

ELECTRICAL PHANTOMS:
CREATING A DIRECTORY OF
SELECTED ONLINE HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTIONS

by

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A MASTER'S PROJECT

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INTRODUCTION

This is a descriptive study of current online historical photograph collections, which has two products. The first of these is this document, which reviews my purpose, related literature, process, findings, and conclusions. The second product of this study is an annotated directory of selected online historic photograph collections.

PURPOSE, SIGNIFICANCE, AND CONTEXT OF THE STUDY

The Importance of Access to Historical Photographs

An appreciation of our shared past helps reinforce the understanding that we also have a shared future, and access to historical photographs is an important and enjoyable component of developing such appreciation.

Historic photographs have a unique ability to describe, preserve and interpret the history of a community. They can freeze a moment in time, visually portraying the realities of life in past eras for successive generations. They can be used to reflect the social values of a community-at-large through the photographer's selection of subjects to be photographed or through the selection of props... They have immense potential for utilization as documentary resources, as technological or cultural artifacts in themselves, and as a medium for aesthetic expression, education, and entertainment. Historic photographs are a means through which messages from the past can be transmitted to contemporary audiences. (Wagner, 1983)

Small museums, such as the Springfield Museum in Springfield, Oregon, often have wonderful historical photograph collections, which may be inaccessible or unknown to the community at large. These photographs can communicate a common history, and help reinforce the understanding that society is a continuum rather than a static force. Digitizing these collections and making them available online is a great step forward in making these resources accessible to new and larger

publics.

Value of the Directory

Research

The annotated directory will be a useful reference for academic research in disciplines of art administration, museology, digital preservation, history, photography, art history, genealogy, costume, and indeed any area related to such content as can be found in historic photographs. It “will be a godsend!” (Parman, Alice, professional exhibit designer. Personal communication, November 10, 2001). It will also be of use to online exhibit designers, curators, private genealogical researchers, and casual online exhibit patrons. Small historical museums may use my findings in order to put their photograph collections online in ways that suit their own particular needs and preferences.

Historical Photograph Collection Management

This product of this study, the directory, while not exhaustive, displays a range of solutions that web designers have created in response to the challenges of designing online historical photograph databases and exhibits. The ranges of style, navigability, and degree of public access to copies of images possible for an online historic photograph collection are demonstrated by the various sites included. In the Findings section of this document, examples of this variety will be described and discussed. However, it is beyond the scope of this study to conduct an analysis and comparison of all styles found; this is a limited descriptive study.

This project reveals, through the process of examination and description, many ways in which designers have approached the organization and display of historical photographs online. This project will therefore be of assistance to e-curators in creating useful photograph databases.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Limitations to Literature Selection

In an Internet-based study such as this, priority is given to the most recent texts and articles, which take into account the most recent innovations and changes in the digital and legal realms. Therefore, literature has been limited to that published no earlier than 1996, with the most recent material receiving highest priority.

Literature Selection Strategies

Strategies for selection of literature included examination of bibliographies of known literature; adviser recommendations; books, journal articles, and dissertations which appeared in the results of catalog searches with related keywords and search terms, including “historic photographs,” “digitalization,” “digital archives,” and related terms; and general databases, as well as those specific to the subject of the study, including Internet & Personal Computing Abstracts, Dissertation Abstracts Online, Library Literature, and Archives USA.

Discussion of Selected Literature

D-Lib Magazine proved to be a particularly rich source of information. The October 2001 issue of D-Lib Magazine includes “Public Access to Digital Material” (Kahle, B., Prelinger, R., & Jackson, M. E., retrieved April 15, 2002, from <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/october01/kahle/10kahle.html>), an article which begins encouragingly:

The goal of universal access to our cultural heritage is within our grasp. With current digital technology we can build comprehensive collections, and with digital networks we can make these available to students and scholars all over the world. The current challenge is establishing the roles, rights, and responsibilities of our libraries and archives in providing public access to this information. With these roles defined, our institutions will help fulfill this epic opportunity of our digital age.

Creating Web-Accessible Databases: Case Studies for Libraries, Museums, and Other Nonprofits (Still, J. M. (Ed.), 2001) is a recent book that leans heavily toward technical issues of designing databases. However, as it is a collection of chapters contributed by many different authors, it includes a variety of styles of approaches to the topic. Chapter 3, “Women Writers and Online Books,” holds relevant discussion of how online materials can make materials accessible to previously underserved audiences, such as those who have trouble turning pages in a physical book. Chapter 6, “Taking a Database to the Web: A Case Study,” as well as providing a detailed description of the author’s experience at ABC-CLIO, offers discussion of issues related to user expecta-

tions. This book is useful for providing context for the creation of the database in this study, and could be very helpful to the aspiring online museum database designer.

Another article from the October 2001 D-Lib Magazine, “Retrieval Issues for the Colorado Digitization Project’s Heritage Database,” (Garrison, W. A., 2001, retrieved November 16, 2001, from <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/october01/garrison/10garrison.html>) features a step-by-step review of the database design process. This article also examines issues of user expectations. It could be useful those interested in assessing or constructing online historical photograph exhibits and databases.

Papers presented at the International Cultural Heritage Informatics meetings (ICHIM) and Museums and the Web conferences in the past three years provide more background information but, again, do not substitute for hands-on and eyes-on investigation and navigation of the databases in the study. Therefore, the information contained in these papers would be very useful for database designers, registrars, and others involved in planning and maintaining online museum collections databases, but has not had direct impact on my work in this study. Please see the Method section of this proposal for additional methodological references I will use in this study.

Resources on web site navigability such as Web Navigation: Designing the User Experience (Fleming, J., 1998) and Web Site Usability: A Designer’s Guide (Spool, J. M., 1999) can help future researchers to develop a lexicon with which to describe and critique reviewed web sites. In creating the annotated directories, resources such as Creating an Annotation: A Manual on Writing and Editing Annotations (Fitzpatrick, V., 1979) can be useful as well.

LIMITS

For the purposes of this study, websites to be included in the directory are limited to publicly accessible sites based in the United States. Additional directory inclusion criteria were determined

during the data-gathering process, and involved issues of minimum size of collection, minimum age of collection, navigability, and degree of access to copies of images. The original motivation and purpose for this study was to gather URLs to the many smaller, lesser-known online collections. However, as the magnitude and usefulness of the larger collections (e.g. Library of Congress American Memory Collections) became more evident, the small collections' significance seemed to dwindle a degree. Links pointing to small collections would often turn out to be dead; some "exhibits" would only have three or four images. Minimum size of collections included in this project was not easy to determine. If a site has ten photographs, and one of those photographs is the one sought by a researcher, then that site is valuable to that researcher. If a site has fifty thousand photographs, and none of them are what that same researcher is looking for, then that site is not of value to that researcher.

For the purposes of this study, it was determined that sites would be sought only up to the deadline date of April 15, 2002. The remaining undocumented sites, as well as the inevitable changes to the sites included, can be a project for future research. Not all tiny sites, and not even all large sites, have been reviewed for this project. A comprehensive study based in a field as ever-changing and vast as the Internet would have to be as ever-changing and vast as the Internet itself.

It is difficult to stipulate requirements for longevity for Web sites, even those meant to be "archival"; all Web sites, unlike print media, can be edited, updated, changed, or erased in a moment. Certain Web sites, such as those run by government agencies and by long-standing institutions, may seem to be more-or-less permanent installations on the Web; however, a smaller site may not be fleeting, and even a fleeting site may offer rich information if it is witnessed before it flees. A truly exhaustive study would require frequent and continual updating.

Also, for the purposes of this study, of highest interest are sites with a preponderance of portraiture and snapshots of people. This project excludes historic photograph sites emphasizing

other subjects such as aerial, scenic, and architectural photography. Sites run by non-profit institutions received priority; major commercial photograph collection Web sites are notes in an appendix in the directory.

