Navajo Studies: Archival Collections at the UNM Center for Southwest Research

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The UNM Center for Southwest Research (CSWR) collects, preserves, and makes available materials to help document the culture and history of the Diné in historical and contemporary times, from both native and non-native perspectives. Our unique archival holdings include manuscripts (personal papers, government and business records), oral histories, photographs, sound recordings, and architectural records. Our University Archives include records and a new oral history project to document Native Americans at UNM, including many Navajo students, faculty and staff. The CSWR also maintains many books, journals, videos, audios, newspapers & microfilm relevant to Navajo studies.

We respectfully present this guide to the people of the Navajo Nation whose knowledge and voices are represented here. This guide was originally developed for use by the Navajo Studies Conference.

FINDING OUR COLLECTIONS

- LEARN MORE ABOUT ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS LISTED IN THIS GUIDE:
  Rocky Mountain Online Archive (rmoa.unm.edu). Online finding aids (inventories) for all of the UNM CSWR’s archival collections plus other archives in NM, Colorado & Wyoming. View the finding aids and then contact us or come in for the collections.

- FIND SELECTED DIGITIZED ITEMS ONLINE:
  New Mexico’s Digital Collections (econtent.unm.edu). Although only a percentage of our collections are available online, there are many important sources now available for Diné studies. Find documents, oral histories, photographs and more from the Center for Southwest Research and other NM museums and archives.

- SEARCH UNM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES FOR BOOKS, ARTICLES & MORE:
  Quick Search (elibrary.unm.edu) from the UNM University Libraries. Search for books and articles available electronically and at the libraries. Find brief records and links to archives. Non-UNM users may find limits on some electronic resources; visit our campus for full access.

- FIND MORE LIBRARY RESOURCES AT UNM:
  Research Guides (libguides.unm.edu) Find Native American and Southwest Studies guides.

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at the Center for Southwest Research for more information, including access and duplication policies. (505) 277-6451 or email cswrref@unm.edu.
ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS / MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Inventories at rmoa.unm.edu

ACTIVISTS


LaDonna Harris Papers and Americans for Indian Opportunity Records, 1953-2010. Documents LaDonna Harris’ life as an activist and AIO's four decades of advocacy and development projects related to the needs and rights of Native Americans. Includes many Navajo Nation projects.


Shirley Hill Witt Papers, 1610-1991. Diverse subject files from 1970s, 80s, including relocation.


EDUCATORS


University of New Mexico Navajo Reading Study Records, 1940-1979. Records of study to investigate feasibility & effect of teaching Navajo children to read in Navajo language before English.

University of New Mexico (Santa Fe, N.M.) collection, 1878-1888. Ramona Industrial School.

GOVERNMENT AGENTS, OFFICIALS & MILITARY

D. M. Riordan Papers, 1886-1914. Indian Agent, Fort Defiance. Reports, letterbooks.


Documents from the Archivo General de La Nación de México and other related archives, 1520-1878. Spanish Colonial records document relations with Navajo on many topics. From AGN, Mexico City.

Documents from the Archivo General de Indias and other related archives, 1508-1821. Spanish Colonial records document relations with Navajo on many topics. From AGI, Sevilla, Spain.


John Singel letters concerning Navajo attacks on Fort Defiance, N.M., 1857-circa 2009. 3 letters of soldier stationed at Fort Defiance, late 1850s.


Michael Steck Papers, 1839-1933, (bulk 1852-1880). Indian Agent (1852-1863) and Superintendent of Indian Affairs for New Mexico (1863-1865).
Richard H. Hanna Papers, 1859-1963. NM Supreme Court Justice, 1912-1919, and attorney specializing in Indian affairs, Spanish law, and water rights. Papers include Navajo Oil Company litigation.

Sophie D. Aberle Papers, 1913-1987. Superintendent, United Pueblos Agency. Also a research director and health consultant. Wide ranging topics include Navajo health, governance, relocation, and land use.


RESEARCHERS: ANTHROPOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS, OTHERS


Frank Reeve Papers, 1787-1968 (bulk 1840-1967). New Mexico historian who specialized in Navajo history from the colonial era through the 19th century.


William A. Keleher Papers, 1714-1999. Historian’s papers include various Navajo documents.

TRADERS & OTHERS


Charles Wright Diaries, 1914-1936. Albuquerque trader; travel to Navajo Reservation.


