

srma

# The Rocky Mountain Archivist

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A student presents on Wyoming History Day

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## HAPPY 2021!

I hope you all made it through the end of 2020 relatively intact. It was an extraordinarily hard year, and on behalf of SRMA, we wish all our members rest, health, safety, and peace in this new year. On a personal level, as an extrovert, a parent of a toddler, and a mountain-dweller, the isolation of COVID, compounded by the apocalyptic fires burning in the Rockies, have challenged me in unexpectedly difficult ways – and I know many of you feel the same.

SRMA has worked hard over the last few months to support the cultural and professional changes we are facing as archivists in the Rocky Mountain region. I'm pleased to share with you the following updates and upcoming plans from the SRMA board.

### ■ ■ ■ UPDATES ■ ■ ■

# From the President

**SRMA's Fall Forum on Diversity, Inclusion & Racial Justice** was held November 9-13, 2020, in lieu of our usual fall meeting. We had 52 total registrants, with an average of 40 attendees per session from archives all over the Rocky Mountain region and the nation. I thank all of you who attended and participated in the challenging and important discussions that our presenters facilitated – and especially for doing so through the awkward medium of Zoom! Big thank-you's to Erin Shafer (Program Coordinator), Ashlyn Velte (Vice President), and Walker Sampson (Member-at-Large) for co-leading the organization of this successful event and to Kalyani Fernando (SRMA Archivist), who also stepped up to help us host and moderate the virtual sessions. We're currently reviewing the feedback that attendees provided with us about the forum – thank you to all who shared their thoughts.

**SAA's Cultural Diversity Competency workshop** was hosted by SRMA on January 5-7, 2021. Over 20 SRMA members registered for and attended this workshop, taught by Helen Wong Smith, which educated us on methods and resources for becoming culturally competent in our professional lives as archivists and for initiating or supporting cultural competencies at our home institutions. I found the workshop thought-provoking and incredibly valuable for pushing the development of my own personal cultural competency. Thank you (again) to Erin Shafer for her hard work to organize this professional development opportunity for SRMA!

**New Continuing Education Coordinator: Jamie Wagner.** In fall 2020, Craig Haggitt (Denver Public Library) stepped down from his position as SRMA's Continuing Education Coordinator. Thank you, Craig, for all your hard work serving SRMA for the past few years! Following a public call for self-nominations, the SRMA board appointed Jamie Wagner as the new Continuing Education Coordinator in December 2020. Jamie is the Moving Image Archivist at the University of Colorado Boulder Libraries' Archives, where she has worked

since 2018. The board welcomes Jamie, and we look forward to her work to bring SRMA on-going professional development opportunities!

**The new SRMA website and membership renewal system is here!** I hope you all received the email from David Fasman (Membership Coordinator) alerting you in December to the roll-out of our [new online membership and renewal system](#) and [SRMA's redesigned website](#). You can now renew your membership on a rolling (not annual) basis and pay for it online directly through the website. Our new, redesigned website is all thanks to the very hard work of David and Sean Babbs (Website Coordinator), who guided SRMA through the transition from a WordPress-based website to a site hosted by Wild Apricot. Wild Apricot allows SRMA to incorporate membership management, online payments, fundraising, polls, and other fun stuff into our web presence. Over the next few months, we'll be working to streamline the website and add more functionality to it, so keep your eyes out for updates over the SRMA listserv. We also plan to host a contest for a new SRMA logo – so get your design brains on now! Details will be announced soon. **If you have questions about the new website or membership system, please contact [srmaonline@srmarchivists.org](mailto:sрмаonline@srmarchivists.org).**

## ■ ■ ■ UPCOMING PLANS ■ ■ ■

**SRMA Spring Meeting: TBA.** The SRMA board is currently in the process of considering our options for our spring meeting and hope to have more information to you in the next few weeks. Unfortunately, due to the continued impacts of COVID-19, we will not be able to hold an in-person event, so we are exploring virtual options. Stay tuned.