It is important to note that this study does not claim to be exhaustive of all existent Web sites; rather, it is thorough within the scope of this project. Since this project was conducted within a finite timeframe, there came a point at which data collection had to end. There must be many Web sites that were not located and recorded in this study. Also, since Web content changes, comes into being, and disappears continually, even a study which could claim to find every historical photograph Web site existent on a specified date would quickly become erroneous. Therefore, this study represents the fruits of continual search within a certain time period, and does not claim to list every historical Web site existent during that period.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY/METHOD

Strategies for Identifying Historical Photograph Collection Web Sites

The plan was to search for websites that offer historical photograph images for viewing. Areas searched include Web sites for libraries, universities, historical societies, newspapers, and museums. The evident tools to use in the search were Internet search engines, as it is through these that patrons and researchers alike are most likely to seek Internet information. As different search engines use different search techniques, a variety of search engines were utilized. Primary search engines used were Google and Excite metasearch (Sprinks, FindWhat, LookSmart, DirectHit, Dogpile, Overture, About, Open Directory, Kanoodle, Ah-ha, Realnames, Epilot, AltaVista, SearchHippo.com, Yahoo). Academic databases, including Keywords for searches were used in different combinations in order to yield the most results. The first keyword search in Google was for “historical photographs.” Then, searches were performed for related phrases, such as: “historical photographs,” “Historical photograph databases,” “Historic photo exhibit,” and “stock photos.” As more data was collected, it

became evident that photograph collections were often tucked away inside digital library and archive collections. Searches were then performed for digital libraries, archives, photograph exhibits, and historical societies. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Archives Portal Web site (http://www.unesco.org/webworld/portal_archives/pages/Primary_Sources_Online/Exhibitions/more2.shtml, last accessed April 15, 2002) proved very useful in locating additional sites. Also, examination of metatags in HTML source pages revealed useful keywords for further searches. Web sites were also located in the course of reviewing related literature. It would be a good continuation of this study for a future researcher to methodically search each public and academic library and archive in the United States for their digital image collections, and produce a compendium of the results. However, for the purposes of this study, this was not done, as it was originally conjectured that there would be more small private collections online than were actually found.

Certain Web sites appeared over and over again in many different searches. Those which were “easiest” to find were the Library of Congress American Memory Collections; certain large public library collections, such as the New York Public Library and the Library of Virginia; and George Eastman House. Lists of links were also quick to materialize in early searches. However, many sites are tucked away where it is unlikely that a casual Web patron would find them. Some appear in search engine results only under the subject category of their mother institution, such as “library” or “archive”, and fail to appear for any search specific to “photograph.”

Categorization of Web Sites

The study demanded an ongoing process of determination and re-determination of the categories of data to be recorded for the directory. Certain categories seemed obvious: title, subject, collection size. However, the prospect of sorting the sites out into a useful directory demanded a continual re-evaluation of categories in terms of what would be the most efficient and well-organized presentation. Even the simplest initial sorting is difficult; For instance, several of the major large historic photograph sites, such as those of Library of Congress American Memory and the

Library of Virginia, are composed of many smaller sites. Questions arose, such as should the data gathering focus on the mother collection, or rather, should each individual sub-collection be treated as a separate Web site? Often, the sub-sites will be quite different from each other in scale, style, and certainly subject. It would be helpful to any lay browser or serious researcher to know the subjects and scopes of all the sub-collections; indeed, just knowing the mother collection exists would not give any hint as to that which lay within. But, in terms of organizing the final directory, does it make sense to “chop up” the mother sites and all the sub-sites listed in alphabetical order by title? The problem was reconciled by deciding that each “mother” site would have its own segment of the directory, with its subsites duly listed. Other broad categories of site to be listed are the independent sites (i.e. not a subsite of the Library of Congress American Memory Collection or some such behemoth), additional resource sites (links pages, commercial sites, mature content sites).

Development of Directory Organization and Content

While in process of researching, constant thought was given to how to categorize the emerging data, how much to collect, and how to present it in directory format. The major categories of information were originally determined to be subject, size of collection, depth of site, navigation and the additional malleable category of “notes.” The “subject” category would not be needed for all sites, as some titles are self-explanatory. The “depth” category refers to the complexity of the site construction, and refers to how many levels one can advance into the site; this can either reflect a depth of information available, or rather a lack of efficiency on the part of the designer. The “notes” category of information clarifies this question if a site seems particularly shallow or deep. “Navigation” refers to the way in which a site may be used: for example, a collection may be browseable, searchable, a simple exhibition, or a combination of these. Ultimately, the category of “Depth” was deleted. This is because a site may have many levels because it is inefficient and poorly designed, or it may have many levels because it has much helpful additional information and features. The depth of a site does not, in and of itself, demonstrate any particular quality. Since this project does not aim to analyze in detail every site included in the directory, it was determined to exclude this category.

FINDINGS

In searching for and examining these Web sites, not as many hidden “gold-mines” of smaller archives were found as had been hoped. Originally, it was imagined that there must be thousands of these independent, small sites waiting to be linked together and made more accessible by the study. However, findings included many rather large collections digitized and put online by public and academic libraries and archives, which, to this researcher’s knowledge, are not systematically listed or linked together.

Also, it was found that though there are several pages of historical photograph links in obvious evidence on the Internet, as well as many that are a bit harder to find, all of them have many dead links. This is not brought up to criticize the work of the applicable webmasters, but rather to point out the difficulty of maintaining a working directory of a medium as ever-changing and ephemeral as Web sites.

Government archives, such as the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Library of Congress, provide searchable photograph databases with freely downloadable images. The Smithsonian Institution and George Eastman House maintain other large online photograph databases. The identification and description of the many smaller historical photograph databases constituted the bulk of the project.

Copyright and Reproductions

Issues of copyright and reproductions have been treated by curators and designers in a variety of ways. The Internet has made possible the public exhibition of previously inaccessible historical photographs, but it has also rendered these images potentially vulnerable to unauthorized use. This unauthorized use can include commercial appropriation (i.e. theft), alteration, and misattribution/incorrect labeling of images.

If documents are to be delivered online, issues of copyright and ownership must be extensively researched. If this major legal step can be resolved, other issues must be dealt with... (Still, 2001, p. 19) [Emphasis added]

Curators and designers of online historical photograph exhibits have devised a range of methods to retain a level of control over the use of their images, as well as to collect fees for use. However, there is the notable example of one of the largest online historical photograph collections, the Library of Congress American Memory Collections (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html>, last accessed April 15, 2002); the images in these collections are, as far as their curators can tell, wholly in the public domain. But this situation has not fully allayed the concerns of the curators, and their lawyers, as to the potential for misuse of the images and consequent litigation, and it is interesting to compare the rights and reproductions policies of the Library of Congress American Memory Collections photograph databases and those of another online historical photograph collection.

The New York Public Library Digital Collection (<http://digital.nypl.org/>, last accessed April 15, 2002) is a good example of a copyrighted online historical photograph collection. Small Town America: Stereoscopic Views from the Robert Dennis Collection (<http://digital.nypl.org/stereoviews/>), one of several searchable historical photograph databases offered by the New York Public Library, shows its “© 1999 The New York Public Library” statement prominently on its first page, with an adjacent “Copies & Permissions” link. This leads to the following text:

As part of its public service mission, The New York Public Library provides reproductions of

certain items from its collections, for PERSONAL or RESEARCH USE ONLY. Any other use, including but not limited to commercial or scholarly publication, exhibition, online/web site, broadcast/film, home video, and promotional use without prior written permission of the Library is strictly prohibited. The Library on a case-by-case basis determines granting or withholding of permission, and a usage fee is required.

Users should be aware that materials made available directly through the divisions and through this web site may be subject to additional restrictions including but not limited to copyright and the rights of privacy and publicity, of parties other than the Library. USERS ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE for determining the existence of such rights and for obtaining any other permissions, and paying associated fees, which may be necessary for the proposed use. (Retrieved April 15, 2002 from <http://www.nypl.org/admin/pro/copies/guide.html>)

To continue on to the next page of the website, the visitor must click on text reading, “I HAVE READ THE ABOVE.” In the often-murky realm of determining ownership of rights to historical photographs, warnings such as those in the second paragraph cited above may be an institution’s only mode of protecting itself from litigation.

In contrast, the Library of Congress American Memory Collections are handled in a different way. Many of the photographs in the Library of Congress collections, such as Selected Civil War Photographs (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwphome.html>, last accessed April 15, 2002), are now in the public domain. In fact, for this particular collection, the website states “There are no known restrictions on these photographs,” (retrieved April 15, 2002 from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwres.html>) and the Library of Congress does not claim copyright either. The main page for the Library of Congress American Memory Collections Copyright Information (retrieved April 15, 2002, from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/copyrit2.html>) states:

The Library is offering broad public access to American Memory collections as a contribution to education and scholarship. Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) and/or by the copyright or neighboring-rights laws of other nations... Additionally, the reproduction of some materials may be restricted by terms of Library of Congress gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, publicity rights [a link to information on this topic is imbedded in the text], licensing and trademarks.

Transmission or reproduction of protected items beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners.

The nature of historical archival collections means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine. Whenever possible, the Library

provides information about copyright owners and other restrictions in the catalog records, finding aids, special-program illustration captions, and other texts that accompany collections. The Library provides such information as a service to aid patrons in determining the appropriate use of an item, but that determination ultimately rests with the patron. [Emphasis in original]

As a publicly supported institution the Library generally does not own rights to material in its collections. Therefore, it does not charge permission fees for use of such material and cannot give or deny permission to publish or otherwise distribute material in its collections. It is the patron's obligation to determine and satisfy copyright or other use restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the Library's collections.

