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Final Narrative Report
LSTA Form 9

2009 AUG -4 PM 1:07

This report is due thirty (30) days after the completion date of the grant period, on July 31. Note that failure to submit this report within the timelines of the grant program could jeopardize receipt of the final 10% grant payment. Mail a total of **THREE** copies of the report, one with original signature. Send to:

California State Library
Budget Office - LSTA
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

Date 7/28/2009

1. Grant Award ID # 40-7004

2. Project Title LOCAL HISTORY DIGITAL RESOURCES PROJECT (LHDRP)

3. FY 2008/09

4. Total project period July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

5. Grantee ESCONDIDO PUBLIC LIBRARY PIONEER ROOM

6. Address 247 SOUTH KALMIA STREET, ESCONDIDO, CA 92025

7. Contact HELENE D. IDELS 8. Telephone/E-mail 760-839-4612

9. Needs.

As a California historic institution, it was the desire of the Escondido Public Library's Pioneer Room archive to receive staff training in state-of-the-art digital technology and the process of digitization of historical materials due to our desire to provide a more enriched means of access to our local history visual materials on the local and statewide level by making our collections available through various online resources thus addressing more fully the information needs of our many communities.

Applicant Jurisdiction: Escondido Public Library Pioneer Room

Project Title: Local History Digital Resources Project

10. Project abstract.

We became aware of the Local History Digital Resources Project (LHDRP) and how it sought to address the information needs of the community by providing a "solution in a box" for libraries. We saw that the package included training, image processing services, metadata creation tools, preservation services and a small grant award for collection development and other purchases related to the program. We saw this as an opportunity to start working with at least one of our many extensive photograph collections.

We hoped to get a sample amount of the collection scanned and cataloged thus creating the momentum to continue forward with the remainder of the collection. It was our desire to have staff, interns, and volunteers trained in the use of the technology in order to proceed on our own once the grant assistance ended.

We carefully selected 200 images from the collection of a local newspaper reporter that we felt were relevant to Escondido and San Diego County history. We partnered with the Califa Library Group and the University of California, California Digital Library through the duration of the project. During the course of the grant year we attended several mandatory training events. We also kept our support groups and administrators apprised of our progress.

As a result of this project we generated interest in preserving the local history of our community. We were able to provide a reminder that libraries and archives in California collect a wide range of materials and historic photographs that illustrate the diverse nature of our citizenry as well as recording many of the tremendous changes that have taken place in our communities.

We intend to continue to seek our local community involvement in project development and implementation as we attempt to address the need for more libraries and archives to be conversant with the process of digitization of historical materials while at the same time creating additional resources that will be available both locally and statewide. We understand the need for and benefits of a standardized system for the storage and description of digital objects along with a reliable and long term means of access to these resources. We hope to achieve this through the use of search engines such as the Online Archive of California as a means of integrating disparate collections throughout the State thus providing end users with a single statewide access point to digital, preservation-quality, California-based primary resources. With this in mind, our goal is to maintain the relationships we have established as we continue with the digital processing of our historic collections.

Applicant Jurisdiction: Escondido Public Library Pioneer Room

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11. Project accomplishments.

We are pleased to say that we have benefited greatly by having access to information and training to support digitization projects. We also now have an additional access point to our digital objects as well as persistent access to those digital objects through storage in the CDL digital preservation repository and standardized digital objects that can potentially be repurposed for local access needs such as through our library catalog and website.

By making at least this scanned portion of this collection and its accompanying metadata searchable and available we are providing a great service to researchers. It also aids the staff in searching our collection when we are assisting our patrons. We have already seen a noticeable improvement in the service we are able to provide. Our plan of service includes training other staff on the creation of digital objects (scanning), establishing local practices for the creation of descriptive metadata, and planning migration from the digital asset management tool.

We made our community aware of this project through articles in local papers and library newsletters. In addition, there was a three-day workshop in digital management held in San Diego that we attended at which we presented a poster session demonstration of the LHDRP project. Several of the other workshop participants were very eager to know more about the project and how they could get involved for their organizations. All of those involved in the project (community partner, library administrators, etc) have been very pleased with how we conducted every aspect of the project. There is much greater awareness within the community regarding the Pioneer Room and the valuable historic material in our diverse collection. We anticipate further involvement from our support groups who wish to see this project continued into the future. This level of interest will add to our ongoing accomplishments with such meaningful projects.

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12. Subjective evaluation.

In my roll as the contact person overseeing this project I saw some successes and challenges. At times the process of collecting the metadata and providing the instructions for the scanning of the images became a bit confusing. We felt frustrated at times with communications as we attempted to convey questions and receive understandable answers. However, we received valuable support from the LSTA staff and Adrian Turner, in particular, was of great help to us as he patiently addressed all of our concerns whether through the workshops, teleconferences, or various email exchanges - for which we are very thankful. We are also very grateful for the financial assistance that the grant provided in covering related expenses incurred in the course of conducting the project and as it gave us the opportunity to attend additional educational workshops and to make purchases for much needed archival supplies for the continued processing of our photographic and visual collections.

13. Project continuation.

We are currently in communications for extending our CONTENTdm subscription. We will be seeking assistance from the Friends of the Pioneer Room support group to help offset the expenses for this service. Based on the availability of staff, interns, and volunteers, we will create an estimated timeline for sorting, organizing, researching, and delving through the remainder of this current collection that we have been working with. We look forward to continuing this process with several of our other historic collections.

14. Signature/Date

 7/28/2009

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