LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

SUMMARY OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021
We are excited to provide a summary of our accomplishments for fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) for our Library & Archives (L&A) patrons, donors, and supporters. The beginning of a new fiscal year is always an exciting point in time to look back and review our progress, and plan for the future.

During the year, the Museum went through a series of closures due to COVID, but our staff continued working both remotely and in-house. They assisted researchers, cared for the collections, and provided online content for a remote audience.

We have also welcomed two new staff members, Amber Sykes (Archivist) and Kirstee Magee (Registrar).

With the closures from COVID, we really witnessed how important our work towards digitizing and creating virtual opportunities is in providing access, in even the most difficult of times. While spaces continue to safely reopen, we hope to welcome back more researchers into the Library & Archives to see our recent acquisitions and the stories they have to offer.
RESEARCH REQUESTS

In FY2021, the Museum’s Library & Archives (L&A) answered over 13,500 remote information requests via telephone, mail, and email. Due to COVID, the L&A was closed to onsite visitors for most of the year, but recently reopened its doors on June 15, 2021 to the public. In the last two weeks of the fiscal year, the L&A received three in person researchers after being closed for a year and a half. With the library now open, the Museum looks forward to more in-person visits for the upcoming fiscal year.

During the year, the L&A staff assisted remote researchers and supported the production of various domestic and foreign produced aviation and space related documentaries, including offerings on the National Geographic Channel, Smithsonian Channel, Canada Documentary Channel, Fox News Network, Turner Classic Movies, Ozarks Public Television, and Encyclopedia Britannica. Research inquiries were received from around the world, including England, Norway, Peru, Mexico, Australia, Poland, Canada, Russia, South Africa, Belgium, and Barbados.

Many well-known organizations requested assistance, including the Louisiana Historical Association, the Friends of Magnuson Historic District (Seattle), John Hopkins University, Atchison Amelia Earhart Foundation, League of WW2 Aviation Historians, NPS Pearson Air Museum, and the Conner Prairie Museum.

Staff also assisted a number of authors in their preparation of books and newspaper and magazine articles. Their documentaries, books, and articles cover a large number of diverse topics, including LTA Balloon flight, the 90th Bomb Group, C-47 Skytrain, B-58 Hustler, the Dutch Naval Air Force against Japan, aviation in motion picture film production, Convair XFY POGO, Albert Menasco, DH-4B, Japanese G8N bomber, OH-6A Cayuse helicopter, the Hubble Telescope, Jackie Cochran, and Charles Lindbergh.

Information about various aircraft was also requested for the B-36, B-52, Boeing 747, DC-10, F4U-1, F-14, the Tupolev ANT-20bis, Ryan Brougham B-5, Stits Playboy SA-3A, and the Spruce Goose.

AWARD WINNING

We received a generous award from the California State Library for their “California Revealed” project. This project will digitize 50 items containing thousands of pages of content. The items to be digitized include board minutes from the Consolidated/Convair Aircraft Corporation from 1924 to 1954, which will give insight into the major decisions that made the company one of the most important aerospace manufacturers in America.

Also, selected for digitization are the company newspapers for the Northrop Corporation, which range in date from the 1940s to the 1980s. Northrop was known for manufacturing “Flying Wing” aircraft and several other important designs, such as the F-5. These newspapers include information about the products the company made, in addition to the everyday activities of its employees. Such activities include such things as employee spotlights and articles on company sports teams. Northrop was a major aerospace corporation, which employed several thousand Californians in the 1950s. These newspapers give a unique look into the aerospace industry in California during the Cold War.

These items will be available on Archive.org in late 2021 and all the text will be fully searchable. This is a continuation of our partnership with the State Library, who have already generously digitized many of our oral histories (including rare interviews with T.C. Ryan) and who have just finished digitizing scrapbooks belonging to Consolidated founder Reuben H. Fleet.
ONLINE ACCESSIBILITY

During the COVID shutdowns, the Museum strove to accomplish its mission through virtual outreach using various social media sites such as Flickr, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, as well as the Museum’s website. The Museum’s digitized collections from the Library & Archives, consisting of over 408,000 assets, were utilized to support a robust online presence. Thousands of photos, documents and films provided content for our social media accounts and initiatives such as SDASM TV, which highlighted the Museum’s most compelling films and oral histories.

The Museum also introduced initiatives to expand access to its online resources. During the year, the Museum uploaded approximately 16,500 new digitized images and 100 digitized films. To date, there are more than 317,000 images and 6,605 videos offered online. In FY21, the Museum received 31,025,000 views on Flickr and 1,211,256 views on YouTube with 136,000 hours of watch time.