The Library of Congress is eager to hear from any copyright owners who are not properly identified so that appropriate information may be provided in the future.

Though these policies may appear somewhat similar on the surface, with both including broad disclaimers of institutional freedom from responsibility for copyright infringement and clear statements that it is the responsibility of patrons to determine the appropriate use of an image, there are two big differences: the New York Public Library provides relatively low-resolution images of little commercial use, and what it does offer is copyrighted by the library. Finer copies may be ordered for a fee, but remain copyrighted by the library. In contrast, the Library of Congress American Memory Collections offer archival TIFF files for free download, and does not claim copyright over their images.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

First, there are the issues of copyright and reproductions. One wonders if the photographs in the Library of Congress American Memory series were selected from the Library of Congress's vast collection according to their restriction-free status, to the exclusion of other images of equal or perhaps greater historical value. It is a marvelous collection, but what wonderful material has been excluded for fear of copyright problems? The use of lower quality images, which look satisfactory on a computer screen, but will not graciously suffer enlargement or printing, seems to offer a reasonable compromise between security of copyrighted images and good exhibit content. Newer water-

mark technology offers additional protection.

And some compromise is necessary, as Torsten writes, “Today museums often cannot avoid presenting digital copies of their collections using the internet or CDs/DVDs, because they have to attract potential visitors and to gain additional funding. In doing this the risk of unauthorized copying is not disputable and disturbing.” (Torsten, Bogen, Hademschek, & Riemann, retrieved April 15, 2002, from <http://www.archimuse.com/mw2000/papers/bissel/bissel.html>). Yet, “Librarians and their ilk want to give information away. ‘Information wants to be free’ is a well-known rallying cry.” (Still, p. 1) The New York Public Library’s claim of copyright both protects its collection from misuse and impedes public use. The Library of Congress casts its collection onto the Internet to fare for itself. These are two very different modes of managing an online historical photograph database. If there is always a disclaimer that the responsibility of determining copyright ownership rests with the patron, will the institution be protected from any legal problems that might arise if ownership of a particular image is claimed by a third party? Online art of any sort must face the double-edged sword: too much protection means not as much public access, and too much public access could lead to misuse such as commercial appropriation of images. Either direction may result in a sacrifice from a curatorial standpoint. If forced with the choice of erring more on one side or the other, educational institutions probably ought to err towards the side of education; that is, making more information available rather than less.

Variety of Navigability and Style: Examples

The ranges of style, navigability, and degree of public access to copies of images are demonstrated in the course of Web site description. Though it is beyond the scope of this descriptive study to conduct an analysis and comparison of all styles found, what follows is a comparison of several Web sites examined. The Library of Congress American Memory Collections and the Arkansas Historical Commission Photograph Web site demonstrate similarities and differences illustrative of the range of Web site styles found in the course of this study.

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

Description

The Library of Congress American Memory Collections feature thirty online collections, which feature major photograph collections, and more collections that feature some photographs as part of a larger collection. The size and style of these collections varies somewhat, but they all adhere to the Library of Congress's format standards and so exhibit a good degree of consistency across their variety. One representative collection is "History of the American West 1860-1920: Photographs from the Collection of the Denver Public Library" (retrieved March 2, 2002, from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/hawphome.html>). In the site's own words:

Over 30,000 photographs, drawn from the holdings of the Western History and Genealogy Department at Denver Public Library, illuminate many aspects of the history of the American West. Most of the photographs were taken between 1860 and 1920. They illustrate Colorado towns and landscape, document the place of mining in the history of Colorado and the West, and show the lives of Native Americans from more than forty tribes living west of the Mississippi River. Also included are World War II photographs of the 10th Mountain Division, ski troops based in Colorado who saw action in Italy. These include great navigability options, site depth, special presentations within the collection, in-depth bibliographic information, copious links to resources, and educator resources.
(Retrieved March 2, 2002, from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/hawphome.html>)

This is one of the larger collections in the American Memory series. As such, it exhibits a range of site features found in its sister sites. The navigability options include searching by keyword, browsing the subject index, and browsing the name index. The site is at least eight levels deep, depending on which features are utilized. Special presentations within the collection are "Native American Women," "L.C. McClure and Denver, the City Beautiful," and "The 10th Mountain Division." On the front page, there are links to the following pages: "About the Collection," "Biographies of Selected Western Photographers," "Building the Digital Collection," "How to Order Photographic Reproductions," "Copyright and Other Restrictions," "Related Resources," "Collection Connections" (the collection-specific link to "The Learning Page," a resource for educators using the collection), home page for the Catalog for the Photography Collection at Denver Public Library,

American Memory Help Desk, Library of Congress/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition, “Search All Collections,” “Collection Finder,” “Learning Page,” and Denver Public Library.

The front page is a field of cyan, with the Library of Congress American Memory logo header at the top of the page. The collection has its own title collage, a sepia-tone montage of three portraits: a Native American man, a white gold-panning man, and a stylish lady of the 1890’s. Immediately beneath the title collage are the search buttons, followed by the brief description of the collection cited above. Library of Congress mission statements and site content disclaimers follow, and thereafter are the links listed previously. The page appears straightforward and ready for immediate use.

Search Example

Browsing by subject index was selected. The button linked to a page with groups of subjects organized alphabetically. The word “Cat” was selected to be of interest from among the options presented. The word fell between the range of “Catholic Churches – Colorado – Denver – 1910-1920” and “Cats – Colorado – Denver – 1900-1920.” Clicking on the latter subject led to a list of all subjects falling alphabetically between these subjects, including “Cats—California—1880-1900,” “Cats—Colorado—1920-1930,” “Cats—Colorado—1930-1940,” and “Cats—Colorado—Denver—1900-1920.” Of these, the earliest option was selected.

This led to a single photograph, “Chinese man with cat and pipe” (Digital ID: codhawp 10021494, retrieved April 15, 2002, from <http://gowest.coalliance.org/cgi-bin/imager?10021494+X-21494>). The record included a thumbnail image and known information, including estimated dates, locale, content, materials, dimensions, and storage locations. Clicking on the thumbnail image brought up a larger version of the image, and the message, “Perform a call number search for the photo above to see full record.”

Clicking on the word “search” linked to the Search page of the Western History/Genealogy

Collection of the Denver Public Library. However, after performing a “call number browse” search for the image in the Denver Public Library Catalog, the resulting information was the same in content and depth as that which was provided as the American Memory site record.

Reproductions, Copyright, & Restrictions

Regarding “The History of the American West” collection, in the words of its owner, the Denver Public Library,

The Denver Public Library encourages use of these materials under the fair use clause of the 1976 copyright act. All images in this collection may be used for educational, scholarly purposes and private study. A credit line must be included with each item used.

Credit Line:

Western History/Genealogy Department, Denver Public Library

If you wish to publish or reproduce the materials in any physical or digital form beyond that permitted by fair use or use them for any commercial purpose, including display or Web page use, you must obtain prior written permission from the Denver Public Library...

To purchase high resolution digital images and photographic prints visit the Denver Public Library Store.

The Denver Public Library has provided in the catalog records for these materials all known information regarding the photographer or other persons associated with the materials. This information is provided as a service to aid customers in determining the appropriate use of an item, but that determination ultimately rests with the customer. The nature of historical archival photograph collections means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine. The Denver Public Library would like to hear from anyone who may have additional information regarding the images found in this collection. (Retrieved March 3, 2002, from <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/copyres>)

Arkansas History Commission Photograph Web Site

Description

In contrast, the Arkansas History Commission Photograph Web site (<http://www.arkives.com/photo/>, last accessed April 15, 2002) is set up differently. The Arkansas History Commission’s photograph collection includes 13,000 digitized images. The front or title page is a

field of black with a photomontage, not unlike that of the History of the American West title graphic. However, there are less link options on the first page. There is a link to the Arkansas History Commission, and there are six graphic buttons to the internal pages: “Gallery,” “SOD Project,” “What’s New,” “Search,” “Buy,” and “Help.” The depth of the actual site is only three levels; however, if the separate but linked online public access catalog (OPAC) is included in the level count, there are four more levels.

The “Gallery” page is actually a portal to a series of pages, each giving introductory information on one of fourteen photograph collections, and displaying a single photograph. The “Persistence of the Spirit Negatives” page, for instance, shows a photograph of a group of people circa 1900, but does not offer any information specific to the image. Rather, it gives a paragraph-long description and history of the collection, and the option to “Buy Now.” To search and view the images in the collection, and to see bibliographic information, one must click the “Search” button. This link actually takes us to the Arkansas State Library and Arkansas History Commission online public access catalog, or OPAC. Here, one can perform a search according to conventional digital catalog means. If one uses the collection title in a series search, then the entire photograph collection chosen will appear for review. It is here that bibliographic information and thumbnails are viewable, and larger images are available for view with a second click.

