

# **Juggling Priorities: Lessons Learned During a Community Documentation Project**

**TAMMI KIM and EMILY LAPWORTH**

## **Abstract:**

In 2014, UNLV University Libraries began the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project - a strategic community documentation and engagement project. The project is a multi-year initiative to collect, preserve, and provide access to primary sources documenting the history of the Jewish community of Southern Nevada. The project's goals are to conduct oral histories that capture first hand testimony about Jewish life in Las Vegas; to seek personal and organizational archives about the community and ensure their preservation; to provide online access to selected historical resources that support research, teaching, and learning; and to engage the Jewish and Las Vegas communities in appreciation of this rich history.

This poster will explore the activities and workflows utilized to actively collect, preserve, and provide access to primary source materials including the collection of oral histories, archival collections, and digital surrogates. We will also describe the challenges with creating an online repository with newly acquired materials and legacy collections and creating a project-specific website that includes biographical web pages, an interactive timeline, 7+ theme/topic-specific web pages, and a blog, all of which provide contextual information about the community and link to digitized archival and oral history materials. We will articulate lessons learned and explore areas for future research for community documentation projects.

## **About the Authors:**

*Tammi Kim* is a Special Collections Technical Services Librarian for UNLV University Libraries Special Collections where she focuses on accessioning. She has previously held positions working in archives and special collections at the University of Delaware and the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia. She earned her MLIS in 2011 from UCLA.

*Emily Lapworth* is Digital Special Collections Librarian at UNLV University Libraries Special Collections. Her current position focuses on digitization, metadata, online access, and digital asset management. She was project archivist for the Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project and also previously worked for Backstage Library Works and Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections. She earned her MLIS from Simmons in 2014.