

# UNIVERSITY-WIDE RESEARCH GRANTS FOR LIBRARIANS COVER SHEET

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**NOTE:** Grant proposals are confidential until funding decisions are made.

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**INSTRUCTIONS:** The applicant(s) must submit two (2) copies of their application packet. The application packet consists of the Cover Sheet and the Proposal. Applicants send 1 (one) printed copy of their application packet, with signatures, to the Chair of the divisional research committee, who forwards the packet to the Chair of the university-wide Research and Professional Development Committee. Applicants send the second copy of their application packet as an email attachment to the Chair of the divisional research committee who forwards it on to the Chair of the university-wide Research and Professional Development Committee.

<b>Date of Application: October 10, 2014</b>
<b>Title of Proposal/Project: A Study of the Photographs of the Northwest Boundary Survey.</b>
<b>Expected Length of Project : 6 months, with 1 week of research travel.</b>
<b>Total Funds Requested from LAUC University-Wide Research Funds: \$4,796.00</b>
<b>Primary Applicant</b> <b>Your Name (include your signature on the paper copy): James A. Eason</b>  <b>Academic Rank and Working Title: Librarian / Principal Archivist for Pictorial Collections.</b>  <b>Bargaining Unit Member/Non-Member: Member</b>  <b>Campus Surface Mail Address: Bancroft Technical Services, Bancroft Library, U.C. Berkeley, Berkeley CA 94720-6000</b>  <b>Telephone and Email Address: 510-643-2704 / jeason@library.berkeley.edu</b>  <b>URL for home campus directory (will be used for link on LAUC University-Wide Funded Research Grants web page):</b> <b><a href="http://sd.lib.berkeley.edu/ldclient/#/fullworker/10236">http://sd.lib.berkeley.edu/ldclient/#/fullworker/10236</a></b>
<b>Co-Applicant(s)</b> <b>Name:</b>

**Academic Rank and Working Title:**

**Bargaining Unit Member/Non-Member:**

**Campus Surface Mail Address:**

**Telephone and Email Address:**

**Proposal Abstract (not to exceed 250 words):**

The survey establishing the boundary between the Washington Territory and Canada took place between 1857 and 1861. The British survey team made photographs during the 1860-1861 seasons, but the American team was not successful in photographic efforts. Documentation of this survey in the U.S. is sparse; no thorough official report was published until 40 years later, due to the outbreak of the Civil War. Bancroft Library holds a collection of 45 landscape views and portraits made by the British. Such sets are extremely rare, and the full set of images has never been published. Incomplete collections are at Yale and the Library of Congress. The most complete sets, of 80-100 views, are at the Victoria and Albert Museum (London) and the archives of the Royal Corps of Engineers (Kent). I propose to study these sets and the physical evidence they exhibit with regard to order of creation, arrangement by custodians, and the intended narratives they may suggest. I will approach the photographs with these questions: 1) What evidence of chronology or geographic sequence is present in the two sets? 2) What evidence of subsequent use of the views is present on the photographs themselves or in related archival records and reports? 3) What was the official impetus behind, and subsequent use of, the outstanding portraiture of Native Americans of the region? 4) How are the multi-plate panoramic views (identified in the Bancroft collection) presented or identified in the more complete sets, and are there as yet unidentified multi-part views?

**Does the proposal require any of the following:**

**Use of UC Library facilities or other site(s) requiring prior approval (Yes/No):**No

**If yes, include signature and position of person authorized to permit use of facilities on paper copy of application:**

**Release time (Yes/No):** Yes

**If yes, include signature(s) of person(s) authorized to approve release time on paper copy of application:** David de Lorenzo

**Use of Human Subjects (Yes/No):** No

**If yes, attach appropriate university form to paper application form. The process of obtaining IRB approval or a determination of exemption from subject protection regulations does not have to be completed prior to submitting your grant proposal. However, the grant cannot be awarded without evidence that the approval or exemption has been obtained.**

