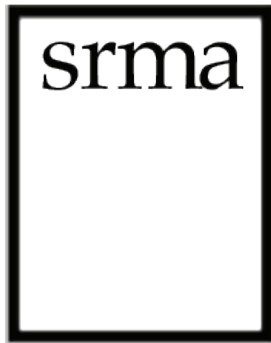


## DPL hiring in Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library

The Denver Public Library is looking for an Archivist Librarian for the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Archives.

**Applications are due August 14th!**

Apply at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/denverlibrary/jobs/2817412/archivist-librarian-blair-caldwell-african-american-research-library?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>



# Governance

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Special Collections, Archives & Preservation  
University of Colorado Boulder Libraries

**Need to renew your membership?**

Contact David Fasman  
david.fasman@du.edu

**Do you have any projects or collections to feature in the next issue of *Rocky Mountain Archivist*?**

Contact Nathalie Proulx at  
nathalie.proulx@du.edu