



## Collection Development Case Studies

Web archiving collection development goals will vary from institution to institution and will shape approaches to project implementation. To date, there are few models for public library web archiving; those examples will emerge from Archive-It's *Community Webs* Archiving Project. In the interim, recent community history digitization projects offer instructive models for web archiving that can be adapted in relation to local library goals.

Each case study is discussed in more detail in the following resource:

Schull, Diantha D. [Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections](https://archivesalive.net/). ALA Editions. 2015. <https://archivesalive.net/>

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### Sample Goal:

Ensure that the library's archives and digital collections are inclusive, with equitable representation of the histories, experiences and contributions of all residents.

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### [Puerto Rican Community Archives](#) / Newark (NJ) Public Library

The Puerto Rican Community Archives was officially created in 2006 as an initiative of the Newark Public Library and the Friends of the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center. It reflects the long-standing commitment of Newark Public Library to provide information and services to the Latino community across New Jersey, which, since the 1990s, has been the state's largest minority group. The project was sparked by the library's efforts to create an exhibit on the history of the state's annual Puerto Rican Day parade; there was a lack of authentic documentation of the parade's history and meaning in their holdings. Working with a history professor at Rutgers University, the library conducted a systematic survey of historical records – their scope, significance and condition – and created a network of contacts, allies and

potential history contributors all across the state. The research underscored the extent of collections of archival value and their need for preservation and organization. With grant funding and extensive community involvement Newark Public Library created an official archive, with professional staff, documenting the histories of organizations, families and individuals from Puerto Rican communities throughout New Jersey. A complementary initiative, the Latino Oral History Collection, is part of the archives' Digital Collection. Public programming related to the collections is a key strategy for continued collection development. The Puerto Rican Community Archives reflects the importance of community participation in archival development, including ongoing contributions of archival materials and strong public support.

Carter, Barry. *Newark archivist revives lost history of Puerto Rican riots*. Newark Star-Ledger. March 2016.

[http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2016/03/newark\\_archivist\\_revives\\_lost\\_history\\_of\\_puerto\\_ri.html](http://www.nj.com/essex/index.ssf/2016/03/newark_archivist_revives_lost_history_of_puerto_ri.html)

*Newark '74: Remembering the Puerto Rican Riots – An Unexamined History*. Post on the New Jersey Historical Commission's Blog H-New Jersey discusses an exhibition and events drawn from the Puerto Rican Community Archive.

<https://networks.h-net.org/node/14785/discussions/52130/gsl-special-article-“newark-’74-remembering-puerto-rican-riots—>

Schull, Diantha D. Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections. ALA Editions. 2015. Pp. 48-51.

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### **Forced Migration Photovoice Project / Northside Neighborhood History Collection at the Sulzer Regional Library / Special Collections Department of the Chicago (IL) Public Library**

The Neighborhood History Collection, a long-standing community archive, is expanding as new waves of Chicagoans contribute their memories and documents. To encourage contributions from newcomers, Archivist July Lynch is using a process known as “photovoice” that allows participants to learn about photography and document their lives through images and stories. In 2014 she worked with a local center for survivors of torture and services for refugees to recruit nine individuals who had been forced to migrate. She invited them to tell stories of their impressions of Chicago and provide them with cameras to capture images that reflect their life in the city. The group met weekly to share their stories. Each participant donated one image to the Neighborhood History Collection, along with an accompanying description. These images were

included in a library exhibition and formed the basis for a new collection concerning new residents affected by forced migration. The goal of the project was not only to expand the History Collection but also to give voice to new members of the community.

*Photovoice Exhibit at Sulzer Regional Library Explores Stories of Refugees, Asylum Seekers.*  
April 18, 2014.

Schull, Diantha D. Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections. ALA Editions. 2015. pp. 210-212.

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### Sample Goal:

Ensure that the library's archives and digital collections are current, reflecting significant events, issues and changes in local neighborhoods.

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### Waldo Canyon Fire Collection / Special Collections Division / Pikes Peak (CO) Library District

The Pikes Peak Library District's Special Collections is the primary repository of historical materials for the Pikes Peak / Colorado Springs region of Colorado. In 2012 a devastating fire occurred that took two lives and destroyed 347 area homes. Special Collections staff immediately took on the task of documenting the impact of the event by conducting recorded oral interviews with residents and first responders, commissioning photographs, and collecting official reports, press releases, ephemeral items, videos, photographs *and websites*. Many of the items were "born digital", requiring that Special Collections staff gain new skills in digital archiving and preservation. The resulting collections have been shared with the public through a digital archive, several exhibitions, ongoing community engagement through presentations and branch library events, and production of an award-winning documentary film "In Our Backyard: Reflections on the Waldo Canyon Fire." The response of the Library's Special Collections staff to the emergency and its aftermath provides a model for other public libraries seeking to record and share the consequences of a natural disaster.

Schull, Diantha D. "Archives Alive: Democratizing Public Library Archives through Oral History." *Dialogue: The Newsletter of the Oral History Section, Society of American Archivists*. <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/oral-history-section/archives-alive-democratizing-public-library-archives-through-oral-history>

Schull, Diantha D. Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections. ALA Editions. 2015. pp. 254-256.

*Waldo Canyon Fire Collection*. Urban Libraries Council Innovations Awards. Project Profile for Pikes Peak Library District's Honorable Mention for a Collections Innovation. 2014.

[https://www.urbanlibraries.org/waldo-canyon-fire-digital-collection-innovation-878.php?page\\_id=276](https://www.urbanlibraries.org/waldo-canyon-fire-digital-collection-innovation-878.php?page_id=276)

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**Case Study: [Seattle Neighborhood History Project](#) / Special Collections / Seattle Public Library**

[www.spl.org/neighborhoodhistory](http://www.spl.org/neighborhoodhistory)

In recent years, the Special Collections Department of the Seattle Public Library (SPL) has reorganized its approach to local history by reaching out to neighborhoods to carry out community documentation and develop a stronger infrastructure for local history collecting and local access to collections. This effort aligns with Seattle's tradition of strong neighborhoods, each with its own identity and history. By approaching local history through the prism of neighborhood history, Seattle has been able to build an array of digital collections relevant to each of its neighborhoods, all accessible through a single program site. The library's branches are a key part of the project. Staff from the Central Library work with branch librarians and local residents to document special events, process newly donated materials, identify collection gaps that need to be filled and organize related public programs.

The Fremont neighborhood was the first community to partner with Special Collections under the umbrella of the Neighborhood History Project. Historical documents, photos and ephemera are now available to residents of Fremont, even those unable to visit the Central Library. Branch librarians, local organizations and residents have assisted with collection development planning, local programming and communications. The fremocentrist.com, a local online newsletter, has also assisted with communications about the initiative. As changes occur in the community, SPL is working with its local partners to document those changes and add photos, ephemera and other relevant materials to the digital collection. Eight other neighborhoods are now working with Special Collections.

As part of the Neighborhood History Project, SPL's Special Collections provides access to websites, blogs, newsletters and other born-digital materials pertaining to local neighborhoods. These can be accessed from the Special Collections website. The Special Collections Blog also

provides information on researching neighborhood history, including traditional sources and more current information sources.

Lindsay, Kirby. "Seattle Shares Fremont History." *Freemont Centrist*, an online community newsletter for the Fremont community. <http://www.fremocentrist.com/commentary/?p=3538>

Schull, Diantha D. Archives Alive: Expanding Engagement with Public Library Archives and Special Collections. ALA Editions. 2015. pp. 124-127.

### ***Community Webs* program partners**