**List any previous grant proposals (divisional and university-wide) from this program that have been awarded to the primary applicant or co-applicants by title. Include date of completion and amount funded: None**

**Budget Summary**

**Total amount requested from LAUC statewide research funds: \$4,796.00**

**Total amount requested from LAUC divisional research funds:**

**Other funding obtained or expected (amount and source):**

**Fiscal Year of Application (fiscal year that funding begins): July 2014**

**New Project (Yes/No): Yes**

**Supplemental Funding (Yes/No): No**

**Salaries: 0**

**Total Salaries: 0**

**Supplies: 0**

**Total Supplies: 0**

**Travel: \$4,296**

**Total Travel: \$4,296**

**Other Expenses: \$500 (copying/reproduction)**

**Total Other Expenses: \$500**

**Total State-Wide Research Funds Requested: 4,796**

**Campus Fund Manager**

**Name of business officer who will manage receipt of your funds: Kris Leonardo**

**Phone, email: (510) 642-0207 / kleonard@library.berkeley.edu**

Revised 2/2014 nr

## **Need for Research**

The photographs made for the survey of the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel by the British surveyors for the North American Joint Boundary Commission are among the earliest extant survey photographs of North America. Photography was relatively young, having been invented some 30 years prior to this 1857-1861 endeavor, and the famous Western survey works of Timothy O'Sullivan, A.J. Russell, William Henry Jackson, William Bell, and others would not be undertaken until after the Civil War. Earlier surveys of the West had attempted to use the daguerreotype process, but with limited success. The 1860-1861 albumen prints made by the British Royal Corp of Engineers while establishing the U.S./Canadian boundary constitute the earliest surviving body of photographic survey work in the American West.

While articles and book chapters have been devoted to the photographs of this Northwest Boundary (49<sup>th</sup> Parallel) survey, the complete imagery has never been published. Several American institutions hold incomplete sets of originals, believed to consist of roughly half of the photographs made. The Bancroft Library has a set of forty-five photographs from the papers of an American survey party member, J. Clinton Gardner. The views were entirely unidentified and uncaptioned. Since 2013, identification has been made possible by a similar, but not entirely duplicative, set put online by the Library of Congress, and through study of a retrospective report by Marcus Baker, published in 1900 (*Survey of the Northwestern Boundary of the United States*. In the Bulletin of the U.S.G.S, no. 174, 1900.) This work gives locations of survey camps and boundary markers which, together with online mapping and Google Earth, allow locations of photographs to be identified far more easily than was possible in past decades.

Comparison of the Bancroft Library set of photographs to the views put online by the Library of Congress, and a dozen views online from Yale's Beinecke Library, raises interesting questions about sequence, chronology, and potential narratives intended, or extracted from, the imagery. One exciting feature observed while organizing and identifying the Bancroft set is that many of the individually mounted prints are actually intended to be paired with other images to form two- and three-part panoramas. These panoramic works do not appear to be recorded in the literature of the history of photography, and halves of pairs appear to be lacking from the sets at Library of Congress and Yale. The identification and documentation of previously hidden or unrecognized multi-part panoramas could be a significant contribution to the history of survey photography and the early use of the camera to create a systematic record of landscape.

## **Design and Methodology**

The research I propose, therefore, has several facets and potential directions. First, I will do a thorough analysis of the two most complete sets of the survey photographs. They are found only at the Victoria and Albert Museum and at the library and archives of the Royal Corps of Engineers in Chatham, Kent (about 45 minutes from London by train.) One facet of my interest is in the custodial history and subsequent use of the photographs, as suggested by current order, and any physical evidence suggesting previous arrangement or sequencing of prints. Annotations and numbering on mounts, patterns of physical damage or discoloration, and early listings or records maintained by institutions may shed light on this custodial history.

A second facet of interest is panoramic photography. Are panoramic pairs and triplets identified in the British sets? Has the order that has been maintained kept panoramic pairs sequential, or have they been dispersed? Are there panoramic sets beyond those I have identified within the Bancroft set? This line of investigation is closely tied to the history of arrangement also under analysis.

