

Arizona Memory Project 2007 Annual Report

The Arizona Memory Project (<http://azmemory.lib.az.us>) provides online access to the wealth of primary sources in Arizona libraries, archives, museums and other cultural institutions. The program allows Arizonans – and others – to view some current and historical government documents, as well as some of the best photographs, maps, and objects that chronicle Arizona's past and present.

The Arizona Memory Project (AMP) was launched in March 2006 and has been granted the Arizona Centennial 2012 legacy project designation by the Arizona Historical Advisory Commission. The Arizona Memory Project has also become a registered data contributor to large-scale digital library projects including OAIster.org and the Open Archives Initiative.

In FY 2007, the Arizona Memory Project developed partnerships with over fifteen cultural and government institutions, including the Arizona Historical Foundation (Tempe), the Arizona State Museum (Tucson), the City of Glendale (Glendale), the Cochise County Clerk of the Superior Court (Bisbee), the Navajo County Historical Society (Holbrook), the Old Trails Museum and Winslow Historical Society (Winslow), the Pueblo Grande Museum (Phoenix), the Sedona Historical Society (Sedona), the Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives (Prescott), the Show Low Historical Society Museum (Show Low), the Taylor/Shumway Heritage Foundation (Taylor), and the Bead Museum (Glendale). The Arizona Memory Project team is currently helping more than ten new partners to mount their digital collections online.

As a collaborative effort, the Archives, Museum and Library divisions worked under the facilitation of Marisa Ramirez, Digital Repository Coordinator, to oversee the growth of the site. In 2007, the Arizona Memory Project has grown to feature over 20,000 items in more than thirty collections.

The Arizona Memory Project recently went live with a newly redesigned interface to improve web site usability and navigation. The enhancements were based on feedback from users, partners, web accessibility best practices, and a website usability study. One of the most noticeable enhancements includes the creation of RSS feeds, which provides automatic notification of new content to users.

The Arizona Memory Project successfully secured a federal grant to fund the Arizona Memory Fellows Program, a statewide program modeled after the Library of Congress' American Memory Fellows Program. The Arizona Memory Fellows Program provides professional development training to Arizona K-12 teachers and teacher-librarians to enable them to create and share online lesson plans utilizing the rich array of digitized primary resource materials on AMP.

The Arizona Memory Project team promoted the program through regional meetings as well as through exhibits and presentations at the Arizona Library Association conference, the annual Library and Archives Convocation conference, the Museum Association of Arizona conference, and the Best Practices Exchange 2007: Libraries and Archives in the Digital Era conference.