Search Example

In this case, a series search was performed for “Persistence of the Spirit.” A list of 526 records resulted. The first bibliographic record, along with a thumbnail, of the first image came up; a larger image was obtainable by clicking on the thumbnail. However, since this catalog is part of a public library system, the session quickly timed out and the catalog requested a user ID to log on again.

Reproductions, Copyright, & Restrictions

The Arkansas Historical Commission Photograph Web site features “Buy Now” buttons for

the single photographs representing the individual collections on its Gallery pages, and also in the OPAC catalog itself. The Buy page text reads:

You may purchase reproduction quality photographic prints or high-resolution digital files of most of the images seen on this site. Exceptions are images in the Persistence of the Spirit Collection that are credited to another archives in the 541 field of the bibliographic record. Purchase high-resolution digital images online via our online payment feature which includes online selection of images, electronic payment via credit card and electronic delivery...

The credit line, "Courtesy, Arkansas History Commission," must be used by anyone using any Arkansas History Commission images in any published or exhibited form.

No free copies will be provided to anyone. (<http://www.ark-ives.com/photo/>, last accessed April 15, 2002)

Comparison

The two sites provide the same service, but provide it in significantly different ways. Both can claim to provide public digital access to their historic photograph collections, but the Arkansas History Commission makes use of a pre-existing and separate catalog as its exhibition space and database. In contrast, the "History of the American West" site is self-contained, though it does provide links to its mother catalog, the Denver Public Library.

The Library of Congress is, of course, Federal; the Denver Public Library is a city institution. The Arkansas Historical Commission is a state institution. The differences in budget and collection size are significant. The resources of some large institutions may allow digitization of a complete collection of many thousands of photographs, complete with detailed bibliographic and background information, useful and attractive web design, frequent maintenance, and powerful servers. Very small institutions may have to consider themselves fortunate to secure a scanner and the services of a volunteer to create a one- or two-page Web site, featuring just a few photographs to alert the international Internet public to the nature of the complete collections.

Directory Creation

The project has culminated in (1) this academic paper detailing the process and findings of the study and (2) the annotated directory.

The directory is a forty-page document featuring annotated listings for one hundred and sixteen historical photograph collections online. They are presented in alphabetical order, and are indexed by subject. Additionally, there is an appendix of related Web sites for further research.

The directory is presented in standard paper format, instead of as a Web site or CD-ROM, for several reasons. First of all, a Web site necessitates a server, and, after graduation, a server will no longer be accessible for this project. This is not to rule out the possibility of a Web site in the future. As the information in the directory requires frequent updating and expansion, it would quickly become inaccurate- thus making the CD-ROM format less appropriate as well. A paper directory is highly navigable, portable, transferable, and, once out-of-date, recyclable.

The total number of websites ultimately included in the directory determined the length of the individual annotations. Though the original concept of the annotations included possibilities of including design analysis and evaluation, navigability analysis, site depth, legal availability of images, image scan quality, and notes on additional site features, as the number of entries accumulated this became less feasible. In order to present readers with the most useful and navigable document, only collection size, date range, general navigability options, and brief subject descriptions were included in the annotations. An introduction, an index, and an appendix of related Web sites were added.

CONCLUSION

Recommendations for Further Study

This study presents several opportunities for further research. First and foremost, the task of researching and documenting the many historical photograph Web sites on the Internet is not com-

plete, and, due to the nature of Web sites, never will be. Therefore, continual revision of and addition to the directory could be an ongoing project. Secondly, there remains to be done extensive comparative analysis of these sites; they could be examined in various lights, including law, feminism, cultural chauvinism, historical revisionism, or attitudes imbedded in Web design, just to name a few. Lastly, the technical aspects of presenting historical photograph collections online are also a major area of inquiry, and further work in this area will be highly beneficial to those creating and using these collections.

The Directory

The directory of selected online historical photograph collections should be a valuable resource for researchers, museum and archive administrators, and the public. For those unaware of the rich historical photograph resources on the Internet, this directory will provide untold hours of education and entertainment. At this point in time, distribution of the directory is limited to the students, faculty, and staff of the Arts & Administration Department at the University of Oregon. Additional copies will be made available on demand. In time, an expanded version of this directory may be published with the aim of distributing copies to arts management university programs and to museum administrators and curators, archivists, librarians, and historical association administrators.

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Please see accompanying directory of selected online historical photograph collections for Web sites collected for this study.

electrical phantoms

**A Directory of
Selected Online
Historic Photograph
Collections**

Compiled by Honey Vizer
in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the
Master's Degree in Arts Administration
University of Oregon
June 2002

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Introduction

Historical photographs show us our common past and reaffirm for us that we share a common future. Fabulous collections of historical photographs, once hidden away in closets and archive cabinets, are now available for the public to view via the Internet. Many are searchable, just like a library catalog. Others feature thumbnail images for you to browse. Still others are designed to be a guided exhibit, where you “click” your way through a series of photographs and informative captions.

Whether you are a researcher, teacher, student, or just plain old curious about your world, this directory has fantastic resources for you. However, as Web sites appear and disappear like waves upon the ocean, this directory does not claim completeness nor permanence.

This particular directory is limited to sites that are based in the United States, that are written in English, that concentrate on time periods prior to 1945, and that emphasize images of people. In a few instances, I have let a few exceptions to these limitations creep through into the directory. See the “More Places to Look for Historical Photographs Online” section at the end of this directory.

Additionally, please note that not all Library of Congress American Memory Collections are listed in this directory. But for a few irresistible exceptions, only those American Memory Collections which consist primarily of photographic images are included here. However, there are more Library of Congress American Memory Collections available online which, in addition to the other items they present, also feature a smaller number of historical photographs for your enjoyment and education.

Enjoy the photographs!

Honey Vizer

The Directory

Current as of April 15, 2002

1939 World's Fair Photograph Collection

Library of Virginia

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/wfc/>

3018 photographs

Search

Aspects of Virginia life: scenic tours, recreation, historic homes, culture, history, colonial archaeology, scenery and natural wonders, physiography, agriculture, education, government and the people, and industry, commerce, and transportation.

Afghanistan

Photographs from the Keystone Mast Collection

UCR/California Museum of Photography

<http://www.cmp.ucr.edu/photography/afghan/#>

30 photographs

1933

Browse

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/aype/index.html>

655 photographs

1909

Search, browse

Documents the fair held on the campus of the University of Washington during the summer of 1909. Images include depictions of the buildings, grounds, entertainment, and exotic attractions at the fair.

Albert Henry Barnes Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/ahbarnes/index.html>

300 photographs

1890-1915

Search, browse

Pacific Northwest region: people, cities, and landscapes.

America from the Depression Era to World War II

Photographs from the Farm Security Administration-Office of War Information, 1935 – 1945

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsowhome.html>

162,000 photographs

Search, browse

The images show Americans at home, at work, and at play, with an emphasis on rural and small-town life and the adverse effects of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, and increasing farm mechanization. Some of the most famous images portray people who were displaced from farms and migrated West or to industrial cities in search of work. In its latter years, the project documented America's mobilization for World War II.

American Indians of the Pacific Northwest Digital Collection

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/index.html>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/wauhtml/aipnhome.html>

2,300 photographs

Primarily late 19th century

Search, browse

Features people from the Alaskan Tlingit and Tsimshian, Coeur d'Alene, Lushootseed, Makah, and Nez Perce nations.

America's First Look into the Camera:

Daguerreotype Portraits and Views 1839 – 1964

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/daghtml/daghome.html>

725 photographs

Search, browse

Portraits, architectural views, several Philadelphia street scenes, and copies of painted portraits.

Around the World in the 1890's

Photographs form the World's Transportation Commission, 1894 –1896

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wtc/wtchome.html>

900 photographs

Search, browse

North Africa, Asia, Australia, and Oceania: transportation including horses, camels, rickshaws, railroads, elephants, sedan chairs, sleds and sleighs, harbors. Also people and street scenes. As portrayed by American photographer William Henry Jackson.

Asahel Curtis Photo Company Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/Acurtis/index.html>

1,704 photographs

1850 - 1940

Search

Features Seattle, Washington State, Alaska, and the Klondike.

The Auschwitz Album

Yad Vashem

http://www.yad-vashem.org.il/exhibitions/album_auschwitz/

[home_auschwitz_album.html](http://www.yad-vashem.org.il/exhibitions/album_auschwitz/home_auschwitz_album.html)

193 photographs

1944

Browse

“The photos show the arrival of Hungarian Jews from Carpatho-Ruthenia. Many of them came from the Berehovo Ghetto, which itself was a collecting point for Jews from several other small towns... Those considered fit for work were sent into the camp... The rest were sent to the gas chambers.”