**SRMA Task Force on Diversity, Inclusion & Racial Justice report due in April.** In April, the task force will complete its work to recommend ways SRMA can sustain ongoing support for diversity and inclusion within our profession and organization. This report will be presented to the SRMA board and also made public to all members. Stay tuned later this spring for an announcement detailing the task force's work. Many thanks again to Aaron Ramirez and Laura Uglean Jackson for co-chairing the task force.

**Additional continuing education opportunities.** In summer 2020, the SRMA board surveyed the membership about your wants and needs for professional development opportunities. As we move forward with spring planning, please look for announcements about other workshops and trainings hosted by SRMA.

**Bylaws review.** The SRMA board is overdue for a comprehensive review of its bylaws. We are moving forward with our review and suggested draft changes in February and March. Any recommendations approved by the board will then be sent to the membership for review, input, and vote later this spring.

I want to close by re-stating SRMA's commitment to diversity. SRMA recognizes and affirms that diversity takes many forms, including but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender and sexual identity, and disability. In the summer and fall of 2020, SRMA focused our work specifically on racial injustice issues because of the pressing need to respond, as a professional organization, to the Black Lives Matter movement and the deaths of George Floyd and too many other Black members of our communities. We will continue to work as an organization on developing, supporting, and providing educational opportunities for

anti-racist archival practices. But I also want to be clear that, going forward, SRMA *equally* pledges our support for our members from other diverse communities and to supporting archival work that includes and recognizes the multifaceted nature of diversity in our profession. The SRMA board has specifically asked the Task Force on Diversity, Inclusion & Racial Justice to recognize and include this pledge in their recommendations for the board. If you have other ideas for how SRMA can do this important work, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at: [srmaonline@srmarchivists.org](mailto:srmaonline@srmarchivists.org).

Be well,

Megan Friedel

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# Charts? Drawings? Maps?: the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections

Craig Haggit

Senior Special Collections Librarian

Special Collections and Digital Archives, Denver Public Library

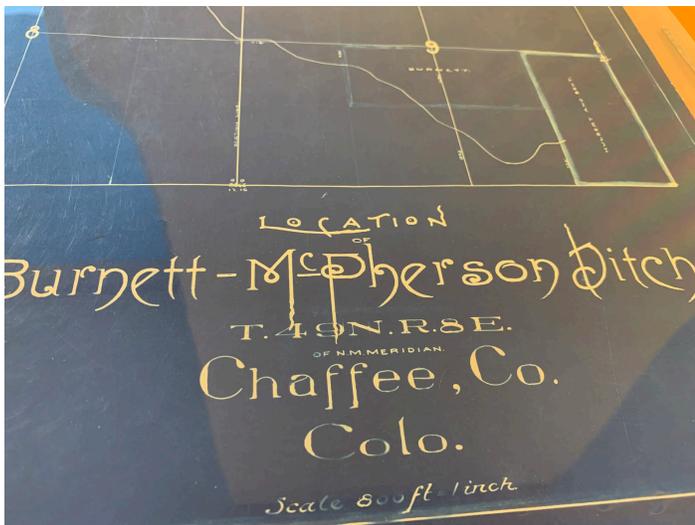
Navigating the world requires maps. Road maps, mental maps, thematic maps--they're critical to convey meaning both for ourselves and to others. Using the right map can make the difference between making your point, or losing your audience.

Way back in 1986, MAGIRT (pronounced muh-GURT -- the map library round table within ALA) published a Guide to U.S. Map Resources to help researchers locate map collections around the country. New print editions came out in 1990 and 2006, with the latter edition compiled and edited by Colorado School of Mines map librarian Chris Thiry. In 2014 MAGIRT first embarked on an effort to convert this into an online guide, and in late 2020 a newly updated online directory called the [Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections](#) was reformatted and streamlined to enable better ease of use and more sustainability. As a project team member, I've been part of this effort since January, 2020.

