

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

Primary Applicant(s): Becky Imamoto

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TITLE OF PROJECT: Libraries in the Japanese American Internment Camps

Time Period of Grant: 2009

Amount of Award Received: \$1,154

Original Abstract as Submitted: Approximately 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were forcibly moved from the West Coast of the United States during World War II to ten Relocation Centers in seven states. These centers, more commonly referred to as internment camps, were under the jurisdiction of the War Relocation Authority (WRA) and existed from 1942-1945. During their incarceration internees strove to live as normal a life as possible. This included finding employment, attending school, playing sports, and using the public library. Each camp had its own public library that was a unit administered under the Community Services Division. (There was also a school library run by the Education Section.) The libraries played a vital role in camp life, not only by serving the community as a place to study and learn, but as a gathering spot that provided different forms of social activities.

I would like to study the WRA Records (which is part of the Inventory of the Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement Records) and the Japanese Camp Newspaper Collection to find out more about how these libraries were formed, how they conducted business, and what influence they had on the internees. These archival collections are both located at U.C. Berkeley. I would like to scan the materials pertinent to this topic and create a digital collection. I would also like to write an article about the camp libraries, possibly for the journal *Libraries and the Cultural Record* and/or for CDL's eScholarship Repository.

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

- Describe what was achieved during the time period of the grant.
 - I traveled to Berkeley on March 30, 2009. I spent three days in Special Collections working with the WRA records. I soon realized this would not be enough time to get all the research I needed, so I planned a follow up visit June 22-24, 2009 (this trip I paid for myself). I was able to get all the needed information from the WRA trips. Since then I have been slowly ILL'ing the microfilm (3 reels allowed at a time) for the camp newspapers. There is lots of information and announcements from the library within the newspapers that I have photocopied.
- What aspects were completed as proposed? If your study could not be completed as proposed, explain how your plans were altered.
 - I have completed all the research elements of my proposal.
 - I am still working on writing an article about the Internment Camp Libraries.
- Did the project accomplish what it intended? Did it make a difference?
 - This is still a work in progress.

- What would you do differently next time, if anything?
 - I had no idea how long it would take to go through the WRA files at Berkeley. My estimate of 3 days was *way too* optimistic. Special Collections is only open limited hours of the day and there are 2 microfilm machines that have printers attached. Since there was a steady demand for the microfilm machines, I had to rotate on and off of it. It finally got to the point where I used one of the viewers that did not have a printer and transcribed the text of the articles with my laptop. Very time consuming! So if I could have done this differently, I would have asked for at least a week's trip to Berkeley instead of 3 days.
- What advice do you have for others applying for LAUC research grants?
 - Be specific with your goals
 - Allow generous time for each section of the project. Real life / work has a way of taking precedent and the LAUC Grant gets pushed to the side.

II. IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLETED? Yes__ No_X_

More time is needed for me to complete this project. I believe I have gotten everything I need from Berkeley but it is possible that I would need to make one final trip. I'm not sure if there are funds available for this.

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The table below is my original budget. I'm not exactly sure on the breakdown of how this was actually spent. Though if necessary, I can ask the UCI Libraries Business Office for a copy of my expense report. I did not end up renting a car in Oakland but chose to stay at a more expensive hotel that was within walking distance of campus.

Airplane ticket from Orange County to Oakland	\$270
Parking at John Wayne Airport	\$36
Rental Car in Oakland	\$111
Hotel for three nights	\$450
Parking at U.C. Berkeley	\$45
Food for three days	\$192
Photocopying	\$50

As I mentioned earlier, I did take a second trip to Berkeley and paid for the airfare, hotel, transportation, and food myself as I had already spent the \$1,154 given to me by the grant.

IV. SHARING YOUR PRODUCT/RESULTS

I'm planning on submitting my article to the journal Libraries and the Cultural Record <http://sentra.ischool.utexas.edu/~lcr/index.php>.

V. NOTE

Information included in this report may be reprinted or posted on the web for dissemination to UCOP, other UC Libraries, and future potential LAUC grant applicants.