Contributions from Seattle Public Library Special Collections, National Archives at Seattle, the Labor Archives at University of Washington, the King County Roads Map and Record Center, Lakeside School, Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society, Seattle Municipal Archives, King County Archives, the Museum of Flight.
CONTENTS

News from the Board  Message from the Chair, Lindsay Zaborowski  3 |
Congratulations and thanks to Tracy Wolfe  3 |  Meet your new Vice Chair, Amy Heidrick  3 |
Digital Preservation Solutions Roundtable  4

News from area archives  Upcoming exhibit at the Labor Archives, “Author, Poet, and Worker: The World of Carlos Bulosan”  4 |
New location for the King County Roads Services Map and Record Center  5 |
Upcoming Seattle Public Library Events  5 |
New collections at the Seattle Public Library Seattle Room  6 |
Records formerly held in Anchorage now available at the National Archives at Seattle (NARA)  8

Sound recording and oral history  Providing Access to Audio Recordings in Seattle Municipal Archives  9 |
Links in a Chain: Oral Histories of the Puget Sound Freight Lines at the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society  10 |
Opening Windows in the Archives, Lakeside School  12

Online Collections  Online collections at the Labor Archives  14

Home Movie Day  15

Access through processing  Arrangement and description of the records of County Executive Tim Hill at the King County Archives  16

Optimizing space  Doing the “Archives Shuffle”: Reorganizing the Museum of Flight Photo Archives at the Museum of Flight  18

Cover images are from the King County Archives, Series 400, Department of Public Works project photographs [Brittain Collection], 1900-2002.

Newsletter Contact
Member-at-Large
Seattle Area Archivists
Carol Shenk
seattle.area.archivists@gmail.com
news from the Board

Congratulations and thanks to Tracy Wolfe

With a new position at Getty Images, Tracy Wolfe has also moved on from the Seattle Area Archivists Steering Committee. During her time with the steering committee, Tracy took on coordinating meetings, SeaAA accounting, updating our Web site, and generally keeping us organized. Thanks Tracy for all your hard work as secretary and vice chair. And, congratulations!

Meet your new Vice Chair:

Amy Heidrick has been appointed to take over the position of Vice Chair.

Amy is the Supervisory Archivist at the Museum of Flight. Prior to being promoted to her current position, Amy served as the Photo Archivist at the Museum of Flight for six years.

Amy received her MA in Museum Studies from the University of Washington in 2007 and her Academy of Certified Archivists certification in 2013.

Message from the Chair
Lindsay Zaborowski
Seattle Area Archivists Steering Committee

Happy Fall everyone!

I don’t know about you, but the last few months have been quite a whirlwind. This quarter’s issue of Sound Archivist is a testament to the hard work everyone is putting in around the region. It is inspiring to see all of the innovative ways everyone is finding to get their archival collections out to the public.

The next few meetings of the Seattle Area Archivists are shaping up nicely. Be sure to be on the lookout for more information in the next few months, and please don’t hesitate to contact me with any ideas you have about what SeaAA can do in the future. The organization is here to support and serve everyone, so all ideas are welcome as we seek to fulfill the needs of archivists and other information professionals in the area.

I hope you’re all enjoying the change in the season and I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Lindsay
lzaborowski@museumofflight.org
Last June, Seattle Area Archivists hosted its third Solutions Roundtable. This time, the topic was digital preservation. We had a great turnout at the Ballard Branch of the Seattle Public Library. Erin O'Meara (Gates Archive) and Tony Kurtz (Western Washington University) were our esteemed experts.

Questions ranged from policies to tools and from appraisal to education. Despite how overwhelming digital preservation can feel sometimes (especially to those who haven't jumped in yet), I think that people walked away with good practical advice to make that leap. I know I did. I particularly liked the discussions of various ways to encourage staff to send electronic records. I also liked the discussions surrounding workflows, something I have been creating at the Archdiocese of Seattle.