A third line of enquiry is the nature of use of the photographic record. With some luck, the textual archival record preserved by the Royal Corps of Engineers will shed light on the images and how (or whether) they were used in writing reports or disseminating information about the region. How were the photographs successful or unsuccessful, from the perspective of the agencies that caused them to be created?

Finally, this question of usefulness and reception must be extended to the most visually arresting and powerful group on images from the survey: portraiture of Native Americans of the region. The beautiful portraits of Nez Perce and Spokane Indians, among others, are probably the most reproduced imagery of the survey. What was the intent on the part of the Royal Engineers? Did they take a broad view of survey, as later American western surveys would, and encompass all the cultures and resources of the area? Or were these images merely a byproduct of the landscape work, taken close to camp at down times, or as photographic skills were honed before fieldwork was undertaken?

## **Results**

At least one article, and likely two, will result from my research. I hope to make discoveries about the survey work, and the panoramic views in particular, that are worthy of publication in a scholarly journal such as the *History of Photography*. I also intend to write an analysis of sequence and original order (or lack thereof) that is appropriate for publication in the archival literature, such as *American Archivist* or the *Journal of Archival Organization*. It will serve to demonstrate what arrangement and sequencing can obscure or reveal and, therefore, how custodial arrangement can silently have an impact on the historical record.

If the research goes well, I believe it will lay the foundation for more ambitious future projects. One may be a monograph and catalogue raisonné of the survey photographs. If a print publication does not prove practical, a collaborative website with content and input from the Victoria and Albert, the archives of the Royal Corps of Engineers, the Library of Congress, Berkeley, and Yale would be an excellent goal. I will certainly make connections with curators and other colleagues at the institutions I visit, and initiate dialog about collaborations to make these unique and dispersed resources more widely known and available.

## **Budget**

### Travel

Air: \$1,200

#### Ground:

Taxis: \$100

Public Transit (Tube peak cap at \$18 per day x 5) \$90

Train London to Chatham, Kent (twice) \$120

Airport: \$50

Total Transportation: \$1,560

Lodging: \$1,650  
(7 nights at 145 pounds sterling per night, basic single room rate at Goodenough College faculty club with reciprocal membership with UCB.)

Per Diem (Meals & Incidentals): \$1,086  
(6 days x \$181/day per State Dept. Meals and Incidentals rate for London, used by UC for international travel)

Total Travel, Lodging, Meals: \$4,296

### Copying fees

Xerox: \$50

Digital photography orders: \$250

Permission fees to publish images: \$200

Total Reproductions budget: \$500

Grand Total: \$4,796.00

## **Supplemental Budget Sheet**

[Attached]

### **Personnel**

I, the applicant, have been Principal Archivist for the Bancroft Library Pictorial Collections for nineteen years. I am responsible for the accessioning, arrangement, description, and housing of photographs, prints, drawings and other pictorial material in the largest repository of historic images of the American West. Bancroft collections number approximately 8.5 million images, and strengths include 19<sup>th</sup> century landscape photography. In addition to being past Chair of the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists, I have taught numerous workshops on identification, care, archival arrangement, and cataloging of photographic collections. (Please see attached c.v.)

I have studied the Northwest Boundary Survey photographs held by the Bancroft Library and prepared them for digitization. This work has made me intimately familiar with the images and the geographic place names of the region surveyed. The confidence I have gained with the survey photographs has enabled me to correct transcription errors in descriptions of the Library of Congress set, which have brief identifications in a nearly illegible 19<sup>th</sup> century hand.

My professional background, broadly, and my experience with the boundary survey photographs, specifically, qualify me to assess the imagery and the physical evidence that the British sets of survey photography may present.

### **Timetable for Completion**

December 2014-January 2015:

Reading or re-reading of secondary sources and original reports. Initial contact with curators at British institutions.

February-March 2015:

Travel planning and ongoing reading.

April-May 2015:

Travel to UK for one week (approximately) of research visits in London and Chatham.  
Exact dates to be determined.