Automobile Club of Southern California Digital Archive

University of Southern California

<http://library.usc.edu/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/55/31>

500 photographs

1892-1962

Search

Depicts buildings, businesses, streets, vistas and points of interest between 1892 and 1962.

BarabooNow.com Historical Photograph Exhibit

http://baraboonow.com/travel/historic_gallery/

20 photographs

1890-2001 (mostly 1890-1920)

Browse

Baraboo, Wisconsin, and surrounding area within Sauk County.

Berenice Abbott:

Changing New York 1935-1938

New York Public Library

<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/spe/art/photo/abbottex/abbott.html>

56 photographs

Bonfils Photographs from the Late 1800's

<http://almashriq.hiof.no/general/700/770/779/historical/pcd0109/pcd0109.html>

57 photographs

Browse

Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.

Born in Slavery

Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project 1936 – 1938

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/snhtml/snhome.html>

500 photographs

Search, browse

Contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and 500 black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and assembled and microfilmed in 1941 as the seventeen-volume *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves*.

Boston Gas Company Photographs

John L. Burns Library

Boston College

http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/ulib/Burns/bgas.html

400 photographs

1882-1970; mostly between 1885 – 1910.

Search, browse

“The portraits of casual laborers, many recent immigrants, are particularly noteworthy as many of these individuals probably would not have otherwise had portraits taken (especially in their working attire and in the setting of their workplace). Overall, the photographs are an intriguing look at turn-of-the century Boston life.”

Boyd & Braas Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

http://content.lib.washington.edu/boyd_braas/index.html

43 photographs

1888-1893

Search, browse

Early Seattle, especially the waterfront and street scenes, Madrona and Leschi parks; Native American hop-pickers; and portraits of Seattle pioneers.

Buffalo History Works Photograph Archives

<http://bhw.buffnet.net/photograph/Welcome.html>

1877- 1940

70 photographs

Browse

Buffalo, New York.

By Popular Demand:

“Votes for Women” Suffrage Pictures 1850 –1920

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vfwhtml/vfwhome.html>

38 photographs

Search, browse

Portraits and demonstrations from the women’s suffrage movement.

California Missions

UCR/California Museum of Photography

<http://photo.ucr.edu/california/projects/missions/>

100 photographs

1895 - 1920

Browse

California Views

The Pat Hathaway Collection of Historical Photos

<http://www.caviews.com/>

50 photographs

1855-present

Search

Photographs of Monterey County, CA.

The Centennial Collection: Philadelphia 1876

The Free Library of Philadelphia

<http://libwww.library.phila.gov/CenCol/index.htm>

1283 photographs

Search

“The largest extant collection of photographs documenting the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Fairmount Park.”

Charles F. Gillette Photograph Collection

The Library of Virginia

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/gillette/>

892 photographs

1912-1950

Search

The images primarily depict Virginia houses, estates, gardens, and other landscape design projects. There are also many personal photographs of Gillette, Ellen Cogswell Gillette, and the various homes in which they lived.

China: Exploring the Interior 1903-1904

<http://www.chinaexhibit.org/>

49 photographs

Guided exhibit

A collection of photographs by R. Harvey Sargent, now part of a traveling exhibit, which capture the lifestyle of the rural Chinese in the wake of the Boxer Rebellion.

Christopher E. Cheyne Photograph Collection
The Hampton Public Library and The City of Hampton Historical Collection
Library of Virginia

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/cheyne/virtua-basic.html>

1400 photographs

1895-1940

Search

The images are particularly representative of downtown Hampton businesses: the seafood industry, particularly James H. Darling & Son, Oyster Packers; and the hotel and seaside resorts, particularly the first and second Chamberlain Hotels, Buckroe Beach, and the amusement park. Individual and family portraits include many of the prominent Hampton families and several images of Civil War veterans. There are a large number of images of Christopher Cheyne and his family.

City of Pullman Image Collection
Washington State University Libraries

<http://content.wsulibs.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/browseclient.exe>

234 photographs

1893 – 1972

Search, browse

Parades, buildings, floods, sports.

City of Vancouver Archives
Historical Photograph Collection

http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/ctyclerk/archives/webpubhtml/w_phinfo.htm

12,500 photographs

1860-1980

Search

Lumber, agriculture, fishing, mining, pulp and paper plants, oil well drilling, foundries, canneries, retail businesses, sawmills, shipping, shipbuilding, parades, sports, recreation, and people. Wartime Vancouver 1940-1945 images of women at work in factories, shipyards and other non-traditional areas, children in gas masks and military landing craft “storming” Kitsilano Beach in training exercises. Native Americans in British Columbia and Alberta.

Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society

Library of Congress American Memory Collections<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/nhihtml/cwnyhshome.html>

732 stereographs (Civil War Stereographs Collection)

80 photographs (“Photographs of the War of the Rebellion, Album No. 20” Collection)

1861 – 1865

Search, browse

These photograph collections are part of the larger Civil War Treasures from the New York Historical Society collection.

“No. 20 is of particular interest because it includes images representing African- American slaves during the Civil War.”

Creative Americans:

Portraits by Carl Van Vechten 1932 – 1964

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vvhtml/vvhome.html>

1,395 photographs

Search, browse

The bulk of the collection consists of portrait photographs of celebrities, including many figures from the Harlem Renaissance.

Daguerreotypes: 19th Century Photography

<http://www.geocities.com/~daguerreotype/>

195 images

Browse

1870-1890

Private page undergoing continual construction

Darius Kinsey Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/dkinsey/index.html>

120 photographs

1900-1940

Search, browse

Pacific Northwest logging & lumbering.

Delaware Public Archives Photograph Collections

<http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/index.htm>

400 photographs

1863 - 1950

Browse

Six small collections:

State Board of Health Photographs

State Highway Department Historic Photograph Collection

Jackson and Sharp Company: Car and Ship Builders 1863 – 1950

Captured in Time: The Cities and Towns of Delaware

Delaware in World War II Photograph Collection

Frank R. Zebley's Collection of Church Photographs: 1930 –1947

Denver Public Library

Western History/Genealogy Department Photograph Collection

<http://gowest.coalliance.org/>

80,000 photographs

1860 - 1970

Native Americans, pioneers, early railroads, mining, Denver and Colorado towns.

Digitorium Image Collections

University of Chicago Library

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/Digitorium/images.html>

1865-1885

Includes the Oriental Institute Photograph Archive, which consists of scenes from the Middle East: Egypt, Iran, Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Palestine (Israel), Syria, and Turkey.

Early Baseball Pictures

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/jrhtml/jrgmabt.html>

34 photographs

1860 – 1930

Browse

“Library of Congress staff selected this sampler of thirty-four images... from various files and collections in the Prints and Photographs Division. The factors that guided image selection included showing interesting games, some famous players, a variety of teams, different types of pictorial formats, and images with no copyright restrictions.”

East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia Image Archive

<http://www.gotricities.com/images/index.html?category=18>

35 photographs

1920 – 2001

Browse

Mostly people; images are submitted by viewers and may be sent to anyone via email directly from site.

Edward S. Curtis's The North American Indian:

Photographic Images

Library of Congress American Memory Collections<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/ienhtml/curthome.html>

2,226 images

1907 - 1930

Search, browse

“*The North American Indian* by Edward S. Curtis is one of the most significant and controversial representations of

traditional American Indian culture ever produced. Issued in a limited edition from 1907-1930, the publication continues to exert a major influence on the image of Indians in popular culture.”

Eric A. Hegg Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/EAHegg/index.html>

730 photographs

1897 – 1901

Search, browse

Documents the Klondike and Alaska gold rushes from. Includes depictions of frontier life in Dawson City, the Yukon Territory, Skagway, and Nome, Alaska.

Eugene Print Collection

Special Collections & University Archives

University of Oregon Libraries

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/speccoll/photo/epc/>

118 photographs

1880-1915

Search

Emphasis on Eugene and Springfield, Oregon.

The Evergreen State in Black and White

University Libraries, University of Washington

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/specialcoll/collections/evergreen.html>

20 photographs

1890 – 1960

Guided exhibit

Life in Washington: people, transportation, and buildings.

Fairfax County Public Library Photograph Collections

Library of Virginia

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/fairfax/>

500 photographs

1863-1958

Search, browse

Features railroad and farm scenes.

Florida Photographic Collection

<http://www.dos.state.fl.us/fpc/>

80,000 photographs

1880-present

Covering all aspects of Florida life.