I think what these discussions really brought out was the need for more discussion (or more opportunities for discussion) of electronic records and digital preservation in the Seattle area. If you'd like to see more digital preservation programming or education, please share your ideas with me (joshua.zimmerman@seattlearch.org) or the Seattle Area Archivists Steering Committee (seattleareaarchivists@gmail.com). Let's keep this conversation going!

Digital Preservation Solutions Roundtable
Josh Zimmerman
SeaAA Education Subcommittee

Upcoming Exhibit at the Labor Archives
Author, Poet, and Worker:
The World of Carlos Bulosan
UW Special Collections Lobby and Reference Room

In commemoration of the centennial of poet and author Carlos Bulosan's birth, this upcoming exhibit examines the life and art of Bulosan within the broader context of Seattle's Filipino American community and the progressive political culture he participated in. The exhibit draws on the papers of Bulosan, the cannery workers union, and various Filipino American labor leaders and community members that are part of UW Libraries Special Collections.

The exhibit—sponsored by the Labor Archives of Washington, a part of UW Special Collections—is part of a month-long city wide cultural festival celebrating Bulosan's life and work that will culminate an all-day conference on November 14 called "Empire is in the Heart: A Conference on Carlos Bulosan" (to be held in the HUB, Room 145 from 9am to 5pm).

— Conor Casey, Labor Archivist

Above: Carlos Bulosan, circa 1950’s.
University of Washington Libraries. Special Collections Division.
Carlos Bulosan photograph collection. PH Coll 1156.
New location for the King County Map and Record Center

The King County Road Services Map and Records Center has moved from Pioneer Square to its new location at the Road Services Maintenance Headquarters at 155 Monroe Ave. NE, Building H, in Renton. Public counter hours remain Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, with assistance via phone and email available Monday through Friday.

After settling into the new digs, the center plans to continue digitizing maps, engineering drawings, and survey field books, while adding the 1954 and 1965 aerial photograph series of King County, along with road vacations, to the digitization queue.

The Map and Record Center is the office of record for the County Road Engineer, managing retention and disposition and maintaining permanent series such as road establishment files, survey packets, project/engineering drawings, inspection and survey field books, section breakdowns, and topographic maps of the unincorporated County. Many of these are available online at http://www.kingcounty.gov/mapvault, where over 265,000 images reside, indexed by street name, project name, map number, section-township-range, and other data. After digitization is complete, archival records are transferred to the King County Archives. Contact the center at (206) 477-3633 or Map.Roads@kingcounty.gov.

— Jill Anderson, Records Management Specialist

Above: Scherzer rolling left bridge over Duwamish Waterway at 14th Avenue South Bridge No. 3179 [South Park Bridge], 1929. Map number 103-11.A. (Lower portion of drawing is pictured here.)

Seattle Public Library Fall Events

10/21—History Cafe: 100 Years of Sisterhood, Seattle's Historic Woman's Club, 6:30pm at MOHAI
10/28—Voices from Beyond the Grave: Stories from Seattle Cemeteries 3:00pm at the Central Library
11/01—Seattle Local History: Databases and the Internet, 10:30am at the Central Library
11/20—History Cafe: Seattle's Olmsted Parks, 6:30pm at MOHAI
The Seattle Room at The Seattle Public Library has added several interesting collections to the archives. Finding aids for these collections and others are being added to Special Collections Online weekly and can be found at http://cdm16118.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16118coll8.

**Glen Alps** The Glen Alps Personal Collection consists largely of ephemera from print and printmaking exhibitions from across the United States from mostly the 1960s-1980s with some material from as far back as the 1930’s. Collection includes Alps’ personal and professional materials, including interview recordings and transcripts, lecture notes, and slides of prints. Glen Alps was a printmaker and University of Washington School of Art professor who is credited with having developed the collagraph. A collagraph is a print whose plate is a board or other substrate, like wood, onto which textured materials are glued.