May-June:

Writing of article(s) and follow-up correspondence, procuring copies and permission to publish images, etc.

Summer 2015:

Submit article(s) for publication.

**SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET INFORMATION**  
**This Sheet Must Accompany the Grant Application**

**PER DIEM**

Please indicate the source of the per diem rates used in the application

- a. Federal Government
- b. University
- c. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Location	Rate	Source
1. London, UK	181	a.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

**TRAVEL**

Please indicate the source of the travel information used in the application

- a. Federal Government
- b. University
- c. Internet Search (list which service used) \_\_kayak.com\_\_\_\_\_
- d. Travel Agency
- e. Other \_\_\_ Websites for UK National Rail and London Underground\_\_

Location	Type	Amount	Rate	Source
1 London	Air	1,200		c.
2. London-Chatham	Rail	120		e.
3. London	Bus/tube	90		e.
4.				
5.				
6.				

**James A. Eason**  
The Bancroft Library  
University of California at Berkeley  
Berkeley, CA 94720-6000  
jeason@library.berkeley.edu

**Employment:**

**University of California, Berkeley** Berkeley, California  
**Bancroft Library** (1995 – present)

Principal Archivist for Pictorial Collections – manage staff of 2.5 to 4 FTE in the accessioning, arrangement, description, and housing of photographs, prints, drawings, and other visual materials. Manage the creation of archival finding aids. Create and review catalog records in the MARC-VM format. Prioritize collections processing workflow and contribute to grant-writing efforts to secure funding for ongoing digitization and description projects. Serve on Bancroft Library Reference Desk. Assist patrons with specialized research needs. Serve on management committee of Technical Services supervisors.

Concurrently with management of routine unit workflow, plan and manage numerous grant-funded projects. These have included:

- **San Francisco Examiner Archive grants** (2006-2012) to arrange, provide archival housing, describe and digitize portions of the 4 million image photographic files of the newspaper. Wrote work plans, hired staff, and managed successive and overlapping grant projects funded by the NEH (2006-2009), the Save America's Treasures program (2009-2011) and the Council on Library and Information Resources (2010-2012).
- **Pictorial Stabilization Project (2008-2011)** to provide specialized environments and storage facilities for film-based and color photographs, framed works of art, and oversized materials. Participated in design planning, wrote work plan for transfer and housing of collections, hired staff, and managed project.
- **The 1906 San Francisco Earthquake and Fire Project** (2001-2006) to select, describe and digitize photograph collections related to the disaster, resulting in 10,000 digital images, a project website and exhibition, and numerous EAD finding aids.
- **The Museums in the Online Archive of California Project** (1/99-12/2003) to describe and digitize works of art and two archival photograph collections, resulting in 4,000 digital images linked to three EAD finding aids.
- **The Cased Photographs Project** (10/99-12/2000) to conserve, digitize, and provide item-level cataloging for 400 daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and ferrotypes.
- **The San Francisco News-Call Bulletin Project** (6/97-5/99) to create an EAD finding aid for more than 400,000 negatives from a newspaper photograph archive.
- **The Bancroft Pictorial Collections Cataloging and Access Project** (6/95-5/97) to survey and catalog all library pictorial collections. Established local policies and procedures in accordance with LC standards, developed and monitored project workflow, created collection management databases, created and reviewed MARC-VM records.

**University of California, Berkeley** Berkeley, California  
**Bancroft Library** (1993 – 1995)

Library Assistant, Manuscripts Survey Team – assisted in retrospective conversion of manuscripts catalog records to MARC format. Performed physical survey of collections, assessing arrangement and preservation needs.

## James A. Eason

### **Bancroft Library (1992 – 1993)**

Library Assistant - assisted public in locating sources, supervised retrieval of special collections materials, regulated their use in reading room. Part-time.

### **University of California, Berkeley**

Berkeley, California

### **Conservation Department, Main Library (1991 – 1993)**

Student Assistant - performed minor repair of books from Bancroft Library collections as directed by the Rare Books Conservator. Procedures included mending pages, reattaching pages and boards, and repairing spines. Developed deeper understanding of conservation issues. Part-time.

