



Online Archive of California



Peer Directly into History

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org>

What is the OAC?

A service of the California Digital Library (CDL) at the University of California, the Online Archive of California (OAC) contains primary source materials such as manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, and works of art.

Available for students, teachers, and researchers, the OAC provides free online access to information previously available only by traveling to archives, libraries, museums and similar institutions across California.

More than 8,000 separate inventories of material in California's archives, libraries, and museums, over 150,000 digital images, and over 50,000 pages of documents, letters and oral histories are in the OAC. Contributions are from more than 90 institutions, ranging from University of California and California State University campuses to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Getty Museum, and numerous public libraries and historical societies.

Who can use the OAC?

- K-12 students looking for images, for example, about California history and geography such as the Gold Rush, Yosemite or political cartoons
- College students and researchers needing to use primary source materials, about topics such as the Japanese American relocation during World War II or the Free Speech Movement
- Anyone looking for art and museum works, such as Hans Hoffmann art from the Berkeley Art Museum or old master prints from the Hammer Museum
- Librarians and archivists who collect, manage, track, and direct people to California's cultural heritage materials

We select and organize, you search and discover

Offering easy-to-use search and viewing tools, the OAC organizes material into thematic and institutional collections, including:

- California's history: the Cal Heritage Collection
<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/CalHeritage/>
- California's ethnic diversity: California Cultures
<http://calcultures.cdlib.org/>
- Rare photographic formats: Cased Photographs
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/casedphotos/project.html>
- Museum objects: Museums and the Online Archive of California (MOAC)
<http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/moac>

Historical events:

- Free Speech Movement
<http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/FSM/>
- Japanese American Relocation Digital Archives (JARDA)
<http://jarda.cdlib.org/>

Support for contributing institutions

A number of tools and services are featured in the online toolkit (<http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/oac/toolkit/>). All are freely available to contributing members:

Finding aid templates

Use these online forms to create collection inventories in the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard for finding aids.

voroEAD

This is a new system for submitting, previewing, processing, and storing finding aids in the OAC.

Mentoring program

All new OAC contributing members are paired with a mentor — a volunteer experienced with OAC best practice guidelines for encoding finding aids and preparing digital content.

Become a contributor

To become a member, see the “Especially for Contributing Members” page:
<http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/oac/>

Sponsors

The California Digital Library at the University of California hosts and manages the OAC, with the generous support of grants from the California State Library LSTA Grant program, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the Library of Congress American Memory Program.

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