Catalog link: http://seattle.bibliocommons.com/item/show/3019942030_glen_alps_personal_collection

**Seattle Post-Intelligencer Library** The Seattle Post-Intelligencer Library File Collection has been processed and includes files and pamphlets from the newspaper’s library. The collection of over sixty boxes includes items ranging from research materials used by journalists to article clippings and ephemera. This collection covers a wide variety of topics specific to the Pacific Northwest and nationally, mostly concentrated in the 1960’s, 70’s and 80’s.

Catalog links:
http://seattle.bibliocommons.com/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&t=smart&search_category=keyword&q=seattle+post-intelligencer+library+file&commit=Search

http://seattle.bibliocommons.com/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&t=smart&search_category=keyword&q=selections+from+the+seattle+post-intelligencer+pamphlet&commit=Search
There are two newly available collections related to the rich history of the Pike Place Market.

The Suzanne Hittman Collection of the Pike Place Market is a valuable resource for researchers and historians seeking information about the principal figures behind and the business history of the Pike Place Market. The materials in this collection represent a significant part of the historical development of Seattle. The collection was donated by Suzanne Hittman who, as a child, lived on property in south Seattle with her grandparents, Giuseppe and Assunta Desimone. Her uncle, Richard Desimone, was the last owner of the Pike Place Public Markets, Inc. This collection includes materials by Frank Goodwin, Arthur E. Goodwin, Giuseppe or Joe Desimone, Richard L. Desimone, The Pike Place Public Markets, Inc. from 1906 to 1974, and Fulton Petroleum Corporation.

Catalog link: http://seattle.bibliocommons.com/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&t=smart&search_category=keyword&q=suzanne+hittman+collection+of+the+pike+place+market&commit=Search

The Peter Steinbrueck Pike Place Market Collection includes posters, newspaper articles and ephemera related to initiatives to preserve the Pike Place Market by the Friends of the Market. From petitions to hand painted signs to “Save the Market” buttons and bags, this collection contains many interesting pieces including artwork and notes by Victor Steinbrueck.

Catalog link: http://seattle.bibliocommons.com/item/show/3024050030_peter_steinbrueck_pike_place_market_collection
It’s unusual to accession over a short period of time almost 8,000 cubic feet of records. At least it is for a relatively small repository. That’s exactly what happened over the summer at the National Archives at Seattle following the April 2014 announcement that the National Archives at Anchorage would be closed permanently. Eight large trailers containing records from over 45 record groups for as many agencies were received, shelved and verified and by mid-August the records were open and available for research. With the help of detailed finding aids created by the former Anchorage staff, the staff in Seattle is ready to assist researchers eager to use these records created by Federal agencies in Alaska.

Although many of the agencies are familiar to the Seattle staff and the search paths will be similar, there are a few new records groups to learn and they all contain uniquely Alaskan topics. We’re looking forward to learning about records relating to the Alaska Reindeer Service, the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4, Project Chariot, the Alaska Power Administration, the 1964 Alaska Earthquake, and the trans-Alaska highway, to name just a few.

Follow the National Archives at Seattle on Facebook as we share some of the newly arrived treasures with you. Please contact us at seattle.archives@nara.gov if you have any questions.
Providing Access to Audio Recordings in the Seattle Municipal Archives
Anne Frantilla, Deputy Archivist

Audio recordings in the Seattle Municipal Archives consist primarily of City Council committee and full Council meetings from the early 1970s to the present. That’s a LOT of meetings. Although meetings can be routine and relatively uninteresting, the audio recordings are a rich source for researchers in many ways. Because Council committee records are almost non-existent before 1985, when the Archives was established, audio recordings are the primary source of information for the legislative process from 1970 to 2002. Audio recordings capture the interaction between the community and City government in a way no other primary source can do. Individuals not documented elsewhere, such as street musicians, business owners, and women at home caring for their children, can be heard. Audio recordings also provide a means to be present in the past; the atmosphere of the room and the inflection and tone of people’s voices allows a different window into the past than simply reading words on paper.

