

# THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARCHIVIST

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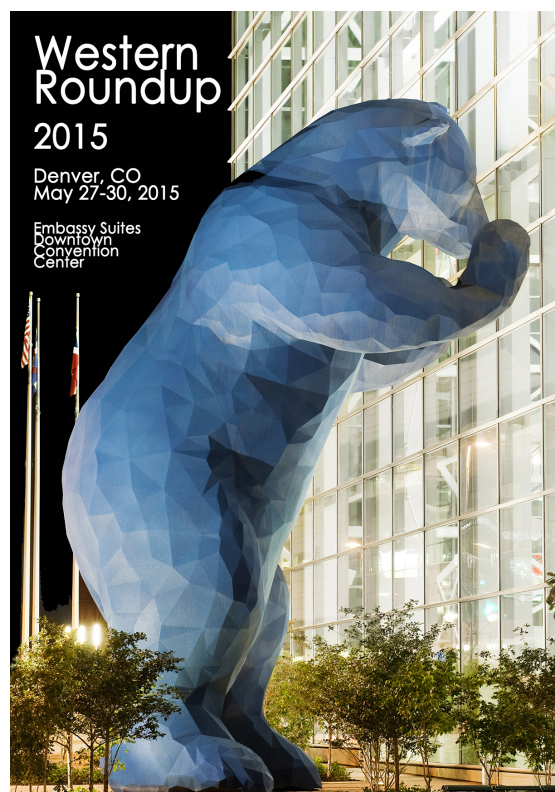
## Western Roundup 2015 comes to Denver

By Max Miller  
Editor

On May 27 archivists from around the West will descend on Downtown Denver for four days to attend the 2015 edition of Western Roundup. A joint conference of the Council of Intermountain Archivists (CIMA), Northwest Archivists (NWA), Society of California Archivists (SCA), and Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA), this is the first time SRMA will host the regional event. Workshops and educational sessions are to be held at the Embassy Suites Downtown Convention Center, with a number of ancillary events and tours taking place around the city.

Pre-conference workshops start the morning of Wednesday, May 27. These half-day and full-day sessions aim to give participants a more in-depth education in certain topics, and include one session that's part of the Society of American Archivists Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) curriculum.

The conference itself will get under way Thursday, May 28. Plenary speaker Patty Limerick, Faculty Director and Chair of the Board of the Center of the American West at the University of Colorado-Boulder, will deliver a speech that morning focusing on the American West by drawing on original



documents that she has collected throughout her life. Attendees will also get to hear Thomas Andrews, associate professor of history at CU-Boulder, deliver a speech entitled "Tracking Animals into the Archives" at the all-attendee luncheon that afternoon.

In addition to the conference sessions and organization business meetings, an all-attendee reception will be held Thursday evening in the Western History/Genealogy Department at the Denver Public Library's Central Branch. This event is sure to be an excellent opportunity to network with others from around the region in a relaxed setting.

On Wednesday and Saturday, tours will be offered to Denver cultural sites, including the state capitol, Molly Brown House, and the History Colorado Center among others. One

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# Notes from the President



It is hard to believe it is spring! After all the hard work put in to plan the 2015 Western Roundup, it is only two weeks away. I hope that you are planning to attend some or part of the conference in Denver to network with colleagues from the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA), Northwest Archivists (NWA), Society of California Archivists (SCA), and Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA). The dedicated volunteers of the Program Committee and the Local Arrangements committee have developed a fun and engaging conference that I think will contribute greatly to your professional

development. It is not too late to register. For more information, visit:  
<http://www.srmarchivists.org/meeting/2015-western-roundup/>

I have had a productive year serving as the SRMA President and look forward to handing the reigns over to Shaun Boyd, our current SRMA Vice President at the board meeting at the Roundup. I am also looking forward to electing new board members to continue the work that SRMA is already doing. Election information can be found in this edition of the newsletter. SRMA is planning the planning the program for the Fall Conference on October 2 in Estes Park. It should be a great program, so mark your calendars.

