

Annual Report 2020

2020 began with a speaker series and an oral history project to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. When that work was cut short, due to COVID-19,

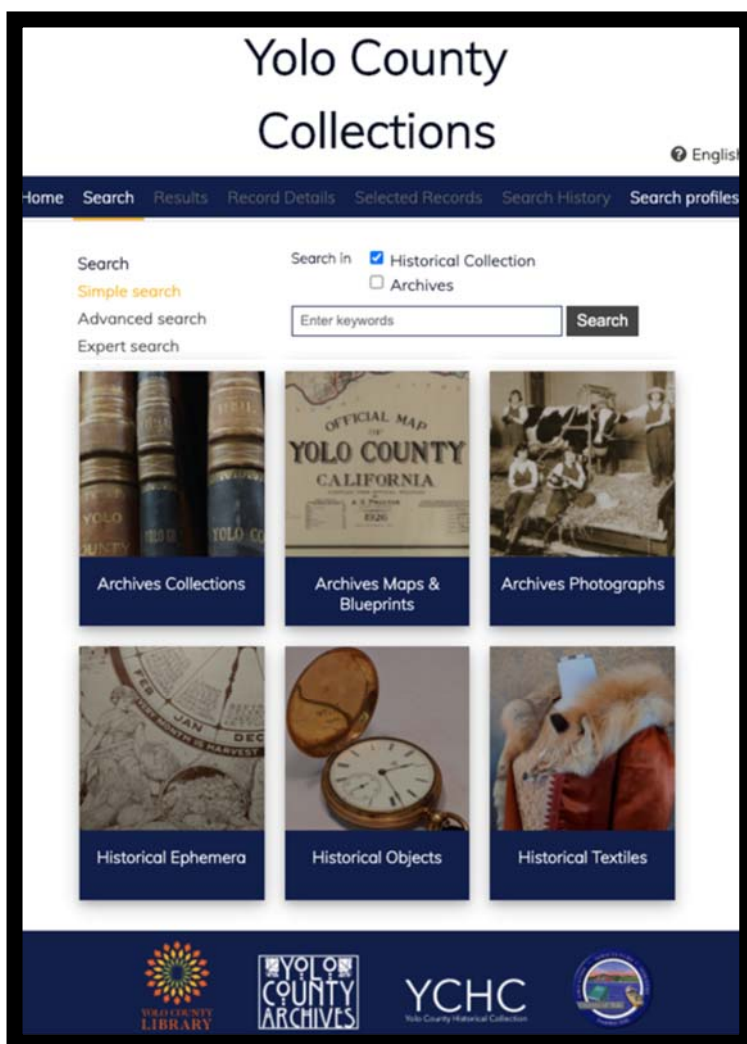
staff pivoted their attention to the implementation of a new integrated collection and digital asset management system. The pandemic required us to suspend in-person services;

consequently, we pivoted to focus on completing our database migration project to make our collections more accessible.

Most of our outreach in 2020 was done virtually through Facebook posts and the Sacramento Archives Crawl. We reached a broader audience using these virtual platforms. We will integrate these promotional tools in the future, and we look forward to

reconnecting with our patrons in person next year. Lastly, we were also able to make good progress on our preservation assistance grant from NEH. This grant will both preserve, and make more accessible, the Board of Supervisors records.

Heather Lanctot
Archives & Records Center Coordinator



YOLO
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Outreach and Community

There were many challenges with outreach activities this year due to COVID-19; however, the pandemic also provided opportunities for the Archives staff to be creative with how we connected with our community.

On March 5th we were able to host Dr. Mona Siegel at the Winters Community Library as part of a speaker series that was created in collaboration with UC Davis’ Special Collections. The “Battle for the Ballot: A Speaker Series to Celebrate 100 Years of Women’s Suffrage” was supposed to include 5 speakers throughout Yolo County. The COVID-19 pandemic required the entire County to shelter in place in March which resulted in the cancellation of the rest of this series.



In addition to the speaker series Archives staff also researched and created four exhibit panels to highlight the women of Yolo County and California who fought for suffrage 100 years ago. These panels were displayed in the library branches and will be made available online for next year’s Women’s History Month in 2021.