From 2002 onward, the meetings were recorded digitally, although in a proprietary format. Until 2002, however, all audio is on reel-to-reel 1/4” tape. Meetings were recorded consecutively, with multiple meetings on a single tape. The SMA is slowly reformatting the reel-to-reel tapes; the cataloging and indexing is a slow process. The most useful way to access audio recordings is through legislation; knowing when an ordinance was discussed and in which committee will lead to the committee meeting and date, enabling the researcher to locate the audio recording. Because this can be a complicated process, SMA staff have attempted to make audio recordings available in non-traditional ways.

Thanks to the assistance of the Washington State Digital Archives, audio recordings that have been reformatted are searchable on their site; digital audio can be searched with results presented with snapshots of transcribed text through an innovative speech-to-text indexing and search tool. The site (http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Collections#RSID:25) can be searched by choosing “Seattle City Council Audio Recordings” from the Collection Titles and then entering the desired search terms. For example, searching on the words “women” and “fire department” in the keywords and entering the dates 1977 to 1978, the researcher retrieves nine results. Results can be narrowed by name of committee.

Another way audio in the SMA is made available is through an exhibit space, “Seattle Voices.” Clips of between two and three minutes are highlighted with accompanying transcripts and a link to the full meeting. Topics have included street musicians, bicycle registration, and open housing legislation. Get a glimpse of what is in the Audio Archives at SMA by visiting Seattle Voices! (http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/exhibits-and-education/seattle-voices).
“We’d haul anything anyplace.”

Thus speaks Captain Gabe Ryan in words that might well have been the motto of the venerable freight company. The boats and trucks of Puget Sound Freight Lines were a well-known fixture in our region for decades. Founded in 1919, PSFL outlived many other members of the “mosquito fleet” – the numerous commercial boats that plied the waters of Puget Sound until the middle of the last century.

Today PSFL defines its mission as “supply chain logistics,” trade-speak for getting goods on and off boats. Although it has divested itself of its boats and trucks, it continues to operate shipping terminals on Elliott Bay.

Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society is fortunate to be the recipient of a group of oral history interviews with some of the men who worked for PSFL. These personal histories were collected in the mid-1970s by Clarence Carlander, the second president of PSFL, and his grandson, Spark, in hopes of publishing a company history. The interviews and draft manuscript were eventually passed on to James Lovejoy, son of another company president, Howard Lovejoy, and then on to us – a long chain of storytelling.

The collection is an archivist’s dream! Not only does it contain the original audio cassette tapes of the interviews, but complete digitized transcriptions, digital audio files, and a number of photos from the Lovejoy collection. It also contains draft chapters of the unpublished manuscript.

Collectively the interviews tell the story of the freight lines. Individually they relate the personal and professional lives of men pursuing maritime careers. Nearly every interview contains some version of the words “Hey, kid, want a job?” From driving the “jitneys” to loading cargo, to running the winch, these young men, often still in high school, learned the ropes. Some went on to become engineers or to command their own boats. Others learned the business end of the business.

continued on next page
Our retired mariners spin tales of the ships – the adventures and the routine, the rewards and the dangers. Along the way we meet characters such as Cap Lovejoy, the company founder; Ma Grimison, owner of a rival shipping company; and Tadpole Zene, a world-class swimmer.

As Captain Ryan tells us, the cargo might be anything: mail, produce, lumber, farm equipment, or even furniture. Jack Jensen recalls sleeping on wrapped sofas from the cargo hold in order to escape the ubiquitous bedbugs aboard.

Mr. Jensen is ably assisted by his wife in recalling details of his career as both driver and boathand:

Jack: I went to Shelton as combination agent and driver. Did my own delivering, took care of the dock and the books and everything. And I was there for...

Mrs. J.: Nine years.

Jack: ... several years, and then I got transferred to Bellingham.