## What is the Online Guide and How Does it Work?

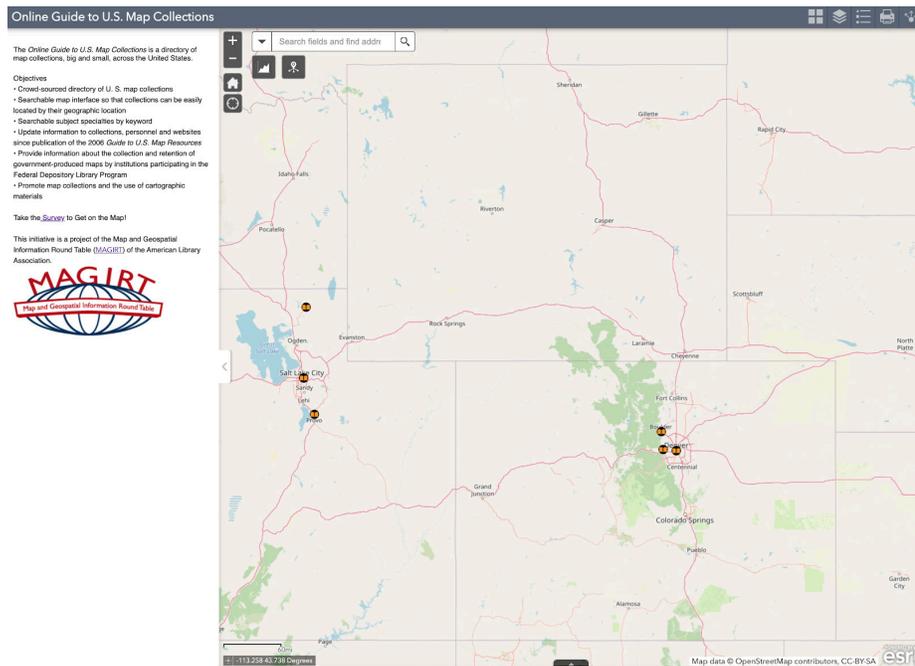
An annotated directory of map collections, large to small, general purpose or highly focused, in the United States.

- Check the [guide](#) to see if your collection is already listed.
- If you are, then send an email to [magirtonlineguide@gmail.com](mailto:magirtonlineguide@gmail.com) to request access to update your information whenever you like.
- If you're not yet listed, fill out the [survey](#) to get on the map. You'll receive an email with a link to let you keep the information updated.
- That's it -- only takes a few minutes.



Caption: Manuscript drawing of an irrigation ditch

One of the many benefits of a digital format is the ability to expand beyond the large and primarily academic map collections to include a new and wide array of institutions not typically considered “map libraries.” Many archives are stewards of “drawings” and “surveys”--what map librarians would call “maps.” A public library or museum might have a history section with a unique array of historic atlases. An archive with collections from property developers might have neighborhood plans with street and park layouts.



The goal of this directory remains simple: to increase awareness of the multitude of map collections, in whatever form they take and wherever they may live, that have remained below the radar. Take, for example, Leadville, Colorado's National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum. With more than 3,000 maps, including many manuscript sheets, this collection is one of the larger 'map libraries' in the area, but nowhere outside of the institution is it searchable. More importantly, few would realize this

collection is even there. Likewise with Arvada, Colorado's Arvada Historical Society. Only 50 or so maps in its collection. But that alone amounts to significantly more maps of Arvada than are available at Denver Public Library. In an era when many institutions are putting increasing pressure on archives to justify the real estate set aside for them, this guide presents your drawings, surveys, or other pictorial geospatial documents to a whole new audience. Data collection on the effectiveness of this directory to draw more visitors will be performed once more collections are added, but in theory, you get more people walking in your door, and researchers can more readily find geospatial information.

