



NEWS RELEASE

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Teresa Kiser Receives Spotlight Award from Society of American Archivists

CHICAGO—Teresa Kiser was honored with the Society of American Archivists' (SAA) Spotlight Award, which will be presented during a ceremony on August 26, 2011, at *ARCHIVES 360°*, SAA's 75th Annual Meeting in Chicago. The award recognizes the contributions of individuals who work for the good of the profession and archives collections—work that does not typically receive public recognition.

Kiser, director of the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County, is a librarian who seeks ways to improve the library and other libraries in the state of Alabama. A strong supporter of the Alabama Virtual Library, she applied in 2002 for a Library Services and Technology Act grant to purchase large format scanners to begin a project of digitizing, organizing, and properly storing more than 30,000 glass plate negatives in the Russell Brothers collection. The photos, from 1883 through 1943, document Anniston as it developed as a community. With the aid of staff and volunteers, the Russell Brothers Collection is now searchable and available after seven long years through the library's online catalog, which subsequently has raised awareness locally and nationally about the library and this archival collection.

"Kiser's foresight and perseverance in digitizing the negatives has brought recognition to the collection—The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) has requested use for various segments they produced, authors have used the images in books including two on the history of Anniston, local businesses provide a visual history of Anniston through exhibited reprints and Jim Batchelor publishes yearly calendars for sale using images from the collection," said one Awards Committee member.

The exhibit, *Lives of Quiet Affirmation*, used Russell Brothers' photographs to document the Jewish community in Calhoun County, Alabama. "With Teresa's hard work this unique and irreplaceable collection can exist forever through the online world," noted one nominator.

Past recipients include Ann Russell (Northeast Document Conservation Center) and Alan Harris Stein (Chicago Oral History Roundtable).

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Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA's mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 6,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. For more information, visit www.archivists.org.

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