In October we participated in the Sacramento Archives Crawl. The Crawl planning committee shifted to a virtual event by utilizing Facebook and YouTube to showcase videos of repositories, highlight collection items, and provide virtual tours of collection storage areas and historic sites. Although we missed being able to engage with our community in-person we were able to create two videos and extend our engagement beyond the Sacramento region. In previous years we have talked to approximately 200 people, and this year, the Facebook page had 14,581 unique viewers. Additionally, the Yolo County Archives Tour video was one of the top 5 most viewed videos on the Crawl’s YouTube page.



Archives staff also posted on the Yolo County Library’s Facebook page throughout this year to promote the collection and acknowledge the hard work of our local healthcare providers, grocery store workers, students, and teachers.

The Archives were also present at the Multicultural Festival in Guinda (February) and provided a department update to the Library Advisory Board at their February meeting.

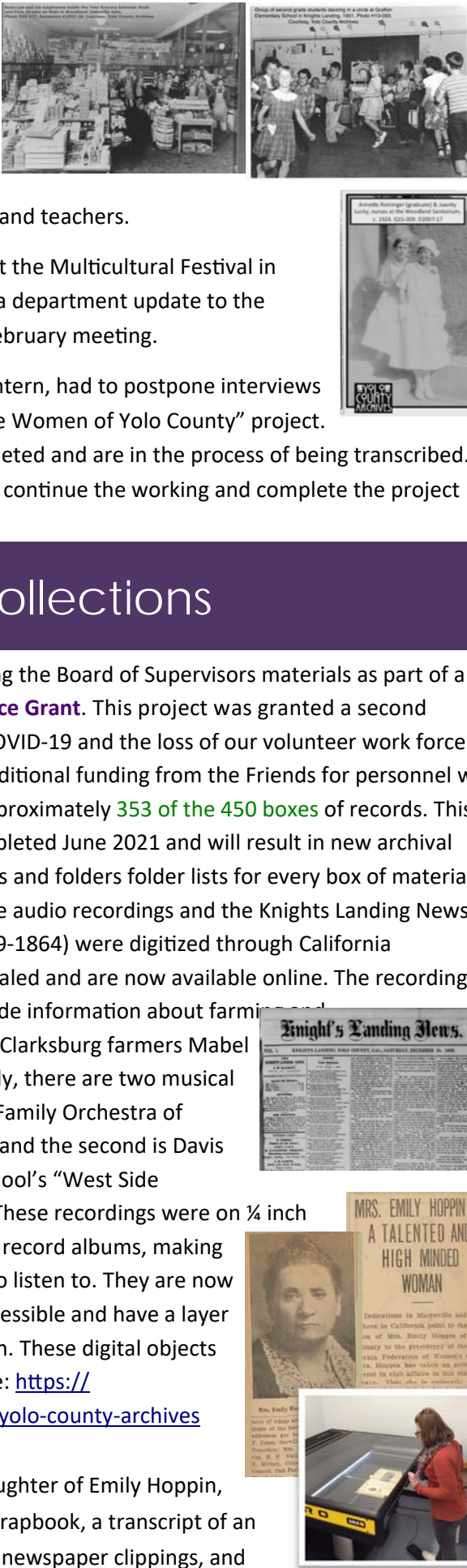
Chelsea Tarvin, our oral history intern, had to postpone interviews for the “Voices and Stories of the Women of Yolo County” project. Four interviews have been completed and are in the process of being transcribed. Thankfully Chelsea is available to continue the working and complete the project when possible.