Thanks for your support of SRMA and see you in Denver in May!

Maria E. Sanchez-Tucker  
[Maria.tucker@pueblolibrary.org](mailto:Maria.tucker@pueblolibrary.org)

**Membership Information & Benefits**

SRMA membership is drawn from regular and volunteer staff of archives, historical societies, museums, businesses, government agencies, libraries, colleges and universities, religious institutions and other persons who are concerned with the identification and care of information that documents the history of our region. Individual membership is open to any interested person. Institutional memberships are welcome and encouraged.

SRMA membership facilitates the exchange of archival knowledge and assistance. It advances the interests of individual archivists and of the archival profession. Members automatically receive the SRMA newsletter, membership directory, regional archives directory, and informational materials. The Society also has an editorial board for the publication of occasional papers. We invite you to complete the membership application form located on the SRMA website to enhance your personal career development and to further the cause of the archival profession in the Rocky Mountain region.

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that's sure to be popular is a beer history walking tour with Tom "Doctor Colorado" Noel.

To get all the specifics for Western Roundup, be sure to visit the SRMA website, where you will find the conference program, venue information, as well as some tips on where to eat and getting around Denver. ■

**SRMA Governing Board**

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# Digitization and discovery of the Rocky Mountain Herbarium field books

By Amanda Lehman and Bryan Ricupero  
University of Wyoming Libraries

## *Introduction*

We recently undertook a multi-department effort to digitize and describe a collection of field books held by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium (RMH). The project involved work across three departments: Digital Collections, Technical Services, and the Rocky Mountain Herbarium. Each department was asked to provide a unique contribution based on their particular expertise. The RMH allowed access to the original manuscripts, Digital Collections converted the manuscripts to a digital format and will provide long-term support, and Technical Services created metadata to help facilitate access to the collection. It is our hope that this project will help establish workflows and processes that are applicable to future projects.

## *Background on the Collection*

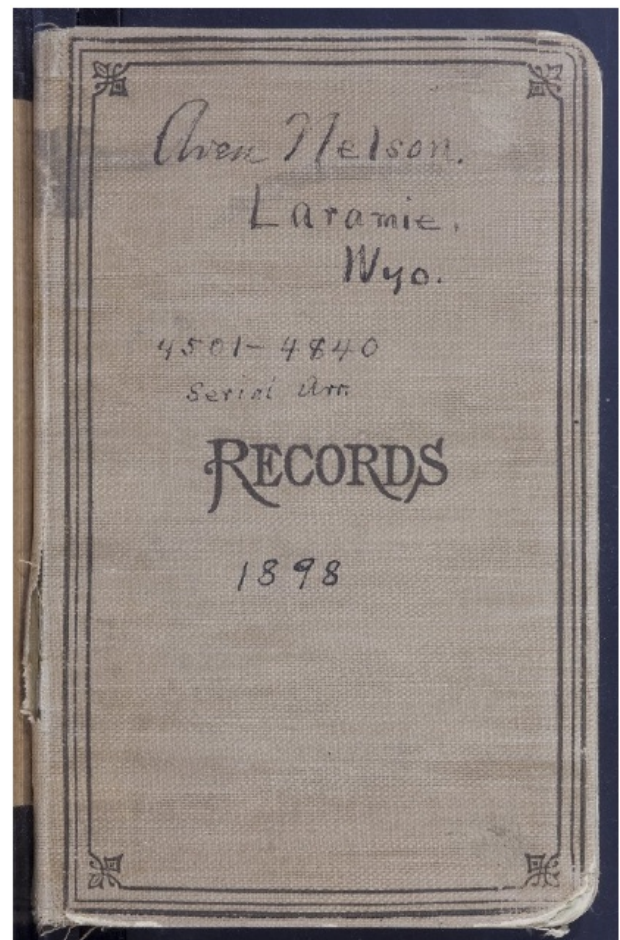
The field book collection consists of a wide variety of notebooks kept by various local botanists during the late 19th and 20th centuries, including the Herbarium founder and University president, Aven Nelson, as well as Edwin & Lois Payson, Leslie N. Goodding, and more. These unique records of field work done for the University include specimen numbers which correspond to botanical specimens in the RM specimen database, many of which are being digitized by the RMH. These manuscripts serve as one launch point into the impressive collection of specimens and scholarship at the RMH, as well as a history of botany work, including fun snapshots into the budgets and practices of botanists in and around Wyoming.