To engage with a remote audience during the quarantine period, the Museum launched monthly online exhibits and weekly artifact spotlights. A sampling of the artifact spotlights includes “Second World War Women’s Poster Collection” and a piece of the moon. The online exhibits included a wide range of topics, including “A Celebration of Latino and Hispanic Aviators” and “High Flying Films” which looked at the history of aviation in motion pictures. All these exhibits strove to put the focus on the San Diego Area. During the year, the Museum created 10 new online exhibits and 36 artifact spotlights featuring the collections.

PROCESSING LIBRARY MATERIALS

Processing is underway on the Library materials from the large Aerospace Education Center collection. This collection was donated in 2015 by The Arnold Companies (TAC), arriving from Little Rock, Arkansas. The Library materials from this collection encompass nearly 10,000 books, booklets, manuscripts, and monographs, and over 100,000 periodicals.

All of the technical documents will be added. This includes approximately eighteen boxes of manuals, aircraft incident reports, press kits, press releases, technical reports, various NASA documents, and a large run of bound NACA reports dating to 1915. A large collection of published Symposium Proceedings from the Society of American Test Pilots is also included.

Periodical titles we do not have will also be added to our collection, as well as select bound volumes of titles we already have, such as Aeronautics & Astronautics and Aviation Week. Some titles new to our collection include early issues of the Small Air Forces Observer, McDonnell-Douglas News, AOPA Pilot, and various helicopter publications.

The books we are selecting greatly enhance or supplement our collection in all subjects, especially surrounding UAVs, satellites, and scholarly material relating to the origin of space exploration. Several manuscripts are also being added. As of this writing, nearly eighteen boxes of books and periodicals are scheduled to be cataloged and transferred to our main site.
COLLECTION CARE

During the fiscal year, the L&A staff processed 65 new donations, scanned 16,500 images, and cataloged more than 60,000 digital files (photos, films, and documents). They also worked on several other collection care and preservation projects. These included rehousing the periodical collection in acid-free archival boxes, preparing a storage room for new shelving and collection move, and conducting an audit of all books.

REHOUSING OF COLLECTIONS
The Museum is currently in the process of rehousing its entire collection of periodicals in archival boxes. The collection is approximately 745 unique titles of various sizes spanning approximately 600 linear feet. Since our Library volunteers have returned, we have used 176 boxes, covering 71 titles, and spanning 54.5 linear feet. 9.53% of the periodical collection has been rehoused.

The rehousing project has also allowed staff to review the collection and get a more exhaustive list of holdings, as this collection has not been inventoried in some years. So far, two titles have come up missing, and approximately 20 titles have been added. In addition to rehousing the periodicals, one manuscript in the Museum’s Special Collections has been treated for mold, surfaced cleaned, and rehoused. It is a rare and fragile typed German language manuscript with handwritten notes by Wernher von Braun, titled Das Marsproject.

Six books in our Special Collections have been covered in archival custom size phase boxes to further protect our rare material.

PREPARATION FOR RENOVATION
The Library & Archives is preparing for the installation of compact shelving from SpaceSaver in order to transfer the Annex storage to a larger room. The existing room needed significant work to prepare the room for shelving. Most of the room was cleared before the pandemic shut down. However, closing offered an opportunity to clean the room, paint the walls, patch concrete, and install a temporary door. When the SpaceSaver shelves are installed, work to move the contents from the Annex (including the newly rehoused periodicals) will begin.

BOOK INVENTORY
An inventory audit of all books housed in the Library & Archives is currently in progress, and is about 50% complete. A quick shelf reading of the books was completed in the Library before the pandemic began. This included ensuring all books were in order, shelves were cleaned and vacuumed, and oversize material was moved to the proper size shelves, and catalog records were updated. The detailed audit of the book collection is in progress, which involves ensuring all titles are located and accounted for in their proper location. The books housed in the Annex were audited before the shutdown. The review of the books housed in the main library is in progress, and is currently about 50% complete.
The Library & Archives staff assists researchers on a variety of topics throughout the year. One memorable inquiry came from a woman who was trying to locate information on her father during WWII, who passed away in the line of duty before the war’s end. The only information the family had of his service was that he was at Guadalcanal in 1943 and received a medal from Marc Mitscher. The woman was interested in locating any documentation or photos of that award ceremony. She had identified the Admiral Marc Mitscher Collection as a possibility.

