The Library & Archives has been busy since fully reopening operations last year. With staff back onsite full time and volunteers returning for select projects, we have been busy with research requests, collection care duties, processing donations, and continuing to provide the Museum and the public with world class access to our rare collection.

We are now welcoming back onsite researchers by appointment. Our Convair and Pacific Southwest Airlines collections remain our most heavily referenced Special Collections. We are continuing to provide a significant amount of research assistance remotely.

We did not accept donations through shutdown, and now we are seeing an increase of incoming donations as many folks cleaned out their houses, garages, and storage units during the coronavirus shutdown. This is bringing exciting new material to the Library & Archives. In addition to processing these donations, we are continuing to work through our collection backlog, especially collections stored at our offsite locations. Stay tuned to our website and social media channels for spotlights on newly added material!

We are looking forward to the next fiscal year with excitement as we now have a fully staffed department and we are back on-site full time. This year we expect to see the renovations completed in our Library Annex, which includes the installation of compact shelving and transfer of the Annex book and periodical collection. We are continuing our digitization initiatives, which includes some films transferred from offsite storage.

Thank you to our volunteers, patrons, donors, and researchers for your support this past year as we reopened, and for this upcoming year as we continue our mission to collect, preserve, and make available for research published, documentary, and
RESEARCHERS

In FY22, the L&A received inquiries from around the world, including Russia, United Kingdom, Australia, Austria, Norway, Canada, The Netherlands, and France.

Many well-known organizations requested assistance, including the SFO Museum in San Francisco, National Geographic, Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, HistoryNet/Aviation History Magazine, Austrian National Library, Carolinas Aviation Museum, KPBS-TV, San Bernardino County Department of Airports, Smithsonian Canada, University of Toronto, Japan, NASA History Division, Ohio Valley History, Kansas City International Airport, NBC Lx, and CBS.

The L&A also assisted more than 25 authors in their research and preparation of books, newspaper and magazine articles, as well as with internet magazines, multi-media displays and exhibits, promotional catalogs, marketing ads, and commercial websites. Diverse topics included Katherine Stinson, early stunt flyers, the Flying Tigers, VP 102, PSA, Charles Lindbergh, Bessie Coleman, General Robert Cardenas, Jerrie Cobb, France WWII, Astronautics art, Women in WWII, Chuck Yeager, WWI observation pilots, Tex Lagrone, Lillian Boyer, Art Goebel, missile silos, UFOs, and flying cars.


AWARD WINNING

The Library & Archives won the prestigious Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award from the Society of American Archivists this spring. This award recognizes “an archivist, editor, group of individuals, or institution that has increased public awareness of a specific body of documents (which can be a specific archival collection or thematic aggregation) through compilation, transcription, exhibition, or public presentation of archives or manuscript materials for educational, instructional, or other public purpose.” The award honored our efforts to increase public awareness of our aviation images via our Flickr Commons site, which has over 300,000 images on it and receives millions of views and thousands of comments and tags annually. SDASM’s Library & Archives will be honored at the awards ceremony at this year’s Society of American Archivists Annual Conference.

The L&A staff assisted aviation and space related documentaries, including offerings on the National Geographic and NASA History Division.
Bessie Coleman was born in 1892 to a father who was of Native American (Cherokee) and African American descent. She was the 10th of 13 children, and would rise from humble beginnings to become the first African-American woman and first Native American to hold a pilot license.
ONLINE EXHIBITS

During the year, the staff of the Library & Archives launched six online exhibits to reach a larger global audience and to spotlight items from the collections. These include exhibits featuring collection images, presented in a way that connects online visitors with the Museum’s resources.

CHARLES R. “CHUCK” FAUST:
World-renowned San Diego artist, architectural design director for the SD Zoological Society, and long-time board member for the San Diego International Air & Space Hall of Fame. Exhibit features his aviation-themed bas-relief sculptures, sand castings, drawings and paintings.