Fort Collins Public Library Historic Database

http://library.ci.fort-collins.co.us/archive/searches/ph_search_opns.htm

7,447 photographs

1880-1970

Search, browse

People, buildings, and animals in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Frank LaRoche Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/FLaRoche/index.html>

310 photographs

1888-1910

Search, browse

Scenes of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, Seattle, Washington State, Alaska, Western United States, and Canada.

Frank S. Matsura Image Collection

Washington State University Library

<http://content.wsulibs.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/browseclient.exe>

1905 - 1920

1,886 photographs

Search, browse

Many facets of pioneer life in the Okanogan country, from work to entertainment.

**George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film
Photography Collections Online**

<http://www.geh.org/>

100,000 photographs

1839 – present

Search

Selections from the museum archive.

George Ritchey Collection

Washington State University Libraries

<http://content.wsulibs.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/browseclient.exe>

62 photographs

1897 - 1910

Search, browse

Scenes from Pullman, Washington.

Harriman Alaska Expedition of 1899

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/EHarriman/index.html>

253 photographs

Search, browse

Includes images of Alaskan Native Americans and their villages, scenic views of the coastline, glaciers and Alaskan towns.

History of the American West 1860-1920

Photographs from the Collection of the Denver Public Library

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/codhtml/hawphome.html>

30,000+ photographs

Search, browse

All images are in the public domain, to the best of the archivists' knowledge. Prints available.

“[These photographs] illustrate Colorado towns and landscape, document the place of mining in the history of Colorado and the West, and show the lives of Native Americans from more than forty tribes living west of the Mississippi River.

Also included are World War II photographs of the 10th Mountain Division, ski troops based in Colorado who saw action in Italy.”

Hulton|Archive

<http://www.hultongetty.com>

127,726 photographs prior to 1945. 250,000 images total

Mostly 20th century

Among other subjects, includes: celebrities, war, and advertisements. Very varied collection.

Images from the History of Medicine

National Library of Medicine

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>

1800's – 1900's

Not searchable by image type; however, at least 316 photographs in a collection of 80,000+ digitized images of artifacts.
Search, browse

Images of African-Americans from the 19th Century

New York Public Library

http://digital.nypl.org/schomburg/images_aa19/

550 photographs

Search, Browse

Photographs have been sorted into the following categories: Civil War, cultural expression, education, family, genre, labor, organizations & institutions, politics, portraits (men, women, children, & groups), Reconstruction, religion, slavery, and social life & customs.

Industries and Occupations Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/industries/index.html>

613 photographs

1880-1950

Search, browse

Documents the workers of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

James Patrick Lee Photographs
University of Washington Libraries
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/JPLEE/index.html>

269 photographs
1904-1940

Search, browse

Depicts regrading projects, municipal services, and local neighborhood architecture, as well as scenes from the Great Depression including “Hooverville” and labor rallies of the unemployed.

Japanese-American Relocation Digital Archive
University of Southern California
<http://library.usc.edu/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/55/30070>

222 photographs
1941-1946

Search

Documents the relocation of Japanese-Americans in California. Many of the photographs show daily life in the camps. Many of these photographs were originally published in the Los Angeles Examiner.

John N. Cobb Photographs
University of Washington Libraries
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/jcobb/index.html>

340 photographs
1890 - 1920

Search

“John N. Cobb, founder of the University of Washington College of Fisheries, was a photographer in his own right. He specialized in the documentation of fisheries in the United States, especially those in Alaska and the Pacific Coast. Among the photographs included in this digital collection are images of salmon, halibut and cod fisheries along the West Coast, whaling activities in Alaska, clamming and oystering industries in Washington, and images reflecting the first 6 or 7 years of the University of Washington College of Fisheries. Also included are photos of cities and landscapes from Cobb’s travels.”

Kodak: The Endurance

<http://www.kodak.com/US/en/corp/features/endurance/>

30 photographs

1914-1916

Guided exhibit

An ill-fated expedition to Antarctica. This site features very complex and sophisticated design.

Korean-American Digital Archive

University of Southern California

<http://library.usc.edu/uhtbin/cgiirsi/0/0/55/35>

1,800 photographs

1903-1965

Documents the Korean American community during the period of resistance to Japanese rule in Korea. Also features over 11,000 pages of other documents.

Lake Union Improvement Company Photograph Album

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/LakeUnion/index.html>

24 photographs

1891

Search, browse

Photographs of Seattle by Frank La Roche, including views of the Elliot Bay waterfront, Lake Union, Lake Washington, and downtown Seattle street scenes.

Lee Picket Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/Pickettweb/index.html>

600 photographs

1900-1950

Search, browse

Scenes from Snohomish, King and Chelan Counties in Washington State from the early 1900s to the 1940s. These include the towns and people of Index, Gold Bar, Scenic, and Sultan.

Lewis Wickes Hine:

The Construction of the Empire State Building

New York Public Library

<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/spe/art/photo/hinex/empire/empire.html>

37 photographs

Lewis Wickes Hine's "Work Portraits" 1920-1939

New York Public Library

<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/spe/art/photo/hinex/workport/work1.html>

19 photographs

Northeast region.

Living Landscapes: Historic Photographs

<http://royal.okanagan.bc.ca/histphoto/>

A joint project of Royal British Columbia Museum and Okanagan University College

Primarily features the Thompson/Okanagan region of British Columbia.

Los Angeles Public Library Photo Database

http://catalog.lapl.org/collection_info.html

35,000 photographs

1860 to present

Search, browse

A huge collection representing life in Southern California and the Los Angeles Area.

Marriott Library

University of Utah

Photograph Archives: Photograph Exhibits

<http://www.lib.utah.edu/spc/photo/exhibits.html>

150 photographs

1850 – present

Guided exhibits; browse

Several small exhibits: University of Utah Sesquicentennial, Utah Inter-Urban Railway History, Japanese-American Internment Camps during WWII, Images of Glen Canyon, A Thumbnail Sketch from Utah History, Celebrations on Utah's Statehood, Scenes of Life in Utah Circa 1896, A Photo History of Skiing in Utah, Bonneville Salt Flats/Utah Motorsports, and Working Together: A Utah Portfolio.

Merriam Library Historic Photographs

California State University, Chico

<http://www.csuchico.edu/lbib/spc/netpages/hisphotos.html>

2900 photographs

Search, browse

1800's – 1900's

Northeastern California.

NARA Archival Information Locator

National Archives and Records Administration

<http://www.nara.gov/nara/searchnail.html>

57,688 photographs

1860 - present

Search

Life in the United States of America; including images of government activities.

"NAIL is a **prototype** system, [and therefore] it contains descriptions of only a small fraction of the National Archives' holdings."

Naval Historical Center

Online Library of Selected Images

<http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/org11-2.htm>

10,000+ photographs

1860 - 1945

Search, browse

U.S. Navy, civilian, and foreign ships, events, & people.

New York, NY, Ellis Island:

Immigration, 1900 – 1920

University of California, Riverside

Keystone-Mast Collection, California Museum of Photography

http://cmp1.ucr.edu/exhibitions/immigration_id.html

24 photographs

Browse

“These 3D images would have been sold to schools and libraries as well as more wealthy families as educational sets. It is interesting to speculate about how a teacher would have discussed immigration around 1905 with young school children. It is also interesting to note what is missing — a growing sense of racism and nationalism at the turn-of-the-century as seen in the extension of the Chinese Exclusion Act and other statutory actions. Perhaps it is useful to consider the social and political issues that surround these stereoscopic photographs from the early 1900s to better understand the attitudes of nationalism and anti-immigration emerging toward the end of the 20th century?”

Nineteenth Century Images of Albinism

<http://members.optusnet.com.au/~msafier/albinism/c19albinos.html>

28 images

1870 – 1900

Browse

Albino women, men, and children.

The Northern Great Plains 1880 – 1920

Photographs from the Fred Hultstrand and F.A. Pazandak Photograph Collections

Institute for Regional Studies at North Dakota State University

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ndahtml/ngphome.html>

900 photographs

Search, browse

Rural and small-town life: people, sod homes, farming, one-room schools.

Oregon State University Archives

Online Exhibits

<http://www.orst.edu/Dept/archives/exhibits/index.html>

Guided exhibits

1894 - present

A number of small exhibits including:

90 Years of Learning: OSU in Central Oregon, 1911 – 2001

Linus Pauling: A Centenary Exhibit

Music, Markets, & Milestones: 75 Years of KOAC Radio

George W. Peavy: Friend of Man, Forester of the West 1869 – 1951

The Photographs of John Garman

OSU Under Construction: 1894 – 1971

Nine Decades of Beaver Nines: OSU Baseball, 1907 – 1997

OSU Archives' Sampler of Historical Images

PastPix

<http://www.pastpix.com/default.html>

17,000+ photographs

1850 –1950

Search

The British Isles, armed forces, education, entertainment, arts, industry, people, recreation, royalty, science, sports.

