My name is Natalia Fernandez and I am the curator of the Oregon Multicultural Archives, the OMA, which is a part of Oregon State University’s Special Collections & Archives Research Center – located in Corvallis Oregon.

Today I will share how Oregon State University works with the Centro Cultural César Chávez and the other campus Cultural Resources Centers (CRCs).

I will talk about a variety of projects including the creation of a shared CRC library system, the development of archival collections including oral histories, and the curation of small exhibits in the library to showcase the CRCs’ histories.
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

The Oregon Multicultural Archives (OMA)
Cultural Resources Centers (CRCs)
Projects
   Library System
   Archival Collections
   Oral Histories
   Small Exhibits
Challenges & Lessons Learned
Broader Applications
Discussion & Questions

About 40 minutes with 20 minutes for discussion and questions
The mission of the OMA is to document and share the stories of people of color in the state of Oregon and that includes highlighting the university’s multicultural history.

So as an archivist, I develop relationships with campus organizations and groups, students and faculty and staff, to talk to them about the importance of preserving their history and how they can do that through the OMA.

http://scarc.library.oregonstate.edu/oma
Work with the Cultural Resource Centers, the CRCs
CRCs have long supported traditionally under-represented students, including African American, Asian American, Native American, Latino/as, the LGBTQ community to adjust to and succeed at OSU

Currently 7 cultural centers at OSU
Four were established in the 1970s, WC, NAL, CCCC, & BCC
APCC in the early 1990s and the PC in the early 2000s
The seventh was just established within the past couple years, the ECC, which aims to represent the people and cultures of the countries from South West Asia through North West Africa.

CRCs are student staffed with about 10 students each and have 1 professional staff member

Centro Cultural César Chávez
Mission to empower “Chicano/Latino students to promote their unique and varied cultures while educating the OSU community at large”
My work = continuous and collaborative endeavor
Projects = make their library collection accessible to the OSU community and have created an archival collection to preserve their history

Although like the Centro, the mission of each CRC is to support and celebrate a specific population, all the CRCs strive to celebrate and address the intersectionality of individuals and all the CRCs work together and are managed by the same office and have one over-arching director. The ideas shared in this presentation will be examples of how an academic library and archives can support its Latino/a students while also extending services to a variety of other populations.
One of the Centro’s goals is to build alliances with the other CRCs on campus in order to widen the support network among traditionally underrepresented groups and develop a stronger sense of community.

The university library and archives plays an important role in support of the Centro’s goal by expanding its projects to include all the CRCs.

Four projects with the CRCs:

- connecting all of the CRCs library collections using Booxter and LibraryThing
- creating archival collections for all the centers so they can learn from each other’s histories
- developing an oral history project to record and share the students’ experiences working in the Centers
- curating small displays in the main library for each group’s heritage month celebrations

I will give a brief overview of each project – I can go into more detail at the end of the presentation if need be
The Centro has a small library of several hundred books. They wanted their library to be made available to the public and also connect their library to the other CRC’s libraries.

Used a combination of Booxter, a collection software for Macs, and LibraryThing, an online service for book cataloging

- The LibraryThing account acts as the shared library catalog for the public to see – all the CRCs upload their books to one account
- Each individual center then has separate Booxter accounts to keep track of each library
- This project is ongoing and requires some maintenance, updates, and a little bit of training for new staff
Library Project: Booxter

Program that looks and feels like an excel document; it is specifically designed to manage personal libraries

Booxter has 5 fields that are specifically meant to assist in managing the circulation of books in your library

These fields to keep track of which books are checked out

It is only for Macs which the CRCs have.
Library Project: LibraryThing

LibraryThing is the online catalog for you and the public to search the books in all the CRCs.

To check out a book, you have to go to the individual center
Library Project: Library Manuals ~ so all student staff could work on the project

Library Policies
Library Check-Out Instructions
Library Check-In Instructions
How to Add a New Book to Your Library
Physically Label Each Book with the CRC Contact Information
Find the Library of Congress Call Number
Add the Book to Booxter
Add the Book to LibraryThing
Notes Page: Suggestions and/or Comments for the CRCs Libraries
Book Tags: Tape a Tag to the Inside Back Cover of Each Book

Challenges:

• Policies – returns are on the “honor’s system” (no problems yet)
• Check out / in process is manual; need to manually update 2 systems (not a massive demand)
LIBRARY SYSTEM
WANT TO LEARN MORE?