Captain Norm Warner recalls the considerable dangers inherent in the operation of the steamboats, including human error, bad weather, fire, and collision. One of the lesser disasters to befall the Skookum Chief happened on the way to Olympia:

I had a standing order with my mates: if you see any danger of any kind, if you get too close to another boat, if you see any fog, call me right away. And many a time I’ve gotten up to the pilot house, nothing on but a pair of shorts. So, that son of a gun [his first mate]...we were just a little bit off of Dofflemeyer Point. There’s a rock out there. It got foggy. He never called me. He got over there and darned if he don’t punch a hole in the boat. Pretty good size. Fortunately, most of the freight we had was empty beer bottles.

Captain Henry Hellman recalls running the Chimacum into the Duwamish Head while ferrying a load of strawberries from Langley.

One morning we got rudely awakened by our crunching and scraping on the Duwamish Head over there. Seems as though the deckhand had gone to sleep at the wheel. And here were all these cement broken pilings, from the old Luna Park amusement park, coming up through the hull. And of course the strawberries, they got wet. And of course the people came out on the sand:

“What do you got on there?”
“We got strawberries.”
“Well, can we have some?”
“Sure, help yourself.”

The Puget Sound Freight Lines oral histories provide a unique look at the days when the communities on Puget Sound were connected by chains of steam.

Special note: Transcription is a long arduous process, especially when voices are faint, overlapping, and studded with arcane jargon. Kudos to James Lovejoy and David Rice for their dedicated work transcribing these interviews!
I don’t mean to gloat, but I love my job. People who don’t know the archives world often ask me why I love my job and recently I honed my reply: “I’m always learning new things, getting to know people, and opening a window into the past for myself and others.” Nice, isn’t it? But what does it mean, really?

**Learning New Things**

Just as an example, my most recent exhibit about a program Lakeside started in the summer of 1965 launched me back in time to a Seattle I knew very little about.

The time was the summer of 1965. Lakeside began a program that invited students from Seattle’s Central area public schools to participate in a seven-week program to help enrich their educational experiences and goals for the future. Fifty-nine students participated, and three of those students eventually attended Lakeside full-time. Those three students were the first African Americans to graduate from the school.

The Lakeside Educational Enrichment Program (LEEP) was modeled after a similar program started on the east coast a year earlier, in 1964, called A Better Chance (ABC). ABC was a direct response to President John F. Kennedy’s 1963 speech to The Choate School, an elite east coast prep school, in which JFK spoke about the “special obligation” of prep schools and the responsibilities that go along with the inheritance of wealth. Remember that the Brown v. Board of Education decision (1954) had banned segregation in public schools, but it had no impact on private organizations.

ABC was a partnership between Dartmouth College and several eastern prep schools. The goal was to prepare a select number of public school students of limited means—the majority of those chosen were African American—for enrollment in private schools and on the path to higher education in universities.

In order to create equal opportunity, the playing field had to be leveled, in both public and private schools. Many of society’s leaders, after all, had gone to private schools.

But for Lakeside, that was easier said than done. The head at the time, Dexter Strong, had enrolled a small number of students of color—mostly Asian Americans—by the early ‘50s, but recruiting proved difficult. The school’s endowment had begun to grow and more money was being put toward financial aid and scholarship funding, but the real problem seemed to be that people who knew about and were interested in attending Lakeside were almost exclusively white.

To understand why, you have to take a look at the history of Seattle’s neighborhoods. In doing my research, I ran across the UW’s Seattle Civil Rights & Labor History Project which proved essential.

Since the 1930s, neighborhood covenants in most areas north of the Lake Washington Ship Canal included racist restrictions on buying and selling property. If you weren’t white, you weren’t allowed to live anywhere except for the Central District.

---

**LEEP students on the Lakeside School bus, 1960’s. Courtesy the archives at Lakeside School.**

continued on next page
Getting to Know People
As my friend and colleague, TJ Vassar, a member of the first LEEP class, explained in his oral history interview: “coming across the Montlake Bridge, going north in Seattle at that time was a big deal. The Central area and the south end was all I really knew. I never went north...the first day that I came [to Lakeside], I was scared.”

