

# Tried and True!

## Ideas from Your Colleagues for “Celebrating the American Record”

Archives throughout the country participated in American Archives Month in 2007. Here are some examples of what they did. (For more information about these efforts – and for even more ideas – see the SAA website at [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org) and the Council of State Archivists website at [www.statearchivists.org](http://www.statearchivists.org).)

**The National Library of Medicine’s History of Medicine Division** devoted a page on its website ([www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov)) to “Celebrating the American Record of Health and Medicine,” with links to the online 2007 American Archives Month Public Relations Kit.

**Nevada** Governor Jim Gibbons proclaimed October “Archives Month.”

**The Chicago Archives Fair** on Saturday, October 20, at the Newberry Library featured archivists from 19 area repositories who offered expert tips to researchers, high school students seeking ideas for Chicago Metro History Fair projects, and college and university students looking for research seminar topics.

**The Mississippi Department of Archives and History** offered lunch-time events focusing on the diverse heritage of the state, including a presentation on “Tracing Your African American Ancestors” and an exhibit featuring photos of “the many faces of Mississippi.” Collections throughout the state also were highlighted: The **Columbus-Lowndes Public Library** featured an exhibit titled “Now Playing: Tennessee Williams”; the **Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art Library and Archives** displayed a photo exhibit titled “Labor Pains: Hard Work

Builds a Community”; the **University of Mississippi Department of Archives and Special Collections** hosted “Preserving Your Family Memories”; and the **Yazoo Library Association** provided a workshop on “Creating a County Archives” for those interested in learning “first-hand from experienced archivists what is involved with preserving county records. . . .”

**Washington State** celebrated Archives Month statewide with “Waters of Washington,” featuring more than 15 events ranging from the “River of Memory: The Everlasting Columbia” exhibit throughout the month to a workshop for the public on “Using Washington State Maps for Genealogy and Other Research.”

**The Cape May, New Jersey, County Clerk’s Office** celebrated American Archives Month with a workshop featuring three historians who accompanied attendees on a walking tour of the First Baptist Church of Cape May Cemetery. The workshop concluded with a tour of the County Clerk’s Hall of Records and Archives guided by archivist Diana Hevener.

**The University of Hawaii** celebrated its Centennial and Archives Month with an extensive exhibit of the Charters of the University as well as documents, photos, and memorabilia.

**The University of Kentucky Archives** mounted six exhibits at the Young Library celebrating its Archives Week theme of “leisure,” including “Mustaches of the 19th Century” and “The W.B. Griffin Circus Photographs.”

The *Daily Texan* reported on a panel session, sponsored by the **University of Texas Student Chapter of SAA** in celebration of American Archives Month and Austin Archives Week, that featured three speakers addressing “how politics collides with archival work.” The panel discussion addressed the recently declassified tapes of the Lyndon B. Johnson presidency, recently acquired documents from the Woodward and Bernstein investigation of the Watergate scandal, and concerns about Bush Administration records policies.



In future American Archives Month Public Relations Kits, we’d like to feature what your organization did to celebrate. Please send photos and brief descriptions of your efforts to SAA at [archivesmonth@archivists.org](mailto:archivesmonth@archivists.org).

**The Artesia (New Mexico) Historical Museum and Art Center** was featured in the local press with an article that stressed the importance of preserving family records and that highlighted the Council of State Archivists’ “Closest to Home” project.

**The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference** coordinated region-wide activities based on the theme “Exploring New Worlds: Archives in Our Lives.” For more information, see the MARAC website at [www.marac.info](http://www.marac.info).

**The Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists** published its “Archives Week Action Guide,” with tips on planning events, undertaking local outreach activities, and encouraging individual archives and archivists to “make the most of this time of celebration – their way.”

The *Sacramento Bee* gave great coverage to the **California State Archives’** free behind-the-scenes public tours of the archives, which featured “a 66-foot long map that famed railroad engineer Theodore Judah sketched out in 1961 as a proposed template for the Central Pacific Railroad crossing of the Sierra Nevada. . . . It [took] 14 tables to hold the four sections of the map.”

*Open your doors! Exhibits, lectures, information fairs, open houses, tours – any of these ideas can introduce key audiences to your repository’s treasures and help raise awareness about the important work of archives and archivists.*