### **Graduate Theological Union**

Berkeley, California

### **Circulation Department, Hewlett Library (1990 - 1991)**

Circulation Assistant & Service Desk Manager - conducted daily operations of circulation desk, supervised student assistants, provided preliminary reference service to patrons.

### **The Claremont Colleges**

Claremont, California

### **Cataloging Department, Honnold Library (1988 - 1990)**

Library Assistant - as part of team, identified and corrected more than 50,000 erroneous item records in online catalog, developed procedures to facilitate OPAC clean up.

### **The Claremont Colleges**

Claremont, California

### **Special Collections, Honnold Library (1984 - 1987)**

Student Assistant - assisted patrons in research, paged rare book and archival materials, filed and shelved materials, performed pre-cataloging bibliographic research on seventeenth century pamphlets. Part-time during academic year, full-time summers.

## **Education:**

### **University of California, Berkeley**

Berkeley, California

MLIS May, 1993. Courses included advanced cataloging, advanced reference, archival administration, history of the book, and descriptive bibliography.

### **Pomona College**

Claremont, California

BA in History in May, 1987. Concentration on Britain and colonial America. Additional courses in art history, Latin, and literature.

### **Edinburgh University**

Edinburgh, Scotland

Participated in semester abroad program in fall 1985. Studies included courses in history, Latin, and archaeology.

## James A. Eason

### **Continuing Education and Professional Development:**

Preservation of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Visual Materials: SAA, August, 2006.

School for Scanning: Preservation and Access in a Digital World: Northeast Document Conservation Center, May, 1997.

The Administration of Photographic Collections: SAA, August, 1997.

### **Professional Organizations and Activities:**

Society of California Archivists

President (2013-2014)

Vice President and Program Committee Chair (2012-2013)

Board of Directors (2003-2005)

Western Archives Institute Joint Management Committee (2003-2005)

Western Archives Institute Site Selection Committee (2002)

Nominating Committee (1999-2000)

Awards Committee (1997-2006)

Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee (1995)

Society of American Archivists

Visual Materials Section Steering Committee (2011-2013)

Chair of the Visual Materials Section (2005-2006)

Vice Chair / Chair-Elect of the Visual Materials Section (2004-2005)

Administrator of VisualMat, the Visual Materials Section listserv (1998-present)

Chair of the Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Roundtable (1998-1999)

Description Section member (1997-present)

Visual Materials Section member (1997-present)

Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, ACRL

Co-Editor, Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials, Graphics (DCRM-G), under the auspices of the Bibliographic Standards Committee of RBMS (2008-2013)

Attendee (non-member), RBMS / ALA pre-conference (San Francisco, 2001)

Attendee (non-member), RBMS / ALA pre-conference focusing on Visual Materials (Chicago, 2000)

Online Archive of California, California Digital Library

Member of OAC Working Group Metadata Subcommittee (2001-2005)

Librarians' Association of the University of California, Berkeley

Chair of the LAUC-B Task Group to revise the Berkeley Procedures for Librarian peer review (2013-2014)

Member of the LAUC-B Nominations & Elections Committee (2011-2012)

Chair of the LAUC-B CAPA Task Force to revise the Berkeley Procedures (2010)

Member of the Committee on Appointments, Promotions, and Advancement (CAPA), the Librarians' peer review committee (2005-2008)

Chair of the LAUC-B CAPA Task Force to revise the Berkeley Procedures (2010)

## James A. Eason

### Application Reviews for Granting Agencies

Getty Grant Program: Reviewer of grant application for a museum photographic collection project and an anthropological photographic collection

National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC): Peer reviewer of grant applications for preservation and access projects

