



County Librarian's Report

March 2012

Digital Island @ Central

The furniture is in place and all 35 public-access computers are now on the first floor of the Central Branch. This new space has been named the "Digital Island". This change has been met with great enthusiasm from customers and staff who like all of the same services consolidated in one place. This space also includes dedicated workspace for laptop users with access to free wifi.



New Service Desks @ Central

Along with the new Digital Island we also now have two new service desks at Central: one for Customer Service / Check Out and the other for Information Services. These desks are much more streamlined and user friendly than the previous desks. We still need signage, but that is in the planning stages.



Honoring Our Volunteers

The Library recently held an afternoon tea to honor and recognize the tremendous efforts of all our volunteers...all 905 of them! Every time I think of those who volunteer in the library, I am humbled by their passion. It is a true gift of time and commitment to the Library and we are very thankful.

New Strategic Plan for the Library

The Library has been working with Dr. Jackie Ryle to get input from community shareholders on what they would like to see in our Libraries. This is part of the Library's strategic planning process which has also included input from community focus groups, staff focus groups, and online surveys from customers and staff. The planning team is now ready to start putting the data together and the final document will include a new mission and vision for the Library, as well as new strategic directions to guide the organization over the next few years.

Kill-a-Watt Meter Available @ Libraries

Beginning April 16, you will be able to check out a Kill-a-Watt Meter to measure your energy consumption at home. You can use the meter to see how much energy goes to your appliances, computers, lights, and more. This is a joint program in cooperation with Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). The Library is delighted to be a partner in this effort.

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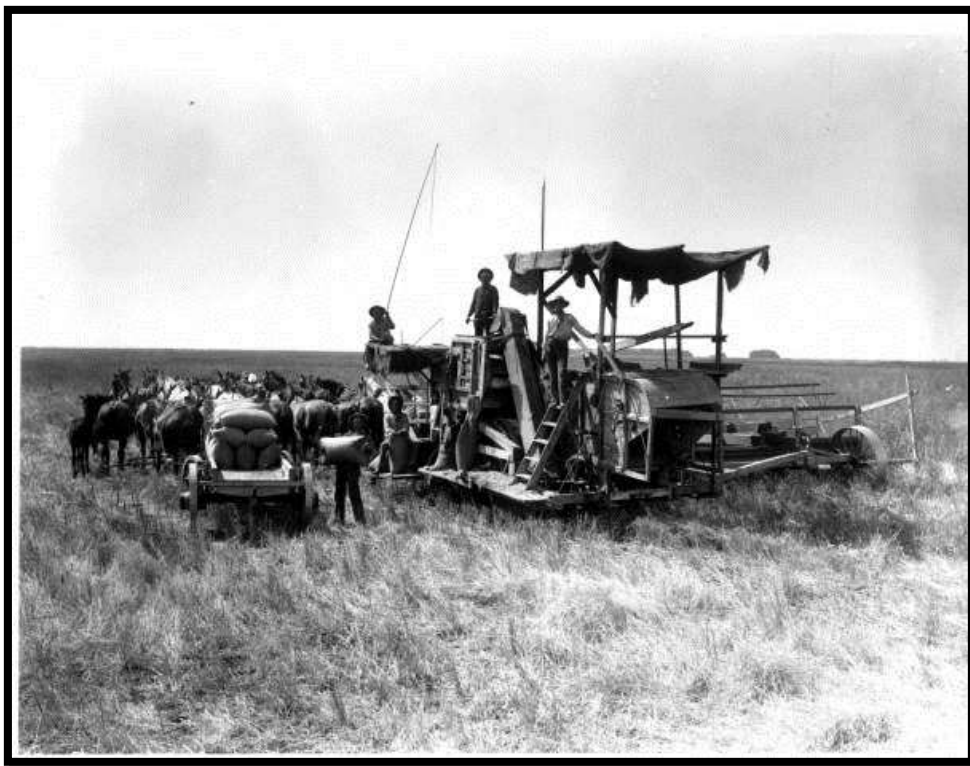
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LSTA Digitization Grant Work Completed

For the past nine months the Library has been working with the [Pop Laval Foundation](#) on a Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant to digitize and develop metadata for 1,200 of Pop's images having to do with hydroelectric power, agriculture, Fresno during the World Wars, local families and children, and early transportation. Recently staff from the Pop Laval Foundation finished digitizing, classifying, and storing the images. Soon all 1,200 images will be made available in the [Online Archives of California](#), which also includes *Calisphere*, as well as on the Library's existing [San Joaquin Valley Photo Heritage Project](#) web site.

This has been a very important preservation project. The Pop Laval Foundation has a collection of 100,000 negatives and prints taken during a span of five decades (1910s-1960s) in the San Joaquin Valley and the central Sierra Nevada by Fresno-based pre-eminent photographer Pop Laval. The collection contains a great number of fragile materials, such as glass and cellulose nitrate negatives which are in imminent danger of deterioration and loss. The *Saving Pop Laval Historic Photograph Grant* not only preserves Pop's fragile images, but also increases access to his works by a larger state, national, and international audience.

Preserving our history is something the Library has identified as a priority through its planning process. Below is an example of one of these precious historical photos. We will announce the web address of where these photos are located once they have been made public.



Loading the Sacks of Grain From Horse Drawn Combine Harvester, Pop Laval, 1901.