Marietta Wetherill Drawings and Letter, 1886-[19-] (bulk 1886-1889). Navajo clans and masks.

Yah-ta-hey, New Mexico Real Estate Appraisal, [1968]. Market appraisal of Yah-ta-hey, NM, contains demographic data, commentary on Navajo social & cultural life, tourism & economic development.

WRITERS


Tony Hillerman Papers,
PICTORIAL COLLECTIONS
Inventories at rmoa.unm.edu
Collections listed as Online can be found at econtent.unm.edu under CSWR Pictorial Collections.

Alice Bullock, c1880-c1979. Extensive photo collection includes Navajo and related photos.
Eldred R. Harrington, c.1930-c.1960. Large collection includes photos of Navajo and Pueblo people, Gallup, Gallup coal mining, and numerous other topics and locations.
Elizabeth Willis Dehuff. Primarily 1920-1945. 1,285 photos of Native American and Hispanic peoples, especially Pueblos, Navajo, and Ute tribes. Online.
Father Agnelius Lammert, 1917-1983. Film of Navajo weaver and several photos. Partially online.
Fort Wingate NM. 1954-1973. 9 snapshots of a Navajo & Anglo Brownie (Girl Scout) Troop.
George Wharton James. 1890-1909. Photos from writer and promoter of the West, including photos of Navajos and subjects including weaving, baskets, dwellings.
Glenn Emmons, 1919-1960. Photos from Emmons’ tenure as BIA Commissioner, various Indian groups.
Horatio Oliver Ladd, c.1880-1899. Ramona Industrial School for Indian Girls and other photos, including Navajo students and other Navajo images.
Indians of North America (General File), c1860-c1950. Wide range of photos include Navajo lifeways.
John Sinclair, 1940-1955. Photos from cowboy author Sinclair, includes 3 folders of Navajo subjects.
Lee Marmon, 1936-2010. Navajo and Native American photos from professional photographer Marmon of Laguna NM. Partially online, many being added.
M. K. Medler, 1877-1920. Includes 1 “curious photo of 2 young women joking with Navajo men.”
Marion Dargan, 1910-1950. 4 photos, including a Navajo on horseback.
Navajo Uranium Miners Oral History & Photography Project. 1996. 33 photos of former Navajo uranium miners & their families, used in book “Memories Come to Us in the Rain and the Wind.”
Photographic Record of the Rainbow Bridge – Monument Valley Expedition. 1933. Expedition photo album includes photos of people as well as trading posts (Kayenta and Begashebito).
Sophie D. Aberle, 1896-1996. Photos relating to Aberle’s governmental and research work. Includes photos of Navajo Farm Training Project and Navajo land erosion.
Southwest Travel Literature. 1920-1940. 5 postcards, “Pictorial Postcards of the Southwest by Laura Gilpin, Set No. 4, Navaho.”
Tintypes. 1860s-1880s. Includes studio portrait of a “seated man wearing a Navajo serape.”

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ORAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS
Inventories at rmoa.unm.edu

American Indian Oral History Collection, 1967-1972. ("Doris Duke Collection.") 406 Navajo interviews, primarily individuals but also community meetings. Additional 200 “miscellaneous” recordings contain Navajo and American Indian activists subjects (NIYC, NCAI, Alcatraz takeover). Also Navajo subject newscutting files. Navajo interview transcripts online at econtent.unm.edu.


SOUND ARCHIVES: Music and Interviews
Inventories at rmoa.unm.edu

Donald Roberts Collection, 1961-1968. UNM Fine Arts Librarian.
Indian Music of the Southwest and Mexico, 1941-1963. UNM Dept. of Music.
Manuel Archuleta collection of Pueblo Indian, Navajo and Hopi music, ca. 1940.

ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES
Inventories at rmoa.unm.edu

Small Collections. Several Gallup buildings.
Torres, Robert. Crownpoint.

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USING THE COLLECTIONS

The Center for Southwest Research (CSWR) is open to the public throughout the year and is located on the main floor of the UNM Zimmerman Library. All CSWR collections are for library use only in the Anderson Reading Room. See our website for specific use and duplication policies as well as hours and visitor information. It is our goal to encourage and assist you in your research.

CSWR SEMESTER HOURS

See our website for inter-session hours and holidays

Mon, Thurs, Fri: 9am-5pm. Tues, Wed: 9am-7pm. Sat: 12-4pm.

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