NORMAN HOWARD CASSON:
Classically trained pianist and big-band conductor, Casson enjoyed a highly successful six-decade career in aerospace engineering and is best known for his significant contributions to the Apollo Project.

BOEING 314 FINAL DESTINATION: SAN DIEGO:
Pan American Airways was once the largest airline in the world and during its heyday in the 1930s, offered the most luxurious and comfortable air passenger service on their famous “Clipper” flying boats.

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN IN AVIATION:
In honor of Native American Heritage Month, the San Diego Air & Space Museum launched a new online exhibit celebrating Native American women in aviation.

THE POLAR EXPRESS BY AIR:
A look back at those daring aviators who have tried to replicate Santa’s yearly trip from the North Pole. The history of Polar exploration by air is one that is full or daring and danger.

USS LANGLEY 100TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT:
Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first U.S. aircraft carrier. This exhibit tells the story of the USS Langley commissioned in 1922.

Look for more exciting online exhibits coming up in the next year!
In the final years of his life, noted author and historian, David Myhra, sought a home for his personal archive of publications and research. At his request, the San Diego Air & Space Museum’s Library & Archives accepted and recently finished processing the substantial library of documents, photographs, and media included in this donation.

David Myhra is a U.S.-based author and researcher, actively publishing from 1980-2020; he has published more than 130 books and dozens of Ebooks on varied historical topics, from Soviet-era aircraft carriers and Japanese battleships to World War II German flying machines. His primary focus was the later; most of his books cover individual aircraft types, both paper-projects and full production warplanes, and interviews with their designers that he personally tracked down.

Myhra was first to investigate and publish books on VTOL (Vertical Takeoff and Landing) X-planes. Throughout the 1980s, he interviewed dozens of former German aviation designers and gas turbine rocket scientists from all over the world. He researched and interviewed German
scientists captured and taken to the Soviet Union where they were forced to work on their derivative projects after the war. He was involved in production of numerous TV documentaries, foremost being the National Geographic TV Channel’s 2009 documentary “Hitler’s Stealth Fighter” which featured the building of a full-scale replica of the Horten “Flying Wing” by the Northrop Corporation and its radar cross section (RCS) testing at their classified radar test range in the California Mojave Desert.

The Library & Archive’s connection with David Myhra goes back to 2010, when Northrop selected the Museum as the home for their full-scale replica of the Horten Ho 229. Myhra was instrumental in the construction of the replica aircraft. This impressive and unusual, but accurate twin-jet flying wing dominates the skies near the P-51 “Mustang” exhibit and captures the visitors’ attention. The unfamiliar, out-of-place bat-winged shaped aircraft hangs among the more-familiar aluminum piston-engine fighters and consequently, is quite the conversation piece. The donation of Myhra’s Horten research -- which includes hundreds of interviews with the Horten brothers, thousands of photos, and blueprints -- allows the L&A to provide researchers with not only a full sized example, but also the background documentation that goes with this unique aircraft.

Fans of David Myhra are familiar with his many published articles on books about what can best be described as “flights of fancy” -- specifically, the dreaded “Nazi UFO.” Commercially, publication of short-run books on specific aircraft have little meat on the bone and Myhra made the choice to leave traditional subjects behind for more financially viable subjects, just as popular interest in UFOs and WWII “secret weapons” really took off. His background knowledge of the German procurement systems, production methods and facilities, and his unrivaled personal familiarity with many German aviation engineers gave further weight to these otherwise “airy” projects, and his books on these often led to multiple reprints.