Performing Arts in America 1875-1923

New York Public Library

<http://digital.nypl.org/photo.htm>

1335 photographs, in a collection of 16,000+ images of artifacts such as sheet music, promotional materials, and newspaper clippings.

Search, browse

Philadelphia Historical Digital Image Library

<http://jeffline.tju.edu/archives/phdil/>

3,500 images (mostly photographs)

1850-present

Search, browse

Images of Philadelphia, including many medical subjects. Find here photographs of the Byberry Hospital for Mental Diseases before and after the State of Pennsylvania took control.

Picturing the Century

One Hundred Years of Photography from the National Archives

http://www.nara.gov/exhall/picturing_the_century/

70 photographs

1900 – 2000

Browse

Divided into six chronologically sequential galleries.

Pike's Peak Library District

Digital Photograph Archive

<http://library.ppld.org/SpecialCollections/Project/default.asp>

1966 photographs

1870 – present

Search, browse

Features Colorado Springs, the Pikes Peak region, Colorado, the Rocky Mountain West, and the Southwest.

Portage County WI Historical Society Photo Collection

<http://library.uwsp.edu/PCHS/about.htm>

200 photographs

Search

Mostly 1880-1920

Prairie Settlement:

Nebraska Photographs and Family Letters

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/nbhihtml/pshome.html>

3,500 photographs

1886 – 1912

Search, browse

Photograph portion of this site consists of the Solomon D. Butcher Photograph Collection. Primarily scenes of home-steading life.

Prints and Photographs Online Catalog

Library of Congress

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/pp/pphome.html>

Untold number of photographs, thousands added every month.

1850 – present

These photograph collections, not featured in the American Memory series, may be accessed through this Web site. Some images are available only as thumbnails; some link to larger files. The collections include:

African-American Photographs Assembled for 1900 Paris Exposition, 475 photographs.

Bain Collection, 940 photographs. Emphasis on New York City, 1900-1931.

Fenton Crimean War Photographs, 263 photographs. 1855.

Genthe Collection, 15,600 negatives and 1,200 autochromes, lantern slides, and transparencies. 1896-1942. Includes studio portraits, dancers, San Francisco Chinatown scenes, and travel photos in the U.S. and abroad.

Grabill Collection, 188 photographs. Ca. 1888-1891. Frontier life in Colorado, South Dakota, and Wyoming, including the work of cowboys and miners, and the interactions between Native Americans and early white settlers.

Lomax Collection, 400 photographs. 1934 – 1950. Snapshots documenting sound recording expeditions carried out for the Archive of American Folk Song, including African American and Latino musicians, singers, and dancers, primarily in the southern United States and the Bahamas.

Photochrom Prints, 1,800 photographs. Ca. 1890 - 1905. People, architecture and sites in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Prokudin-Gorskii Collection, 3,400 photographs. 1909 - 1915. Photographic survey of the Russian Empire, showing people, religious architecture, historic sites, industry and agriculture, public works construction, water and railway transportation routes, villages and cities.

Van Vechten Collection, 1,400 photographs. 1932-1964. Portraits of celebrities, especially artists, entertainers, and authors.

Prosch Seattle Views Album

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/seaprosch/index.html>

169 photographs

1851-1906

Search, browse

Early Seattle and vicinity.

Prosch Washington Views Album
University of Washington Libraries
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/washprosch/index.html>
101 photographs
1858-1903
Search, browse
Eastern Washington, especially Chelan, and Seattle Fire of 1889.

Radford Photograph Collection
Radford Public Library
The Library of Virginia
<http://eagle.vsla.edu/radford/>
228 photographs
1912 – 1915
Search
Radford, Virginia: portraits, landscapes, snapshots.

Rainier National Park Mountain-Glacier Wonderland Photograph Album
University of Washington Libraries
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/rainierglacier/index.html>
51 photographs
Ca. 1925
Search, browse
From a promotional album for Mount Rainier National Park depicting tourist facilities, scenic views of the mountain and surrounding parkland, and recreational activities including mountaineering.

Roanoke County Local History Photographs
Roanoke County Public Library
Library of Virginia
<http://eagle.vsla.edu/roanoke/>
300 photographs
1880 – 1970
People, structures, educational institutions, religious facilities, commercial buildings and activities, civic life, geographical features, and community events.

Salem Public Library Historic Photograph Collections

<http://photos.salemhistory.org/>

10,000+ photographs

1850-1960

Search, browse

Special emphasis on photographs of Salem, Oregon, and surrounding areas; however, also contains the Oregon State Archives collection which includes photographs from throughout the state.

San Francisco After the '06

UCR/California Museum of Photography

<http://photo.ucr.edu/california/projects/sf1906/>

1906

50 photographs

Guided exhibit

1906 San Francisco earthquake

Also offers alternate 3-D versions of images: original stereograms, and those viewable with 3-D (red/blue) glasses.

San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection

Daniel E. Koshland San Francisco History Center

San Francisco Public Library

<http://sfpl4.sfpl.org/search.html>

30,000 photographs

1850 – present

Search, browse

People, transportation, earthquakes, recreation, education, hospitals, businesses, sports, fairs.

Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection

<http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~public/phot1.htm>

40,000 photographs

1914 – present

Search, browse

Municipal projects, construction, people, buildings.

Seattle Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/neighborhoods/index.html>

1703 images

1850-1940

Search, browse

Features images from many of Seattle's well-known neighborhoods such as Fremont, Ballard, West Seattle and the Capitol Hill District. Included are images of recreation and entertainment, businesses, stores and restaurants, residential street scenes, and transportation.

"Because we will be on occasion adding new images to the digital collection, the database will be updated periodically. In addition, our cataloging staff will continue to supplement the metadata attached to each image as new research alters the descriptive records."

Selected Civil War Photographs

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwphome.html>

1,118 photographs

1861 – 1865

Search, browse

Military personnel, preparations for battle, battle consequences, portraits of both Confederate and Union officers, and a selection of enlisted men. Features additional article, "Does the Camera Ever Lie?" Answer: yes.

Small Town America

Stereoscopic Views from the Robert Dennis Collection

New York Public Library

American Memory Collections, Library of Congress

<http://digital.nypl.org/stereoviews/>

12,000+ photographs

Search, browse

New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, 1850-1910.

"In addition to showing buildings and street scenes in cities, towns, and villages the photographs show farming, industry, transportation, homes, businesses, local celebrations, natural disasters, people, and costumes."

Social Issues Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/Socialweb/index.html>

422 photographs

1870-1945

Search, browse

Historical images from Western United States and the Pacific Northwest region covering political and social topics such as women's issues, labor and government, utopian colonies and ethnic groups with special emphasis on the Japanese-American internment camps in the Northwest during World War II.

South Carolina Historical Society Photographs Online

<http://www.schistory.org/library/catalogs/pbrowse.html>

200 photographs

1860 – 1950

Search, browse

Buildings, people, businesses.

The South Texas Border, 1900 – 1920

Photographs from the Robert Runyon Collection

The General Libraries at the University of Texas at Austin

Library of Congress American Memory Collection

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/txuhtml/runyhome.html>

8,000 photographs

Search, browse

History and development of South Texas and the border, including the Mexican Revolution, the U.S. military presence at Fort Brown and along the border prior to and during World War I, and the growth and development of the Rio Grande Valley.

Stereocard Collection

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/Stereoweb/index.html>

171 photographs

Ca. 1870-1890

Search, browse

Landscape and documentary views. Includes views of Southeast Asia and Pacific Northwest.

“Suffering Under a Great Injustice”

Ansel Adams’s Photographs of Japanese-American Internment at Manzanar.

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aamhtml/aamhome.html>

209 photographs

1943

Search, browse

The Manzanar War Relocation Center in California and the Japanese-Americans interned there during World War II.

Suffolk Public Library System

Hamblin Studio Photograph Collection

Library of Virginia

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/hamblin/>

1,365 photographs

1909 – 1979 (numerous images lack dates, however)

Studio portraits, sports teams, fraternal organizations, and musical, school, and church groups. Portraits of individuals associated with business, commerce, manufacturing, education, government, and religion. Also public utilities, medical facilities, businesses, churches, community events, local unions, manufacturing plants, such as Planter’s Peanuts, and schools, including black private schools, segregated public schools, and integrated public schools

Tacoma Public Library Photography Archive

<http://search.tpl.lib.wa.us/images/>

23,719 photographs

1873 - 1990

Search

Tacoma, Washington; and surrounding areas.