Student workers transcribed the manuscripts, with thorough quality control and careful content notes made by Digital Collections staff. The image and text files were grouped with basic metadata and uploaded to Digital UW, the University's digital repository, viewable in an instance of the Internet

Archive Book Reader. Sixty-three books have been uploaded so far, with more in processing. While this work has made for respectable full-text searching within the website, discovery from the Web can still be enriched by cataloging the pieces according to current standards.

## *Discussion of Standards*

Technical Services was charged with selecting an appropriate metadata schema, and coupling that with local cataloging practices. We chose to use the Alliance Digital Repository's best practices for MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema), and, whenever possible, current RDA punctuation rules. We decided to include RDA punctuation rules to reduce or eliminate the need to edit the records should we decide to include them in the library's OPAC. We constructed a



Field book from Rocky Mountain Herbarium founder Aven Nelson (University of Wyoming Libraries Digital Collections)

template in Islandora to meet the stated expectations and original records were created by a pair of metadata librarians. This process provided both departments an opportunity to better understand respective workflows and best practices.

Currently, we are looking into creating authority records for names and places covered in the field books. This would require NACO training and certification for several catalogers, which, unfortunately, is very expensive.

### ***Workflows and Mapping for Display and Discovery***

Digital UW runs on the open source framework, Islandora, developed by the University of Prince Edward Island's Robertson Library in 2006. The Drupal website layer of this framework allows for in-depth interaction with the repository content, stored in FedoraCommons. Solr, the open source search function features hit highlighting, faceted search, and many more features to aid discovery of repository content. The digital management of the manuscripts in this system is a complex process which has been greatly enhanced by this collaboration.

Digital Collections was charged with loading the field books, facilitating metadata editing, and generally supporting display and discovery of the collection in the open source Islandora repository platform. Relevant steps for these tasks included designing a solr query/report and a Drupal form for metadata management which would allow metadata librarians to access and manipulate the MODS associated with the field book objects in Islandora, as well as editing an XSL to transform MODS to MarcXML for viewing. After agreeing on basic workflows between the departments, and verifying key technical and physical details including manuscript and image sizes, we discussed trial objects and adapted forms accordingly, so that the librarians completed metadata editing in just under two months.

The default forms and transformations provided with the Drupal interface were not

sufficient for our purposes, and so were edited to meet the expectations and needs of Technical Services. For example, we added a field for the alternate title in addition to the existing cover title, and the default "mods:typeOfResource" field value was changed to 'manuscript' in order to streamline the editing process. The customization of the Drupal MarcXML module was most challenging, where we changed the source of the transform file in the module code, and then edited the new source file to transform the newly added fields from our MODS forms into displayable MarcXML.

### ***Looking Forward***

While a previous attempt to create a basic link between the Field Books displayed by Digital UW, and the specimen records database at the RMH did not result in widespread connections, we would like to find ways to link the multiple related resources at our institution for discovery and use. Semantic mapping of this and other collections could lead to a pilot project for bringing linked data to Digital UW. Currently, this project has opened up the door for further collaboration between digital and metadata librarians, cataloging image collections and hopefully more.

We recently submitted a presentation proposal to the Mountain Plains Library Association, and hope to share what we've learned with colleagues from other institutions. In doing so, it's our desire to engage in further dialogue to learn how similar projects are handled elsewhere. ■

## News & Announcements

### SRMA Board election coming soon

The SRMA Board is looking to fill four vacant seats through an election by the membership.