Besides myself there are two others, both with the University of Colorado, who have signed on as Regional Coordinators to begin contacting institutions to encourage them to add their information. As you can see from the map here, we are at the beginning stages of that project. Initially we're contacting those who were in the last print edition in 2006 to bring their information up to date. Over the coming months and years we'll be reaching out to people who aren't yet in the directory at all.

You can beat us to the punch by proactively [filling out a short survey](#), which only takes a few minutes. You'll not only see your response immediately the next time you use the directory you'll also receive an email with a link that will let you update, correct, or enhance your information at your convenience.

More [details on the project](#) are available at the MAGIRT website, or you can contact me directly with any questions.

Survey for Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections



Please complete this survey to help update and grow the Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections as we aim to create a comprehensive directory of map collections, big and small, across the United States. The platform will also allow for ongoing future updates to the information submitted. This initiative is a project of the Map and Geospatial Information Round Table (MAGIRT) of the American Library Association.  
**NEW!** [View the beta version of MAGIRT's Online Guide to U.S. Map Collections here](#)

**Who's completing this survey?**

Name of Person Completing Survey\*

Your Email address\*

**Institution Name and Type**  
Provide information specifically about the map collection

Institution Name\*

## UW American Heritage Center Provides Digitized Primary Sources for Wyoming History Day and Beyond

Leslie Waggener

Simpson Archivist, University of Wyoming



A website recently launched by the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center (AHC) to support Wyoming History Day (WHD) now boasts digitized materials on twelve popular topics within the AHC's collections. More topics are coming. The website provides online delivery of historical materials to WHD students as they create their projects and presentations.

WHD is an affiliate of National History Day (NHD). The History Day competition runs across the entire school year, through district meets and then the state competition, with the top projects competing at the national level.

WHD participants, as well as scholars and members of the public, can find contextualized resources relating to the 2021 NHD theme of "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." Currently resources are available on the Black 14; Chief Washakie; Heart Mountain Relocation Center; Women's Suffrage; First U.S. Female Governor Nellie Tayloe Ross; Rock Springs Massacre; Pony Express; Project Wagon Wheel; Radio, TV and Film; Second Red Scare; Women Photographers and Filmmakers; and Architecture. All can be accessed at <https://www.wyominghistoryday.org/>

The AHC created the website with the help of a grant from the IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries awarded in September 2020. The IMLS grant will enable the AHC in the coming months to provide materials for 30 topics held in nearly 90 collections.

In past years, students have come to the AHC in person to use its collections. Wyoming's weather and winter roads have often made the trips difficult, but with the travel restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, they are no longer possible. The IMLS grant enables the AHC to digitize holdings for the History Day competition and to build and host the website to make those digital copies available to students across Wyoming and around the nation.

WHD Coordinator Cameron Green explains, “We want to provide all students the opportunity to participate in History Day, and through the IMLS CARES Act funds we are able to make unique archival material, once limited to a physical location, available to students and teachers across the state and nation.”

The WHD website will be updated each year to accommodate the new annual History Day theme. It will allow the AHC to continue to provide a comprehensive and consistent location for distributing digitized materials. This will alleviate Wyoming’s problem of rural access to primary sources and educational materials, even when Covid-19 finally recedes.

The American Heritage Center has coordinated WHD for over a decade, hosting the state competition in Laramie every April. This year the competition will be held virtually, due to the pandemic. For further information, contact WHD Coordinator Cameron Green at [wyominghistoryday@gmail.com](mailto:wyominghistoryday@gmail.com) or 307-766-2300.





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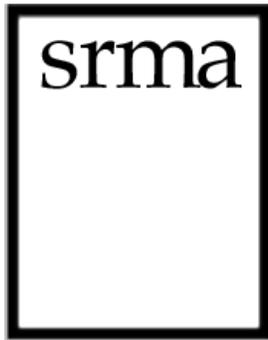
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**Need to renew your membership?**

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