



SLIDE AND TRANSITIONAL MEDIA TASK FORCE CASE STUDY TEMPLATE

The following is a list of suggested categories to provide some uniformity to the case study, but they are optional depending on the context. These descriptions of events do not have to be lengthy, but utilitarian. If more in-depth narratives emerge, it is recommended that the author(s) consider submitting an article on the topic to the VRA Bulletin (see: <http://online.vraweb.org/vrab/submguide.html>).

TITLE

Bunting Visual Resources Library Case Study

CONTACT

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INSTITUTION

Bunting Visual Resources Library, University of New Mexico

TYPE OF COLLECTION/DESCRIPTION

The BVRL collection holds approximately 360,000 slides. We are in the process of weeding all but those that are unique resources or are prohibited from discard by vendor agreements.

STAFF SIZE

2 full time staff, 2-3 graduate student research assistants, 1 part time graduate student employee, 1 part time undergraduate student employee.

CHALLENGE

Finding an appropriate way to address the continuing institutional need for a slide collection that reflects the unique pedagogical history of UNM while making room for new activities and users. It became apparent some years ago that the slide collection

was no longer pertinent to instruction. Since then, workflow effort has been devoted to digitizing our unique resources not readily available in ARTStor. The desire to transform the space into something more practical for current needs caused us to assess our slide holdings and come up with a systematic approach to weeding.

NARRATIVE

We have been going through the slide drawers by media, reviewing each slide, leaving our important subject areas (such as Native American art and New Mexican art). This process involves separating vendor material from copy material. Copy material was determined to be suitable for deaccession. We have begun the process of making these slides available for review and give-away, first to faculty, then to students. There has been some interest in using them for art projects. We are also funding an art project using our materials to become a permanent fixture in the library. The last part of the deaccession process will be to hand them off to the head of the Arts Management program, who has various ideas for community use. The vendor slides require a second level of review to determine commercial stipulations. At the end of the process we will consolidate the existing slides, possibly give some to the Center for Southwest Research, and give away many of our slide cabinets in order to free up space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We read many existing case studies and best practices from other institutions before embarking on our weeding process, particularly in determining workflow. Don't reinvent the wheel. Also, consult with faculty and others who have used the slides. They may have good input and ideas, particularly for creative repurposing. And keep in mind that the process will probably take longer than you think.