Collections

We continued to work on rehousing the Board of Supervisors materials as part of a \$6,000 NEH Preservation Assistance Grant. This project was granted a second extension due to COVID-19 and the loss of our volunteer work force. With the help of additional funding from the Friends for personnel we have completed approximately 353 of the 450 boxes of records. This project will be completed June 2021 and will result in new archival boxes and folders folder lists for every box of material. Three audio recordings and the Knights Landing News (1859-1864) were digitized through California Revealed and are now available online. The recordings include information about farming and

water reclamation from long-time Clarksburg farmers Mabel Merwin and Gus Olson. Additionally, there are two musical performances, one from the Wild Family Orchestra of Zamora (1979) and the second is Davis Senior High School’s “West Side Story” (1974). These recordings were on ¼ inch audio tape and record albums, making them difficult to listen to. They are now more easily accessible and have a layer

of preservation through digitization. These digital objects can be viewed and listened to here: <https://californiarevealed.org/collections/yolo-county-archives> **Donation Highlight!** Shirley Dickard, the great granddaughter of Emily Hoppin, donated a digital scan of Emily’s scrapbook, a transcript of an oral history with Emily’s daughter, newspaper clippings, and transcriptions of Charles Hoppin’s letters.



Database

Records for the Yolo County Archives and Historical Collection were migrated to a single content and digital asset management platform in March 2020. This online database will make collection information accessible to the public and provide preservation for our digital assets. This transition has involved cleaning up and migrating data, training on the new system, and working with Axiell to design the database website.

The system will be going live in early 2021 and will provide researchers the opportunity to search thousands of records across both



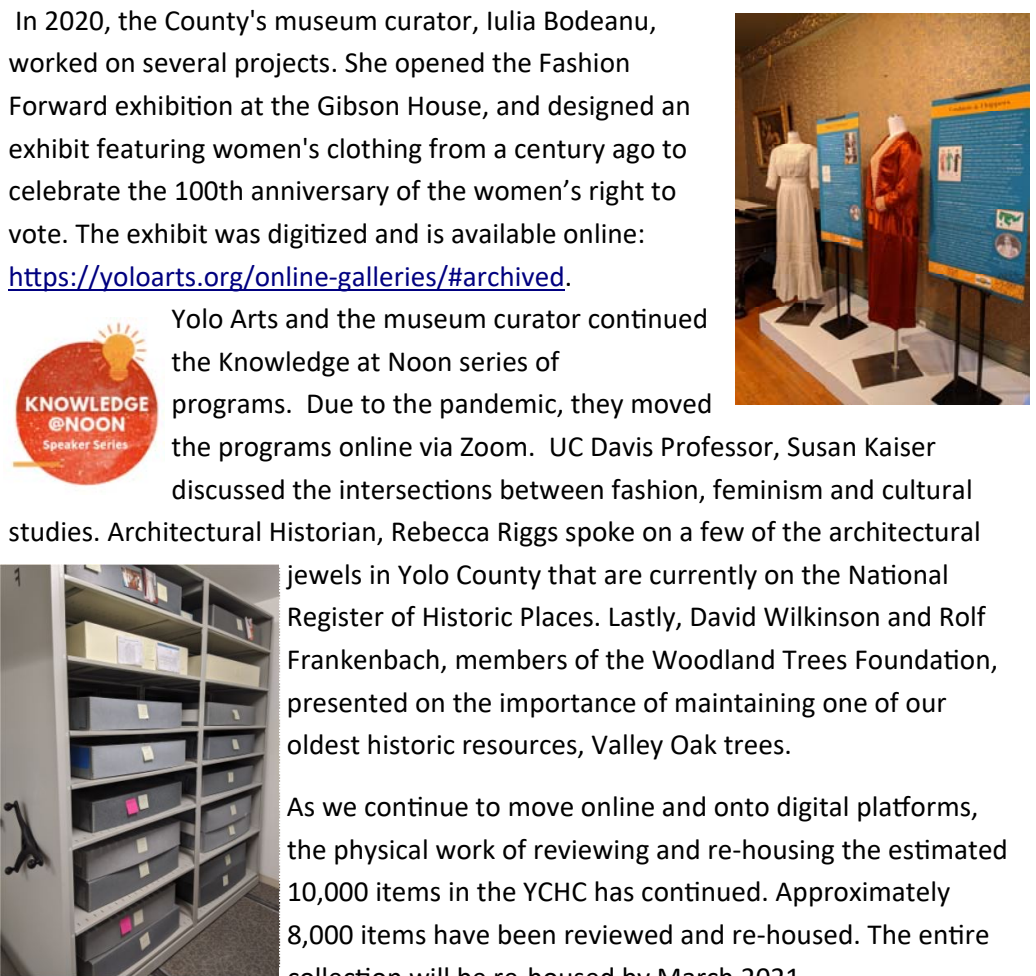
Yolo County collections. As time progresses more of the collections will be digitized and made available online to the public through this database.