TJ went on to graduate from Lakeside in 1968, returned to Seattle after attending Harvard, and eventually served as a member (and president in 1985 and 89) of the Seattle School Board. TJ came back to Lakeside in 1992 to head LEEP—the program that had brought him here. For the next seventeen years, he was LEEP director and the head of the school’s diversity efforts. He was on the committee that hired me at Lakeside, and I, like so many of the people who worked with him, counted his friendship as one of the reasons I enjoyed working here. His laugh echoed down hallways and his calm set even the most nervous student (or adult) at ease.

In February of 2010, TJ was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. That summer, he agreed to sit down for an oral history with me. It’s not as if he had ever been shy about sharing his thoughts or memories before, but over the course of three interviews, I felt I got to know him on a different level. I couldn’t believe this was part of my job. I couldn’t wait to share TJ’s story with others.

TJ had never heard of Lakeside before a teacher at Washington Junior High School told him about it in the spring of 1965. He and his family and friends—and their families and their friends—lived in south Seattle.

Into the late ‘60s, Seattle Police enforced informal “sundown” rules: African Americans were not supposed to be in “white neighborhoods” after dark. If you lived in Seattle, you knew that the color of your skin dictated where you could and could not go. When the Lakeside bus carrying fourteen-year-old TJ crossed over to the white part of the city on that first morning of LEEP, he actually believed the whites were going to beat him up.

Lakeside’s location at the northernmost tip of the city limits made it that much harder to recruit kids outside of the school’s traditional reach. Which is why LEEP (a partnership with Seattle Public Schools wherein SPS selected the participants) proved essential to the school’s effort to get students of color. It helped make change possible.

It’s been fifty years since then, and the school still has a long way to go. But it looks a lot different these days, too. Fifty percent of the student body self-identify as students of color, and thirty percent of students are attending on financial aid.

Opening Windows
Not only do I know more about the history of my institution as a result of the work I’ve done for my latest exhibit; I now know more about the history of racism in my city. I understand better what’s contributed to the inequalities that still exist, and ultimately it makes me feel more equipped to engage in conversations on how to change things. It makes me want to help change things. So I guess only part of the reason I love my job is that I’m always learning new things, getting to know people, and opening a window into the past for myself and others. It’s not just that I’m opening windows, it’s that once the windows are open, the winds can get through.

If you’d like to view the Origins of LEEP exhibit, plug in your headphones and check it out at https://vimeo.com/105709361.
The Labor Archives of Washington, University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, in collaboration with UW Libraries Digital Initiatives, has posted two new important collections of primary sources online:

Digitized sources on the life of Filipino American author, poet, and cannery worker union member Carlos Bulosan. The collection consists of photographs, oral histories, and correspondence. It joins another topical section of hundreds of selected union correspondence, flyers, brochures, pamphlets, meeting minutes, resolutions, and annual reports from the 1930s through the 1950s documenting the work lives of a community and the history of Filipino American and Asian American cannery worker unionism.

The collection also now also includes two dozen oral histories by Howard Kimeldorf for his book Reds or Rackets: a comparative study of dockworkers on the East and West coasts. These important full interviews are now available online for the first time!

The Labor Archives continues to add to their Digital Collections. The dedicated Labor Collections portal already provides remote access to thousands of photographs, documents, ephemera, oral history interviews, and unpublished manuscripts that are of interest to researchers of all levels of experience in a broad array of academic disciplines.

Left: Fair trade not free trade; Stop corporate globalism [verso], International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Inland Boatmen's Union of the Pacific (ILWU). Illustration on sign by "JRS." [1999]. (From Labor Collections Portal: http://content.lib.washington.edu/portals/law.)

The “Oral History Interview” graphic above is from the UW Digital Collections site: http://digitalcollections.lib.washington.edu/
Home Movie Day 2014, Seattle
A Celebration of Amateur Films and Filmmaking

http://www.centerforhomemovies.org/seattle/

Northwest Film Forum
Saturday, October 18, 2014 10:00am-1:00pm

“I would urge all of those in the Seattle area and around the country to go their local Home Movie Day celebration. This is a day for us to come together as a nation and watch how we’ve lived through every day of our shared history.”

