

Martyn Mallory Historic Photograph Collection

Project Background:

Between 1880 and 1936, a full 30 years before Ansel Adams, Martyn Mallory photographed Hailey, Idaho, the Wood River Valley, and surrounding geographic areas. His photographs serve as record of the rich history of the area and Idaho's rugged beauty. In 1995, his collection of 2,500 positives and 1,500 glass-plate negatives were gifted to the Hailey Public Library. In 2008, the collection was digitized with grant funding, and uploaded into a hosting platform, allowing public access. However, due to staffing, time constraints, and funding, the digital collection was not catalogued or organized at a library standard. The impetus of our capstone was to improve access to the collection, as a community resource, and valuable piece of Idaho's history.

Methodology:

Our first step was to assess the digital collection. After research, we realized the hosting platform was no longer supported and a system migration would be necessary. Working with the Director of the library and other consortium staff, Vital Repository was chosen as the hosting platform. A controlled vocabulary/ glossary was then created by transforming the "tags" attributed to each photograph into a LC Subject Heading. A metadata schema was created, using Dublin Standard Core as the basis, in order to be compatible with Vital. The rest of the project consisted of the migration and data entry.

Outcomes:

1,717 photos were uploaded into Vital, with standardized metadata attributed to them that described each photograph in relation to the collection as a whole. A spreadsheet of 31 pages reflecting the metadata schema was completed with metadata for each photograph, including the pertinent crafted controlled vocabulary terms. In completing these outcomes, we, or another librarian, will be able to complete the metadata for each photograph in Vital in a timely, non-onerous, fashion.

Impact & Next Steps:

Prior to our project, the digital Mallory Historic Photograph Collection, was not easily searchable, and was not at a library standard in terms of the records for each photograph. There was also not funding available to allocate towards the betterment of the collection. Because of our capstone, the collection has been brought to a library standard, and transformed into a resource that is searchable, a tool to aid in research, and is a more robust, detailed, community treasure to be proud of.

Photo by
Mallory

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