The four vacancies and candidates are as follows:

- **Vice President/President-Elect**  
Allaina Wallace, Denver Botanic Gardens
- **Treasurer**  
Jenna Edwards, USDA APHIS National Wildlife Research Center
- **Member-at-Large**  
Adam Speirs, Douglas County Libraries
- **Preservation Member-at-Large**  
Steve Fisher, University of Denver

Be on the lookout in future communications for your ballot and voting directions.

### Introducing the Regional Archives Associations Consortium

**Daniel Alonzo**

#### Regional Archives Associations Consortium

Did you know that there are over 50 regional archives groups (Regionals) in the United States? Some, such as the Society of Southwest Archivists, represent multiple states over a large geographic area, while others are more narrow in geographic scope, such as the Cleveland Archival Roundtable, which represents a single city.

Many of these Regionals overlap geographically. For example, if you work in Cleveland you could belong to up to three Regionals.

By virtue of membership overlap, there probably is coordination between groups that share a geographic area. Can the same be said for Regionals of similar size or type across the country?

The Regional Archival Associations Consortium (RAAC) fosters communication and collaboration among all Regionals. In 2013, RAAC was formed by inviting each Regional to join, with one representative per association. Representatives from each type of

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## Have you renewed?

Please consider renewing your membership in the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists for 2015! Membership remains \$10 for students, \$15 for individuals, and \$30 for organizations.  
Renew now so you don't miss out on anything!

Regional--local, state and multi-state--serve together on one of six subcommittees and have been working together on a few stated goals.

### Making Progress

The Grant Development Subcommittee has compiled grant opportunities by region for a new online resource.

The Education Subcommittee has created a Governance Document Repository compiled from the working documents of Regionals. The Repository provides examples of governing documents such as mission statements, constitutions & bylaws, and guidelines for advocacy & outreach, event planning, and newsletters & journals.

The Disaster Planning & Recovery Subcommittee has created an online resource that provides information on regional, national, and international disaster planning and recovery resources.

The Directory Subcommittee created a comprehensive list of archives groups in the United States and Canada. The directory makes it easy to see the breadth and scope of the Regional community. The directory



includes contact information and a brief snapshot of each Regional's activities.

The Public Awareness Subcommittee maintains a Facebook page to profile a Regional's event each month. Beyond simply promoting these events, we hope that archivists will use the page as a catalog of events and programs to borrow from. Public Awareness also facilitates information sharing among Regionals and publicizes the work of the Committee.

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With the help of SAA's Issues and Advocacy Roundtable, the RAAC Advocacy Subcommittee is currently investigating how to best establish formal communication lines through which regionals can report local advocacy issues to SAA and ask for advocacy assistance.

In addition to the work of the subcommittees, co-chair Amanda Focke represents RAAC in the Coalition to Advance Learning in Archives, Libraries and Museums. RAAC joins other archival organizations such as SAA and CoSA to represent the archival field on the Coalition, whose purpose is to work in deliberate coordination across organizational boundaries to devise and strengthen sustainable Continuing Education and Professional Development (CE/PD) programs that will transform the library, archives, and museum workforce in ways that lead to measurable impact on our nation's communities.

### ***Future Steps***

This is my first and only career; I hope never to leave it. I come from a family of public servants. I've heard my whole life the cliché "I

didn't get into this for the money." While it is laudable to have all-volunteer organizations, constant turnover in leadership can, without solid recruiting, jeopardize the vitality of a Regional.

RAAC seeks to ease the burden of new leadership by providing practical guidance. For the coming year we will focus on education, outreach, grants, disaster planning, and advocacy.

For more information or if you'd like make a suggestion please visit us at, <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/regional-archival-associations-consortium-raac>

Please consider attending our meeting at SAA on Wednesday, August 19. Time: TBD.

*Daniel Alonzo represents the Archivists of Central Texas in the Regional Archival Associations Consortium and is Chair of the RAAC Public Awareness Subcommittee.*