“Booexter and LibraryThing:
Making cultural resource centers library collections visible and accessible”

College & Research Libraries (C&RL) News vol.75 no.6, pages 318-335

Published June 2014
If you work for an academic library, your archives is likely to have materials such as these…

Yearbooks – great photos and information regarding major events / The Barometer – articles and photos; insight into context of the time period – in print and on microfilm

Documents in the Photo: Yearbook – Chicano Center, 1977-78 and Microfilm – Opinion Piece re: Student Life as a Native American and Heritage Month Events, Jan-Feb 1971

Memorabilia Collection files – subject files; variety of materials collected over the year on an ad hoc basis

University Records Collections: OSU Offices donate transfer their records to the Archives
Diversity Development / Multicultural Affairs / Student Affairs / ASOSU
These materials have “Finding Aids” describe the content in the collection and provide an inventory;
pictured = Finding Aid for the Diversity Development office
Example Finding Aid:

Materials I’ve talked about – documents are about the CRCs but not created by the CRCs; the Archives Project goal is to archive materials created by the CRCs. You need to be pro-active to obtain materials created by the CRCs themselves.
Depth of Explanation: archivists know this / librarians do not need to know the details, however, these are the “basics”

The basics of creating an archival collection…

1) Review materials at the center & archives (explain what materials should be kept AND explain active vs. inactive records)
2) Box the materials in archival folders and boxes
3) Create an accession report that describes the collection
4) Arrange and describe the collection in a Finding Aid
5) Make the collection accessible to the public

Each year, I like to share what types of materials are appropriate for archiving and I review the process of how it works with each CRC.
FAQs

What materials should be kept?
It’s based on the materials you produce: newsletters / pamphlets / event flyers / lectures or speeches / photos-loose and albums / newspaper clippings / staff lists and bios / posters

How do you organize the items?
The archives will provide you with boxes and folders – I will show you how to organize the documents

What stays in the Centers vs. what goes to the Archives?
Some items are one of a kind i.e. albums; however the extra photos could come to the archives
Print Based Items – make two extra copies; one for the archives and one for the center
Some items = one-of-kind but for space and preservation purposes they can go to the archives i.e. APCC posters

Can the Centers have certain items digitized but keep the originals?
Yes.

What about electronic records?
We can accept electronic records i.e. on a thumb drive
To be aware – print records will last longer; best practice is to print out the documents
What stays in the Centers vs. what goes to the Archives?

As with all the CRC’s, the physical location of the Centro is very important – students and community members go to the Centro because it is a safe and welcoming space – not to say that libraries and archives are not welcoming spaces, but there are some materials that the Centro wished to make accessible to the general public yet also keep within the center. Through digitization, this can be done.

Challenges:
- Acquiring materials each year (usually end of academic year); some centers are very good about contacting me while I need to be more proactive with others
- Archives project = easiest for me since I am an archivist
Project: oral histories

OHs are a great way to document an individual’s experiences and can be a wonderful complement to an archival collection

In the spring of 2013 I conducted NAL interviews (7 students) and in 2014 I conducted APCC interviews (5 students)

http://wpmu.library.oregonstate.edu/oregon-multicultural-archives/2013/06/07/nal-ohs-2013/
http://wpmu.library.oregonstate.edu/oregon-multicultural-archives/2014/06/06/apcc-ohs-2014/

Interview Audio and Transcripts are available online; OMA blog posts.

Project Details:
- I developed a set of questions regarding the student’s experiences as CRC staff members re: challenges, achievements, recommendations, etc.
- Interviews take between 30-60 minutes, usually scheduled at the end of the academic calendar, usually in May, after a majority of the big events are completed (in order for students to reflect on their work for the entire year).

Spring 2015 = women’s center and hopefully the Centro

Challenges:
- Interest
- Scheduling – only one CRC per year, but would like to expand the work (right now it’s just me)
New Project Idea for 2014-2015: CRCs curated exhibits to coincide with heritage month celebrations

Exhibit Content:
- CRC materials: photos, textual documents, and artifacts

Exhibits to Date:
- NAL, November 2014
- BCC, February 2015
- Women’s Center, March 2015
- APCC, scheduled for May 2015

Exhibit space = main floor of library / exhibit photos on Flickr

Project Details:
- Initial meeting - I offer exhibit advice and supplies
- Timeline: curation takes place at least one month if not two months before the exhibit debut
- A center can be as involved as there is interest and time

Challenges:
- Communication and assistance required
- Co-curation was the original intent but not the end product

Project for next year? Maybe, based on student interest.
CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

Introductions and Community Interest

Training and Maintenance

Time

Resources

Working with students

Setting Priorities

Maintaining Communication

Introductions and Community Interest: need to be proactive and patient

Training and Maintenance: manuals help, but there is still student turnover each year

Time: 7 CRCs – take advantage of all staff trainings, yet still need to meet individually – need to delegate more

Resources: CRCs and Archives

Working with students: it’s their time too

Setting Priorities: know your limits and what you can offer (i.e. Kelly is the SECO librarian)

Maintaining Communication: understand the politics and bureaucracy and who has final say over decisions
**Academic Libraries and Archives**

Begin or strengthen and expand your relationships with campus students and student groups

Connect with your university archives

**Public Libraries**

You are already connected to the community
  - Library Project – could be beneficial to a local group or organization
  - Small Exhibits in the library space – invite the community to curate a display to showcase their heritage

Connect with your local historical society re: archival projects
DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS

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Thank you!