Taking the Long View:

Panoramic Photographs 1851 – 1991

Library of Congress American Memory Collections

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pnhtml/pnhome.html>

4,000 photographs

Search, browse

Cityscapes; landscapes; agricultural life; beauty contests; disasters; engineering work such as bridges, canals and dams; fairs and expositions; military and naval activities, especially during World War I; the oil industry; schools and college campuses, sports, and transportation.

Tazewell County Photographs

Library of Virginia

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/tazewell/>

3,900 photographs

1851-1990

Studio portraits as well as people in informal settings; also, civic, agricultural, commercial, educational, recreational, and religious life.

Through Open Eyes:

95 Years of Roslyn’s Black Mining History

Ellensburg Public Library

<http://epl.eburg.com/roslyn.html>

93 photographs

1889 - 1980

Search, browse

African-American work and life in Roslyn, Washington.

Timeframes

The Alexander Turnbull Library

National Library of New Zealand

http://timeframes1.natlib.govt.nz/about_timeframes.html

20,000+ “heritage images,” including photographs

Search, browse

Tollman and Canaris Collection

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/tollman/index.html>

61 photographs

1897

Search, browse

Salmon fishing industry on southern Washington coast and lower Columbia River.

**Touring Turn-of-the-Century America:
Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company 1880-1920
American Memory Collections, Library of Congress
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/detroit/dethome.html>**

25,000+ photographs
Search, browse

“This collection of photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company Collection includes over 25,000 glass negatives and transparencies as well as about 300 color photolithograph prints, mostly of the eastern United States. The collection includes the work of a number of photographers, one of whom was the well-known photographer William Henry Jackson.

“A small group within the larger collection includes about 900 Mammoth Plate Photographs taken by William Henry Jackson along several railroad lines in the United States and Mexico in the 1880s and 1890s. The group also includes views of California, Wyoming and the Canadian Rockies.”

**Tulsa Race Riot Photographs
McFarlin Library, University of Tulsa
http://www.lib.utulsa.edu/Speccoll/tulsa_race_riot.htm**

97 photographs
1921

Browse

Photographs showing African-American neighborhood on fire and burnt to the ground; National Guard machine gun crews called in; violence and death.

Warning from Web site:

PLEASE NOTE: Although the images included on the following pages document an historical event, they may not be suitable for viewing by all age groups. Some of the pages contain graphic images that could be disturbing.

**U.S. Army Signal Corps Photograph Collection
Library of Virginia**

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/signal.corps/>

3,500 photographs
1942 – 1946

Search, browse

From the Virginia Hampton Roads Embarkation Series. Preparation and loading of war materials, the activities of the U.S. Quartermaster Corps, U.S. military personnel arriving and departing through the ports of Hampton Roads, civilian employees, Red Cross workers, wounded personnel, entertainers, animals, and German and Italian prisoners of war who came through these ports during World War II.

Virginia Tech Imagebase: Historical Photograph Collection

<http://imagebase.lib.vt.edu/browse.php>

1,023 photographs
1878- present

Search, browse

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University people, places, events, and local area.

**Washington As It Was:
Photographs by Theodor Horydczak, 1923 – 1959**

Library of Congress American Memory Collections
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/thchtml/thhome.html>

14,350 photographs

Search, browse

Washington, D.C. events and buildings.

Waynesboro Public Library Photograph Collection

Library of Virginia

<http://eagle.vsla.edu/waynesboro/>

1,500 photographs

1890 - present

Waynesboro, Staunton, and Harrisonburg and the surrounding counties of Augusta, Rockingham, and Rockbridge. There are also views of Albemarle, Bath, and Nelson counties, Charlottesville, and Winchester. Businesses, industrial concerns, and government facilities; schools, churches, and cemeteries; streets and residences; individuals, groups, and family documents; and events, geographical features, and natural disasters.

Wilhelm Hester Photographs

University of Washington Libraries

<http://content.lib.washington.edu/Whester/index.html>

345 photographs

1893-1906

Search, browse

“Between 1893 and 1906 Wilhelm Hester documented both the maritime activities of the Puget Sound Region and of his time spent in Alaska during the gold rush of 1898. He left a remarkable collection of early photos of Nome, Alaska and the surrounding region and a valuable record for the history of ships and shipping in Washington State.”

William Delbert Barkhuff Image Collection
Washington State University Libraries
<http://content.wsulibs.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/browseclient.exe>

270 photographs

1892 – 1921

Search, browse

Education, ranches, sports, portraits of people in Colfax, Colton, Wawawai, and Pullman, Washington.

William E. Meed Photographs
University of Washington Libraries
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/Wmeed/index.html>

233 photographs

1898-1907

Search, browse

The Yukon Territory, Canada, and portions of Alaska and British Columbia, during the Klondike Gold Rush.

William F. Boyd Photograph Album
University of Washington Libraries
<http://content.lib.washington.edu/BoydAlbum/index.html>

43 photographs

1888-1993

Search, browse

Early Seattle, particularly scenes of the aftermath of the Great Seattle Fire of June 6, 1889, and Washington State.

William P. Gottlieb Photographs from the Golden Age of Jazz
Library of Congress American Memory Collections
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/wghtml/wghome.html>

1,600 photographs

1938 – 1948

Search, browse

Jazz scene, primarily New York City and Washington D.C. Includes celebrated artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Earl Hines, Thelonious Monk, Stan Kenton, Ray McKinley, Benny Goodman, Coleman Hawkins, and Benny Carter.

Yad Vashem

From Our Photo Archives Collection

http://www.yad-vashem.org.il/exhibitions/index_exhibitions.html

60 photographs

1935 – 1961

Browse

Photographs of European Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust of World War II.

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More Places to Look for Historical Photographs Online

The Amazing Picture Machine

North Central Regional Educational Laboratory

<http://www.ncrtec.org/picture.htm>

Image search engine.

American Museum of Photography

<http://www.photographymuseum.com/>

Rotating exhibits

The Archive™

<http://www.webcoast.com/thearchive/>

Commercial site with 4,000 images, including historical photographs.

Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE Image Finder

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/ImageFinder/#LOC>

Search many online image databases from one site!

See also:

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Collections/otherimage.html>

Beverly Berks Couture Collection

<http://www.camrax.com/pages/birks0.htm>

Photographs of historical fashions.

Boston Online Historic Photo Links

<http://www.boston-online.com/Photos/Historic/>

The Burns Archive

<http://www.burnsarchive.com/index.html>

Commercial site with 700,000 historic photographs in its collection.

Collected Visions Resources

<http://cvisions.cat.nyu.edu/biblio/links.html>

Links to sites creating collective memory on the Web

Corbis

<http://www.corbis.com/>

Major commercial image source.

Covello & Covello

<http://www.covellocovello.com/hist/>

Commercial site: maintains archive of Santa Cruz CA images dating from 1938.

Free Stock Photos: History Photos

<http://free-stock-photos.com/historic.html>

Google Image Search

<http://www.google.com>

Search engines like Google are always worth a try!

H-GIG Historical Photographs Online

<http://horus.ucr.edu/hist-art/photo.html>

Last updated in 1998, but still links to many interesting sites.

Japanese Old Photographs in Bakumatsu-Meiji Period

Nagasaki University

<http://oldphoto.lb.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/unive/>

London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Archive Photo Galleries

<http://www.barking-dagenham.gov.uk/4-heritage/archive-photo-ga/photo-gallery-menu.html>

Themed galleries.

memoryPROJECTS

http://www.t0.or.at/~memoryproject/index_e.htm

A German site with English translation.

“Photographs which can be found in drawers, garrets and shoe-boxes are in the most cases the basic materials for the projects of memoryPROJECTS. A photographic universe of the private histories and biographies. Collecting narratives in context with the pictures the silent world of anonymous photographs gets back the history narrated by the collective.”

The Michigan Catalog

http://www.upbiz.com/catalogs/superiorview/superior_view.html

Commercial site featuring over 10,000 images from 1860 – 1990.

Photographic Resources on the World Wide Web

Compiled by James C. Anderson

University of Louisville Photographic Archives

<http://www.louisville.edu/library/ekstrom/special/photos.html>

Repositories of Primary Sources

<http://www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

A listing of over 4900 websites describing holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs, and other primary sources for the research scholar.

Searchable Genealogy Databases on the World Wide Web

<http://www.lovitt-genealogy.com/~lovitt/state1.htm>

A few image links here.

Snapshot Semiotics

<http://www.southwestern.edu/~bednarb/snapshotsemiotics/index.html>

“A Visual Cultural Study of Snapshot Photography, Landscape, and Tourism in the Contemporary American West”

Tom Philo Photography Links

<http://www.taphilo.com/photo/photosources.shtml>

Image sources, photo associations, and more.

Web Sites for Genealogists: Pictorial Databases

<http://www.coraweb.com.au/pics.htm>

Australian focus.