The Museum received the Mitscher collection in the 1980s, donated by his niece, Betty Ferguson, a former Museum volunteer. The collection had been fully organized and inventoried, but never digitized. The researcher had located a listing of the collection on the Museum’s website with reference to Guadalcanal during the same period her father was there. Although the Museum was closed to the public due to COVID, staff were still assisting with remote research requests. A search began to locate any information of the award ceremony. A file folder labeled  

Since 2010, the Museum has made digitizing of its collections a priority to reach a larger global audience and to raise awareness of its holdings. To date there are over 400,000 digital assets online available to the public for free.
“Guadalcanal Command” was completely digitized and scans sent to the woman for review. After sharing with her family, it was determined that one of the photos did contain an image of her father, most likely one of the last photos ever taken of him before his death.

**ADMIRAL MARC MITSCHER COLLECTION**

Admiral Marc Mitscher had a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy as both aviator and ship commander. Mitscher’s strategies were crucial to the Allied forces during WWII.

Admiral Marc Andrew Mitscher was born in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1910, Mitscher reported for aviation training aboard the USS North Carolina, one of the first ships to carry aircraft. He was designated Naval Aviator #33 on June 2, 1916. Over the next two decades, Mitscher advanced through varied assignments, including Bureau of Aeronautics and on two U.S. aircraft carriers. He continued to advance the science of aeronautics through his leadership in the development of mass flights over water and techniques of carrier based aviation.

Mitscher assumed command of the USS Hornet in October 1941. On April 18, 1942, Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle and his squadron launched the raid on Tokyo from the deck of the Hornet. Mitscher had enormous strategic success with Naval Aviation commands from the Solomons to the Central and Western Pacific, culminating in the leadership of Task Force 58. Mitscher died February 3, 1947, while in command of the Atlantic Fleet.

The Mitscher collection consists of four boxes: three boxes measure 15 ½ x 10 ¾ x 5 inches and the fourth box is oversized, measuring 15 ½ x 12 ¼ x 5 inches. The majority of the collection contains photographs, but there are some documents and personal papers relating to Mitscher from the early 1900s to his death in 1947. Much of the focus is on his early-aviation career and his WWII service as Captain and Admiral in the U.S. Navy. His insignia is on display in the Museum’s WWII gallery.

Over 850 photos from this important collection have now been digitized and can be found on the Museum’s Flickr site at: FlickR.com/photos/SDASMARCHIVES/albums/72157718911306060. Since 2010, the Museum has made digitizing of its collections a priority to reach a larger global audience and to raise awareness of its holdings. To date there are over 400,000 digital assets online available to the public for free. These assets include photos, films and historic documents and newsletters. Each year the Museum adds over 20,000 new assets online through the use of various internet platforms such as Flickr, YouTube, and the Online Archives of California (OAC). For materials that have not yet been digitized, detailed listings and descriptions are created to enable discovery by the public.
NEW DONATION:
LILLIAN BOYER COLLECTION

The San Diego Air & Space Museum’s Library & Archives received a new donation of Lillian Boyer’s Personal Papers. The collection contains photos and documents pertaining to Boyer’s time as a stunt performer. Materials will be available for research once it has been processed and digitized.

Lillian Boyer (1901-1989) was a sensational aerialist during the 1920s. She had her first ride in an airplane in 1921, and on the second ride, she climbed out on the wing. From late 1921 to late 1928, Lillian dazzled huge crowds at fairs in 22 states as she took to the air in a Curtiss Jenny biplane piloted by the well-known flier William S. Brock. Throughout her career, she performed at 352 shows in 41 states and Canada, completing 143 automobile-to-plane changes and 37 parachute jumps.

As an aerial daredevil, Ms. Boyer excelled at changing from a speeding automobile to an airplane (the first woman to do so); change from plane to plane; hang by her teeth (and by toes, knees, or ankles); hang by one hand from the skid under a wing tip; balance on her head; do stunts on a ladder, and also perform parachute drops.

Ms. Boyer finished her stunting career on September 8, 1928, in Bethany, Missouri. In 1937, she married Ernest Werner and moved to Los Angeles in 1944. Ms. Boyer moved to San Diego in 1976 where she passed in June 1989 at the age of 89. The collection was donated to the Museum by a family member in July 2021. Work will begin to digitize the photographs and offer online through the Museum’s Flickr site.