— Ken Burns
Records of County Executives and Councilmembers are among the most important held by the King County Archives, as they document development of County policy and legislation along with interactions with citizens and other public officials and agencies. Careful, folder-level processing and description makes these records more accessible to the public and to County personnel. Staff at the King County Archives recently completed processing the records of King County Executive Tim Hill, which originally comprised close to 180 cubic feet.

Tim Hill was King County’s fourth executive, serving from 1985 through 1993. Previously a deputy King County prosecutor, a state legislator, and a Seattle city council member and comptroller, Hill twice narrowly won election as County Executive, defeating incumbent County Executive Randy Revelle in 1985 and challenger Bruce Hilyer in 1989. Hill was considered a “liberal Republican,” a reformer, an environmentalist, and a conscientious and fiscally responsible manager.

Accomplishments of his two terms included addressing jail overcrowding, constructing a new youth detention facility, and planning for a new regional justice center; acquiring large amounts of open space and parkland (seeking to maintain a balance between growth and environmental protection); and initiating evaluation of County regulatory processes.

Despite a management style characterized as low-key, Tim Hill is remembered for undertaking (1987) tough negotiations with the owners of the Seattle Mariners professional baseball team that helped keep the major league franchise in King County. Executive Hill also appointed the third King County Charter Review Commission (1987-1988) amidst resurgence of concern over how regional and local services should be delivered in response to rapid growth in unincorporated areas of Central Puget Sound.

On November 3, 1992, King County voters approved a ballot resolution to merge King County government and the Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (METRO) for the provision of transit and wastewater treatment services. Executive Hill began the process of transition between the two entities. Representing himself as the candidate best able to manage the King County-METRO merger, Tim Hill ran for a third term as County Executive in 1993, but was defeated by State Representative Gary Locke.

The Tim Hill project began in 1999 when 4.65 cubic feet of management work papers and project files were transferred to the King County Archives from the University of Washington Libraries. The records had originally been donated by Executive Hill.

continued on next page
to the University; University archivists subsequently initiated their transfer to the King County Archives. Archives staff processed this small group of records in early 2000. However, work was not resumed until the bulk of Tim Hill’s office records, together records of Executives Randy Revelle and Gary Locke, were transferred in 2008 to the Archives by the King County Executive’s Office. Three Archives staff members then processed the remaining 175.12 cubic feet intermittently between 2010 and 2014.

Descriptive work completed includes seven record series, 262 folder records created (with approximately 2000 more folder records to be integrated electronically into the Archives’ forthcoming collection management system), 123 individual items catalogued; supplementary finding aids or indexes created as needed for clarity, and a summary history of the Hill administration.

Processing of the records of Hill’s successor, Executive Gary Locke, is now underway. Locke held office until 1996, when he ran successfully for Washington State governor — the first Asian-American to hold that post — and later served as U.S. Department of Commerce secretary and as ambassador to China.
This past January, the Collections department at The Museum of Flight embarked on an exciting multi-year project to rationalize, rearrange and reimagine the storage spaces within our Library and Archives facility. The purpose of the plan is to not only better manage the treasures entrusted to our museum, but to make the very most of the space we have in order to accommodate our growing collection and to increase collections accessibility to better serve the needs of our many researchers.

Referring to its Boeing building number, our Library and Archives building is often called the “9-04 building” and was built as a hazardous materials facility for the Boeing Company. Never used, the building was transferred to the Museum of Flight and was repurposed twelve years ago into a dedicated facility to house our library and archival collections, in addition to some object and art storage, and to serve as the home of our Research Center and Reading Room. While the large facility provides us with ample space to work with, it also has some challenging configurations and features and the current reorganization project is an endeavor to remedy many of these.

