



Digital Publishing to Feature the Histories of Multicultural Performing Arts Groups



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Unrecorded/Uncollected: New Approaches to Documenting Under-Represented Groups

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As a response to the previous presentations, my presentation shows an example of how archivists can be pro-active and record typically untold stories in the present by working with living organizations to share their stories. But of course, there are challenges with that approach, which I will comment upon at the end, after explaining the project as a case study.

The Oregon Multicultural Archives



The OMA's mission is to assist in preserving the histories and sharing the stories that document Oregon's African American, Asian American, Latino/a, and Native American communities

The OMA was established in 2005 as a “pro-active archive” with a collection focus of four ethnic communities within Oregon: African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos. There was a gap in the historical record in terms of people of color in Oregon and the OMA seeks to address the gaps, and empower communities to share their stories.

OSU Oregon State University

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The Oregon Multicultural Archives (OMA) assists in preserving the histories and sharing the stories that document Oregon's African American, Asian American, Latino/a, and Native American communities. The diverse collections reflect how these communities have contributed to the identity of the state of Oregon.

OMA Blog For up-to-date information regarding current projects, new collections, recently digitized materials, and much more!

<http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oma>

OMA Location: Corvallis, Or and part of OSU's Special Collections & Archives Research Center

Intellectually separated via the website



Milagro (officially known as the Miracle Theatre Group) is a non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon. Its mission is to “provide extraordinary Latino theatre, culture, and arts education experiences for the enrichment of all communities.”

Milagro is an organization that was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1985 dedicated to the Hispanic arts and community. It produces a broad array of programming that includes public performances as well as specialized touring and education projects that currently encompass all of the Western states.



The Obo Addy Legacy Project (OALP) is a non-profit organization based in Portland, Oregon, with the mission to “offer authentic experiences with the music and dance of Ghana, West Africa, and to create cultural awareness and understanding through educational offerings, an annual festival, and performing groups that tour the world.”

The OALP was originally established in 1986 as the Homowo African Arts and Cultures organization by Obo and Susan Addy, who served as artistic and executive directors.

Obo Addy was a Ghanaian master drummer who performed all over the world, wrote music, and taught at both the K-12 and college level. Addy passed away in 2012; however, led by Susan Addy, the OALP is committed to continuing his legacy of creating, performing, and teaching African arts.



Over the course of a few years = relationship building with Milagro and OALP; there was community input and involvement throughout these activities

Relationship Building ~ Development of the relationship with Milagro and the OALP ~ late 2012 / early 2013

Processing the Collections ~ OMA student workers and grad student intern

Exhibit Curation ~

- Design and curation: winter term 2014; January – March
- Large Panels; no original content in the exhibit
- Requested items for loan: instruments and fabric from OALP AND props and costumes from Milagro
- A/V Component: TVs with selected performances that play on loop; headphones attached

Marketing the Collections ~ Rack Cards, SAA Newsletters, Participation in Community Events



Mike Jager, MAIS graduate student with experience in digital storytelling, showed me his iBooks – iBooks written by him and/or coordinated by him and written by his students as part of digital storytelling classes he taught.

Met with Milagro and OALP to discuss the idea to use iBooks; showed them examples of other iBooks.

Both groups really liked the educational and outreach possibilities the iBooks afforded and agreed to the project!



iBooks Project for the Milagro & Obo Addy Legacy Project Collections

Project Timeline

Fall 2014 Project Planning and Grant Application

Winter 2015 Obo Addy Legacy Project iBook
February Panel and Performance as part of Black History Month

Spring 2015 Milagro iBook
April Workshop and Performance as part of Latino Tribute Month

Summer 2015 Project Extension





iBooks Project for the Milagro & Obo Addy Legacy Project Collections

Fall 2014 Project Planning and Grant Application

OSU Learning Innovation Grant for Individual Grants (up to \$10,000)

Grants to fund innovative technology projects – funding for equipment and student salaries

Total Grant Funds Awarded ~ \$7,251

Technology (Equipment) ~ \$1,971

3 iPad Air 2 Wi-Fi 64 GB and related equipment

Student Salaries ~ \$5,280

30 hours a week for 16 weeks at \$10 per hour

Matching Funds

Campus partners co-sponsorships for performances

OMA student worker time

Trips to Portland

My time

We had plans to move forward with the project without funding, however, a funding opportunity presented itself.

