

PACSCL conference

Northwest Digital Archives/Northwest Archives Processing Initiative

Project Description

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Northwest Digital Archives (NWDA) Program Description

- Built a program to create, host, and serve finding aids to archival collections in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska
 - Public interface available at <http://nwda-db.wsulibs.wsu.edu/nwda-search/>
- Started with funding from NEH. Phase I 2002-2005, Phase II 2005-2007
- Became a program of the Orbis Cascade Alliance in 2007
- Began with 13 participants; now has 30 members
 - See current member list at <http://orbiscascade.org/index/northwest-digital-archives-committee-and-contacts>
- Members pay annual fees to support administration, technology, and program development
 - See member benefits and current fee schedule at <http://orbiscascade.org/index/nwda-membership>
- Over 4800 finding aids in the database; documents retrieved 20,000 to 33,000 times each month
- Currently completing a needs assessment to create access to digitized content from archival collections
- Received an IMLS Collaborative Planning Grant to fund next stage of digital services planning efforts

Northwest Archives Processing Initiative (NWAPI) Project Description

- Sub-project of NWDA during both NEH-funded phases
- Began as initiative to re-engineer and improve finding aids so they were ready to encode in EAD; continued as effort to create quality metadata to add to the database
- Funded by NHPRC. Phase I 2002-2005, Phase II 2005-2007
- Phase I
 - Six participating institutions
 - Created a regional finding aid standard compatible with NWDA's best practices for EAD
 - Updated version available at http://orbiscascade.org/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=nwda/tools/nwapi_fa_standard_20060120.pdf
 - Grant hired staff at each institution to process and describe collections
 - Accomplishments included processing or reprocessing 6042.6 linear feet of materials, completing 692 finding aids and adding them to the NWDA database.
 - Final report available at http://orbiscascade.org/index/cms-filesystem-action?file=nwda/reports/phase_i_nhprc_final_report.doc

- Phase II
 - Eight participating institutions
 - Test of the Greene-Meissner processing methods in smaller institutions; measure per-foot processing times to see if predicted efficiencies would result.
 - Applied four possible processing levels to each collection or part of collection; levels determined by a number of factors agreed on by participants
 - Grant hired staff at each institution to process and describe collections
 - Greene-Meissner predicted 4 hours/linear foot with more efficient methods; participants found they could process at 2.9 hours/linear foot
 - Produced finding aids for processed collections and added them to the NWDA database.
 - Final report available at [http://orbiscascade.org/index/cms-file-system-action?file=nwda/reports/phase ii final report 2007.doc](http://orbiscascade.org/index/cms-file-system-action?file=nwda/reports/phase%20ii%20final%20report%202007.doc)