Lillian Boyer (1901-1989) was a sensational aerialist during the 1920s. She had her first ride in an airplane in 1921, and on the second ride, she climbed out on the wing.
NEW COLLECTION STAFF

AMBER SYKES, ARCHIVIST (COLLECTIONS)
Amber Sykes joined the Museum in 2021 as Archivist and is responsible for the organization and preservation of the Museum’s archival collection. Prior to returning to her hometown of San Diego, she worked at the Autry Museum of the American West, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles and has a background in special collections and metadata management. She earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of California, San Diego and her master’s in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. Throughout her career and education, she has focused on accessibility in archives, whether that be promoting the value of digitization or understanding the importance of accurate description for better findability. She also has a background in journalism, which gives her a passion for not just organizing the archives, but finding the stories within them.

KIRSTEE MAGEE, MUSEUM REGISTRAR
Kirstie Magee joined the Museum in 2021 as Registrar. She is responsible for maintaining the Museum’s collection records, including donation forms, incoming and outgoing loans, and object records in the collections management database. She also assists with collections care, such as inventory, condition reporting, and rehousing of objects. Ms. Magee served two years at Yakima Valley Museum as a collections intern, cataloging objects, performing preservation techniques, and contributing to exhibit development. She also served two years at Palm Springs Art Museum as a docent, designing and leading museum tours for elementary school children. Ms. Magee graduated summa cum laude from Central Washington University in June 2020. She received a Bachelor of Science in anthropology and a Bachelor of Arts in history with minors in forensic studies, museum studies, and religious studies.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

TATIANA ZHDANOVA-ANDERSON
Tatiana began volunteering in the Library in July 2019. She grew up in Russia, enjoys research, and speaks five languages! She has been busy cataloging books, conducting inventories, and updating collection data on films, periodicals and newspapers. Tatiana is a fun and enthusiastic person, and certainly excited about working in the Library. Tatiana received her BA in Business Administration from Moscow Humanitarian Ecological Institute. She moved to the U.S. in March 2005 on a J1 Student Exchange visa and has worked in a series of customer service positions before discovering her passion for museums and libraries. She has proven to be a true asset to our team.
STAY CONNECTED

The Library & Archives is very active on the Internet and offers many ways in which you can stay connected to our collections and activities.

AEROCAT ONLINE CATALOG: You can browse our immense collection of books and archives from the comfort of your own home. Our online catalog is available via the Museum’s website at SANDIEGOAIRANDSPACE.ORG under the “Learn” tab.

FLICKR: View our vast collection of digitized images at FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/SDASMARCHIVES/ You can also add tags and comments that will be stored with our Digital Asset Management System in order to enhance the catalog record for better retrieval.

YOUTUBE: We have digitized thousands of films and videos that are available for viewing at: YOUTUBE.COM/USER/SDASMARCHIVES The Museum is regularly adding more materials to its website to engage our community from the comfort of their own home. Please visit us at SANDIEGOAIRANDSPACE.ORG regularly to learn what’s new at the Museum.

OPEN FOR RESEARCH

The SDASM Library & Archives is open to the general public. Staff and/or volunteers are available for research assistance. Appointments should be made in advance by calling 619-234-8291 x125, or by emailing dseracini@sdasm.org, prior to your visit. Information can often be pulled prior to your visit if we are aware of your research needs beforehand. We encourage researchers to search our collections online before coming onsite. Contact the L&A staff for research rules and regulations.

STAFF MEMBERS

Katrina Pescador, Library & Archives Director
Melissa Culbertson, Librarian
Alan Renga, Digital Archivist
Debbie Seracini, Research Archivist
Amber Sykes, Collections Archivist
Kirstee, Museum Registrar

HOURS OF OPERATION

Tuesday to Friday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Mondays, weekends, federal holidays, and for some special Museum functions
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your gifts to the San Diego Air & Space Museum of aerospace related materials make it possible for many dedicated people to pursue important work and help the Museum remain California’s premier institution for preserving aviation history and technology. Some of the world’s most talented, caring, passionate, and involved individuals work and volunteer at the Museum. These materials are preserved for future generations and made available to the general public for research purposes.

Thank you for your support.

JAMES G. KIDRICK
MUSEUM PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

More than fifty percent of L&A funding is from private donors. Your tax-deductible contribution of any amount, will help accomplish our 2022 goals, which include renovation of our collection spaces and our on-going digitization efforts. Please feel free to contact Katrina Pescador, L&A Director, at kpesador@sdasm.org. The Museum accepts monetary donations online or by mail to San Diego Air & Space Museum, 2001 Pan American Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101. Please specify how you want your donation designated, whether it be to help fund our general operations or for a special project. Thank you in advance for your continuing support.