This donation contains a generous collection of 17 file boxes containing Myhra’s manuscripts, interviews with aircraft builders and airmen, dozens of binders filled with aircraft photographs, original and copied wartime reports, a wide variety of ephemera related to WWII aviation, as well as two 15 x 11.5 x 3 boxes of DVDs, CD-ROMs, and cassettes. The collection has been processed and itemized and will eventually be digitized in order to share with other researchers both on site and online. Previously digitized photos from this collection can be viewed on Flickr at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/sdasmarchives/albums/72157719269344046
Now that the Library & Archives is fully staffed and back onsite full-time, we have honed our priorities to ensure our work continues to support our Mission and that of the Museum’s with intention and efficiency. This plan was informed by a 2019 Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Condition Assessment Program (CAP) grant, a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), and a Needs Assessment. The following goals will be measured by their objectives, and will guide all of our activities over the next five years:

**Improve financial position**: show measurable financial growth over the next five years.

**Deliver high quality programs and services**: demonstrate increased use of our material, implement new programs and continue existing programs which increase awareness of the Library & Archives collection, and increase global viewership.

**Strengthen Museum ties within the community**: increase relationships with our global and local communities as measured by meaningful partnerships, programming, and interactions.

**Develop current and new audiences**: increase our audiences both in quantity and in repeated interactions, as well as creatively engage new audience groups who may not have visited our Museum (either physically or virtually) before.

**Improve collection care**: continue to improve our method of caring for the collection through improving our storage facilities, handling and storage of material, and routinely assessing our preservation plans.

**Improve storage facilities**: address immediate needs, plan for longer-term needs, continue to ensure optimal collection storage, and create a sustainable facility for housing Museum assets.

By dedicating ourselves to this plan, we continue to ensure our activities and objectives echo the Museum’s Strategic Plan in order to keep our collection accessible and maintain the highest ethical standards in its preservation and interpretation.
IN MEMORIAM

**BOB JOHNSTON**

We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of longtime Museum volunteer and supporter, Bob Johnston. Bob Johnston began his volunteer service at the Museum more than ten years ago, devoting 12-20 hours per week to various museum projects. He had a genuine love for aerospace history and understood the importance of preserving it, as well as providing public access and awareness.

Bob spent 40 years of his career with Convair/General Dynamics in San Diego. He was particularly passionate about inspiring the next generation of engineers. He served as a key committee member within the Museum’s Scholarship Program. In 2020 he received the “Inspiration Award” through the Friends of Balboa Park for his many accomplishments as a volunteer at the Museum.

Bob worked in the Library & Archives assisting in many invaluable capacities including writing several Museum publications, grant proposals, newsletter articles, as well as processing complex archival collections.

Bob’s dedication, expertise, and his cheerful demeanor are greatly missed.

**TERRY KELLEY**

The San Diego Air & Space Museum was shocked to learn of the untimely passing of special volunteer Terry Kelley. Terry was a recently retired 35-year corporate pilot. His last 25 years were with Norfolk Southern Corporation, one of the Class 1 railroads in the United States, retiring as Chief Pilot of the Fortune 500 Company in 2019.

He began volunteering at the Museum in 2020, primarily assisting his daughter, SDASM Librarian Melissa Culbertson in various capacities. He particularly enjoyed volunteering at Gillespie Field with hands-on tasks such as painting and washing airplanes. Terry will be missed by many in the Museum.

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT**

**ELSA DOLAN**

Elsa started working in the Library in August 2021. She received her MLIS in December of 2020 from Syracuse University’s online degree program and has since been gaining library and archival experience through cataloging books and updating periodicals. She received her Bachelor’s degree in English Literature from the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada.

Elsa comes to us with extensive Museum Library experience, formerly working and volunteering at several other institutions in Balboa Park. She has a deep interest in Japanese culture and art. She curated a year-long exhibit on the history of kimono at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park and occasionally wears kimono.

Elsa is an outgoing and curious person and enjoys working in the Library to deepen her knowledge of flight history and space exploration. Elsa is always willing to help in any capacity. She has a true passion for Libraries and understands the importance of preservation, access, and organization.
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, Collections & Research Director
Melissa Culbertson, Librarian
Alan Renga, Digital Archivist
Debbie Seracini, Research Archivist
Amber Sykes, Collections Archivist

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.

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 Collections & Research Director, at kpescador@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.