### Presentations and Teaching:

- “Cataloging the Universe of Visual Materials” (Co-instructor for one day workshop, Society of American Archivists, Washington D.C., August 2014.)
- “Historical Photographs in the Digital World” (Two day workshop co-developed and co-taught for the Society of California Archivists in San Jose, April 2011.)
- "How Bad Is 'Good Enough'? : Mass Digitization and Minimal Processing of Photographic Archives" (Research Libraries Group Partnership European Meeting, Oxford, UK, October 2010)
- “Photographs in Archives” (One day workshop developed and taught annually for the Western Archives Institute each June or July, 2006 through 2010.)
- "Describing Photographs in Archival Collections" (One day workshop developed and taught for the Society of California Archivists in San Francisco, September 2009)
- "Applying 'More Product, Less Process' Principles to Digitization of Archival Collections.” (SCA, Monterey, May, 2008)
- Panelist on description & cataloging: “Digitization Matters: Breaking through the barriers - scaling up digitization of special collections.” (Research Libraries Group / SAA Pre-Conference Workshop, Chicago, August, 2007)
- “Extending Concepts of Minimal Processing to Photographic Archives” (SAA, Washington D.C., August, 2006)
- “Photographic Negatives: Rethinking the Archival Image” (Moderator of panel discussion: SCA, San Francisco, April, 2006)
- Roundtable Discussion Session Chair: Nitrate film in archival collections (SCA, Costa Mesa, 2004)
- “Electronic Collection Management Systems: An Endeavor at U.C. Berkeley’s Bancroft Library” (International Congress on Archives, Vienna, Austria, 2004)
- “Extending Traditional Accessioning, Description and Reference for Contemporary Pictures from September 11<sup>th</sup>” (Session Chair for presenters from Library of Congress: SAA, Los Angeles, 2003)
- “From Morgues to Masterpieces: the application of Encoded Archival Description to achieve intellectual control over extremely large photograph collections as well as individual works of art.” (SAA, Denver, 2000)
- “When You Can’t Afford 1,000 Words: Practical Approaches to Describing Pictorial Collections.” (Presentation: SCA, Pasadena, 1998)
- “Bancroft Pictorial Collections: Combining Collection Level and Item Level Descriptive Approaches” (Visual Resource Association, No. Calif. Chapter, April 1998)
- “Back to the Future: Tradition and Innovation in Building Access to Pictorial Collections.” (SAA, Chicago, 1997)

## James A. Eason

### Articles:

- "Photography and Foie Gras: a Visual Materials Archivist in Paris"; in *Views: the Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists* v. 27 no. 3 (November 2013) (Reprinted in the *Daguerreian Society Quarterly* v. 25 no. 4)  
Available online: [http://www.archivesinaction.com/Views\\_November\\_2013.pdf](http://www.archivesinaction.com/Views_November_2013.pdf)
- "A Perfection of Art"; article on library holdings of Carleton Watkins photographs, in *Bancroftiana* no. 141 (Fall 2012) (Reprinted in *Views*, the newsletter of the Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists, v. 27 no. 1) Available online: [http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/bancroftiana/ucb/text/bancroftiana\\_141.pdf](http://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/bancroftiana/ucb/text/bancroftiana_141.pdf)
- "Gold Rush Daguerreotypes Donated"; cover article in *Bancroftiana* no. 135 (Fall 2009)  
Available online: [http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/events/bancroftiana/bancroftiana\\_135.pdf](http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/events/bancroftiana/bancroftiana_135.pdf)
- "Managing Negatives: Some Basic Resources"; in the *Society of California Archivists' Newsletter* (Spring, 2006)
- "A Richer View: The Added Value of Cross-Institutional Searching in RLG Cultural Materials"; in *RLG Focus* issue 59 (December 2002)
- "Historical Images See a New Day"; in *Views: The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists* v. 15 no. 2 (April 2001)
- "More Than Meets the Eye: Hidden Images in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Photography"; in *Bene Legere: Newsletter of the Library Associates* no. 57 (Summer 2001)
- "San Francisco News-Call Bulletin Newspaper Photograph Archive"; in *Bene Legere: Newsletter of the Library Associates* no. 53 (Summer 1999)
- Various book reviews in *Views: The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists* (December 1998-December 2006.)