Yolo County Historical Collection

In 2020, the County's museum curator, Iulia Bodeanu, worked on several projects. She opened the Fashion Forward exhibition at the Gibson House, and designed an exhibit featuring women's clothing from a century ago to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the women’s right to vote. The exhibit was digitized and is available online: <https://yoloarts.org/online-galleries/#archived>.

Yolo Arts and the museum curator continued the Knowledge at Noon series of programs. Due to the pandemic, they moved the programs online via Zoom. UC Davis Professor, Susan Kaiser discussed the intersections between fashion, feminism and cultural studies. Architectural Historian, Rebecca Riggs spoke on a few of the architectural

jewels in Yolo County that are currently on the National Register of Historic Places. Lastly, David Wilkinson and Rolf Frankenbach, members of the Woodland Trees Foundation, presented on the importance of maintaining one of our oldest historic resources, Valley Oak trees. As we continue to move online and onto digital platforms, the physical work of reviewing and re-housing the estimated 10,000 items in the YCHC has continued. Approximately 8,000 items have been reviewed and re-housed. The entire collection will be re-housed by March 2021.



Professional Development

Conferences, workshops, and other learning opportunities were canceled and also shifted to online environments this year. Heather attended the Society of American Archivists' annual meeting virtually in August and presented a lightning talk with 8 other archivists from around the country in a session titled "A Profession for Us: Creating and Sustaining an Equitable, Inclusive, and Diverse Archives Field." In addition, Heather authored an article for the Journal of Western Archives with two other archivists that is in the process of being peer-reviewed. This article was a transformation of a panel presentation, intended for the Western Archives Meeting in April, which was cancelled. The article should be published online in early 2021.

Research

This year we hosted approximately **49 research appointments** in our Reading Room

Top 10 Collections Used in 2020

**purple text = not top 10 in 2019*

Collection	2019	2020
Obituaries	62	91
Photo Collection	65	63
Deed Books	27	39
Tax Assessor Rolls	9	36
Newspapers.com	43	30
Official Records	6	25
Board of Sups (#04-05)	5	21
Probate Cases	14	13
Ancestry.com	30	11
Democrat Microfilm	0	10

and conducted **remote research for 99 patrons**.

We hosted fewer researchers this year as a result of COVID; however, we continued to support researchers through remote research. Our total number of patrons was 148.

Research Highlight!

Archives staff were able to support the work of County Counsel and performed research for their department 5 times this year. Examination of Board of Supervisors documents, County budgets, photograph collections, blueprints, and maps, resulted in historical documentation that assisted in county legal efforts, ultimately saving the County money.

Volunteers



Volunteering also looked different this year. Some of our volunteers were able to work on remote cataloging and database projects, but the majority were on hiatus from the Archives. We are so grateful for our volunteers and the **959 hours of service** they provided this year (259 more hours than 2019). We were also very sad to lose our long-time volunteer Bob Dunn this year. His years-long work of collecting resulted in the Robert F. Dunn Obituary Collection which consists of over 40,000 local obituaries that are widely used by researchers. His hard work and sense of humor are greatly missed.



Friends of the Yolo County Archives

The Archives would like to thank the
Friends of the Yolo County Archives
for their continued partnership and support!

- Anastasia Panagakos, President
- Lon Springer, Vice President
- Dr. John Jackson, Treasurer
- Ryan Baum, Secretary
- Rob Coman, Communications Director



Board Members:

Karen Coffee, Marc Faye, Merrily Dupree, Lynda Findley, Pat Shebert, Clarence Van Hook, Claire Phillips, William Phillips



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Public research by **appointment** only.

HOURS:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.