

# ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A DIGITAL ARCHIVES: LESSONS AND CHALLENGES

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# Presentation Overview

- The “Filipino community” in Hawai‘i
- The Challenge
- “Goals and Objectives”
- Funding the Project
- Family Collections Preservation Workshops
- [www.efilarchives.org](http://www.efilarchives.org)
- Lessons and Issues
- Some Stats
- Where Do We Go From Here?

# Hawai'i's "Filipino Community"

- Hawai'i's Filipino and part-Filipino population is estimated to be 290,705 or 23.5% of Hawaii's 1,238,158 total population. (2005 American Community Survey)
- The community's identity is defined relative to other communities, using characteristics, categories and events posited by "mainstream" society to fit a dominant "master narrative" (ex. plantation life, "sakada", "FOB")
- Not one community but several. Annually, 5,000 new immigrants from the Philippines. Connection to plantation life is diminished and diminishing.

# The Challenge

- ca. 2004: Existing institutions, such as the Hawai‘i State Archives, Bishop Museum, Mission House, etc. did not collect much “ethnic” resources.
- Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i, Okinawan Cultural Center and Hawai‘i Plantation Village only collected Japanese, Okinawan or plantation-related resources.
- Filipino Community Center – newly finished/unfinished – was experiencing significant “growing pains” – original plan was rejected.
- With 2006 Filipino centennial approaching, a quick response was envisioned. Original archives scrapped in favor of digital archives.

# Goals and Objectives (at least, at the start)

- Create an internet resource making available to the general public a body of digitized resources on the Filipino experience in Hawai'i.
  - Set up a demonstration website with available resources.
  - Explore different approaches to presenting online resources – everything had to be downloadable.
  - Present early planning and accomplishments at FANHS 2006 in Honolulu as a means to encourage similar initiatives.

# Goals and Objectives (part two)

- Community Outreach
  - Conduct preservation workshops encouraging individuals in the community to preserve family and community knowledge
  - Partner with community organizations to create online and “hard copy” exhibits
- Expand digital collection
  - Newspapers and publications
  - Family histories and photographs
  - Other “evidence”

# Funding the Project

- Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
- Hawaii State Foundation for Culture and the Arts (SFCA)
- Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- Hawai'i Council for the Humanities (HCH)
- University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Office of Multicultural Student Services
- Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawai'i
- Filipino Community Center of Hawai'i

# Family Collections Preservation Workshops

- Communities are formed by individuals and families living (most of the time) their lives “under the radar.”
- Within these communities, “historical” and cultural knowledge, experience and understanding take place.
- Through these communities we negotiate our “identity.”
- In addition to helping families preserve resources of historical/cultural value, families should collect and preserve what they themselves value.



# www.efilarchives.org - Features

- Publications
  - GUMIL Hawai‘i
  - Pamphlets and Newspapers
  - *Social Processes in Hawai‘i*
  - WWII Veterans
- Collections
  - Unheard Voices Project
  - Julian Yorong Rondalla Group
  - Hawai‘i’s Filipino Veterans – Stanley Sabihon
- News and Updates

# Lessons Learned/Learning

- Document all procedures.
- Start creating a database, even if only a few items in collection.
- Standardize on digitizing procedures. (cf. About Us webpage)
- Simplify your backups and don't forget to keep one backup copy off-site.
- Be prepared to change or modify your collection focus as your community buys into your mission.
- Look for long-term volunteers if not able to hire workers.
- Be prepared for “moves” – physical and/or internet provider.

# Some Website Stats

- Unique Visitors
  - 382 (2006 from April)
  - 514 (2007)
  - 644 (2008)
  - 923 (2009)
  - 651 (2010 to July 19)
- Country (last 500 to July 19)
  - 82% (USA)
  - 8% (RP)
  - 6% (PRC)
  - Japan, Brazil, Turkey, ten others
- State Region(last 500)
  - 57% (Hawaii)
  - 8% (California)
  - 4% (New Jersey)
  - 2% (Manila)
  - Washington, Michigan, Georgia, Shandong, Quezon City, Ontario, sixty-five others
- Technical
  - 54% (Win XP), 18% (Win Vista), 15% (MacOSX), Linux, Win 7, Win 2003
  - 49% (Firefox), 36% (IE), 8% (Safari), Chrome, Opera, Sea Monkey, Konqueror

# Online Considerations

- Archival Issues
  - Problems of “folksonomy” and social tagging – market driven resources; “tyranny of the majority”
  - Archivist perspectives – importance of metadata description and finding aids
  - Provenance (i.e., history/origin of an object) and authenticity
- Technical Issues
  - Identity and integrity – digital security and preservation (refreshing and migrating)
  - Long-term format compatibility

# Where Do We Go From Here?

- Need to build collection.
- Need to index collection and add search machine.
- Example: Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience
  - Upload from prior database (MS Access format) into PastPerfect museum software
  - Remote web hosting (Linux)
  - Challenge is to create an effective search component
  - <http://db.wingluke.org/>