Grant Funds ~

iPad Air 2 Wi-Fi 64 GB	\$599.00 Ea X 3	\$1,797.00
Incipio LGND Hard Shell Convertible Case for iPad Air	\$21.07 Ea X 3	63.21
Amazon Basics 60 inch Lightweight Tripod with Bag	\$21.49 Ea X 2	42.98
Charger City® HDX-2 Tablet Video Camera Recording Tripod	\$25.95 Ea X 2	51.90
XIQI 3 in 1 180° Fisheye-Lens + Wide Angle + Macro Lens Clip	\$15.99 3 Set	15.99

Total \$1,971.08

Students Salary / Stipend for Winter & Spring Quarters*

30 hours a week for 16 weeks at \$10 per hour

\$4,800.00

10% OPE

480.00

Total \$5,280.00

Total budget \$7,251.08



iBooks Project for the Milagro & Obo Addy Legacy Project Collections

Campus Performances!



Collaboration with the Oregon State University Cultural Resource Centers ~ an opportunity for Milagro and OALP to share their stories

OALP February Panel and Performance as part of Black History Month with the Black Cultural Center

Milagro April Workshop and Performance as part of Latino Tribute Month with the Centro Cultural Cesar Chavez

Opportunity to share the performances with the public and record A/V content for the iBooks and the OMA



iBooks Project for the Milagro & Obo Addy Legacy Project Collections

iBook Research and Writing

Exhibit Panels Content + Use of the Archival Collections = iBooks!



Milagro Chapters
History / La Historia
Creative Programming /
Programas Creativos
El Centro Milagro
Community Outreach /
Colaboraciones con la
Comunidad



OALP Chapters
History
Performances
Homowo Festival
Education & Outreach

iBook Special Features

Inclusion of Performances, Video and Audio

Mini-Interviews with Milagro and OALP admin and staff (oral history projects)

Unlimited inclusion of photos and textual documents with use of "photo galleries"

A bilingual book for Milagro

An embedded glossary

Links out to more digital content (i.e. social media)

Easily made updates and availability via the iBooks Store (for free or for a small fee)

The research and writing process is continuing on into the summer months (there were some timing / other project issues with the grad student); so both books are currently in draft form.

The structure of each book is based on the Spring 2014 exhibit featuring the two collections (this was one of the reasons I said "yes" to the project, to re-purpose the content I had already created). The initial text and selection of images is being expanded upon, but each exhibit panel acts as a book chapter.

iBook Special Features ~ lots of them!

My role in the writing process = editor and translator for the Milagro book

Grad student ~ writing experience = high; it's his Masters Focus i.e. digital publishing (it's pretty user friendly, however, learn the skills before jumping)

Throughout the writing process, we have had periodic meetings with the organizations to get feedback.



Challenges and Lessons Learned

How do you document a continuously evolving organization?

What happens when life has other plans (that are, of course, not in line with your project timeline)?

How do you prioritize the stories that are recorded?



Is it worth it?



How do you document a continuously evolving organization?

iBooks project examples:

~ more content and website / branding changes

~ iBook specific questions: how do you keep the book updated? Who updates it?

With a digital book, there is an expectation that the book will be updated because it can be (as opposed to a print book)

Overall, there is a lack of control / more opinions to factor into decision making

What can be done / possible solutions: train the organizations on the technology so they can make the project sustainable AND it empowers them to take agency over their histories and how they continue to tell their stories

What happens when life has other plans?

iBooks project examples:

i.e. OALP admin member = illness and Milagro admin member = local campaign

What can be done / possible solutions: need to be flexible and in a way, plan for delays, or at least budget in extra time; the one thing that community organizations definitely do not have is time.

How do you prioritize the stories that are recorded?

Collaboration with the org i.e. oral histories with Milagro admin, staff, board of directors, creatives, patrons, etc.

Question: What stories / perspectives do you want? Well, what stories do you have and who can you contact?

Be sure to make the project sustainable for both the archives and the organization.

Is it worth it?

Yes, of course! This panel helped me reflect on why it is worth while, despite the challenges. Hearing about how past communities have been silenced shows how vital it is to take advantage of documenting living / still active organizations and communities.



Links to More Information about the Collections



bit.ly/milagro-archives

bit.ly/oalp-archives



Links = OMA blog posts about the collections

i-pad with drafts of books available for viewing