Thanks to the generosity of the donors who have gifted us with invaluable objects, archival and library materials, the Museum’s collection has grown exponentially in the last decade. In order to make room for our expanding collection, the Collections staff created a detailed plan to reorganize the spaces in the 9-04 building, focusing on determining which spaces were suited for storing particular materials and how the spaces can be better utilized and their maximum storage potential realized. The plan included relocating major collections, moving entire rows of shelving and dozens of filing cabinets, reorganizing and rearranging specific spaces, as well as condensing and reprocessing certain collections in order to maximize storage space.

The first phase of our plan began in January with the reorganization of the museum’s Photo Archives. Located on the second floor of the 9-04 building, the Photo Archives is one of the largest components of the Museum’s collection and is estimated to contain nearly 4 million images, including photographic prints, slides, transparencies, and film and glass plate negatives.

Because of storage limitations in the Photo Archives, many significant photo collections were stored in other parts of the 9-04 building and our plan called for the co-location of all the photographic materials upstairs to Photo Archives. Additionally, we aimed to increase our storage capacity upstairs by adding additional filing cabinet storage.

continued on next page
The Norm Taylor Collection is one of the largest individual collections within our Photo Archives. Estimated to contain up to 500,000 photos, negatives and slides, the Taylor Collection was housed in 12 lateral filing cabinets on the first floor, outside the Reading Room. Several other significant photo collections filled the adjacent four filing cabinets. In order to relocate these collections to the second floor, including their storage cabinets and additional filing cabinets removed from the Reading Room, three entire rows of shelving needed to be removed from the Photo Archives.

Thus began a very intricate game of “Tetris” in the 9-04 building, or as we’re calling it: the Archives Shuffle. We began by packing the photo collections, including Taylor, into over 200 banker’s boxes and loading them onto pallets. All of the empty filing cabinets were then shifted to the back of the 9-04 building. The shelving upstairs was dismantled and removed and then reassembled downstairs in place of the filing cabinets. The cabinets were then moved upstairs via an outside window, along with the 200 boxes of archival materials on pallets. Once the cabinets were in place, the Archives team began the three-month long process of shifting and moving collections and unpacking all the boxes. The result was not only a notable increase in amount of useful storage space for our photographic materials, but the fulfilment of the goal of co-locating all of our significant photographic materials in one area of the 9-04 building. This will help our Archives staff better access all of the assets in our Photo Archives when assisting researchers with photo requests and has given us room to accommodate our growing collection.

The next phase of the Archives reorganization involves processing backlogged materials, and in some cases, reprocessing older collections and rehousing them in new storage enclosures to maximize the storage space on the shelves. Reprocessing these collections has also led to the creation of enhanced Accession and Resource records in Archivists’ Toolkit, which are not only more complete but now also adhere to an archival description standard (DACS). The new finding aids for the reprocessed collections will be released to the public via the museum’s website in the coming months.

The Archives staff will also be moving high-use archival collections to the newly located shelving outside the Reading Room in order to make it easier for staff to retrieve them for researchers. Finally, in advance of the Museum’s 50th anniversary next year, the Archives staff will also be starting a project to completely reorganize, fully process and catalog the Museum’s corporate collection. All of these ongoing projects are only part of the overall multi-year plan for the Museum of Flight’s Library and Archives facility and in the coming months and years, spaces housing library materials, audio-visual materials, and objects will be reimagined and reorganized to ensure that we are properly caring for and preserving all the materials entrusted to the Museum of Flight.

Before: An example of a collection that needed to be reprocessed and rehoused in a new, smaller enclosure to maximize shelf space.

After: The same collection, which is now properly stored and also takes up much less shelf space.
Sound Archivist is a publication of Seattle Area Archivists (SeaAA) a nonprofit organization serving the archival and records management community in the Seattle area and beyond.

SeaAA provides opportunities for the informal exchange of information among its members and promotes the preservation and use of archival, manuscript, and other specialized research materials.

http://seattleareaarchivists.org