



# CARL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

CLA 2013  
LORRAINE BUSBY  
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND



So what's so special about special collections? >>



Well, frankly, everything! >>

# Background

- ▶ Taking Our Pulse: The OCLC Research Survey of Special Collections and Archives (Oct. 2010)
- ▶ CARL survey of special collections at 27 member libraries (April 2012)
- ▶ Digitization of Special Collections and Archives: Legal and Contractual Issues (Jun. 2012)



# Purpose of Survey

- ▶ To better understand the nature and operations of special collections in Canadian research libraries – now and in the future
- ▶ No recommendations at this point
- ▶ Survey starts a discussion about the future of special collections in Canada



# Hidden Treasures



- ▶ Primary sources for scholarship
- ▶ Attracts the best researchers
- ▶ Engages communities
- ▶ Enhances reputations
- ▶ Enriches student learning
- ▶ Low use
- ▶ Not always valued by parent institutions
- ▶ Require substantial investments in
  - Space
  - Funding
  - Specialist staffing

Valuable assets?

Expensive & under utilized?

# Today's Goals

- ▶ To share results from the CARL survey
- ▶ To discuss challenges identified in the survey
- ▶ To seek your input and suggestions for projects, directions, solutions to the items identified



# CARL Survey Highlights

- ▶ Significant physical and virtual space is needed
- ▶ Increasingly acquisition policies are narrowing and becoming more restrictive in scope
- ▶ There is no 'best' funding model
- ▶ There are no measures to demonstrate the return on investment





# CARL Survey Highlights (cont.)

- ▶ Additional investments of staff, particularly with skills in digitization and digital management knowledge, are predicted
- ▶ Funding in-house digitization efforts remains elusive
- ▶ Corollary investments are needed in access tools, computer storage capacity, and preservation mechanisms for perpetual access



# Challenges

- ▶ Need for long term solutions for physically & virtually storing special collections
- ▶ Need for policies to deal with the acquisition, access, and restrictions of various collections
- ▶ Need for meaningful measures to demonstrate ROI and impact
- ▶ Need to add & develop specialized staff skills in digitization, marketing, and promoting



# Challenges (cont.)

- ▶ Need for more funding
  - Internal funding sources
  - Grants
  - Donors
  - Endowments
- ▶ Need for greater preservation
- ▶ Need to ensure perpetual access

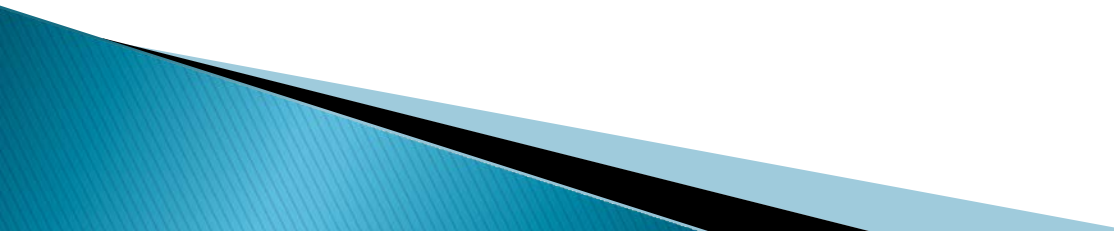


# Identified Priorities

- ▶ Contributing to a national strategy
- ▶ Facilitate information sharing
- ▶ Preservation support
- ▶ Coordination of digitization projects to reduce duplication & redundancies



# CARL's Role is to:

- ▶ Provide leadership
  - ▶ Advocate
  - ▶ Coordinate, and
  - ▶ Facilitate
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# Today's Discussions

- ▶ Your ideas, suggestions, and contributions re:
  - Changing patterns in use
  - Strategies to increase use
  - Strategies to measure & report ROI



# FEEDBACK

<http://bit.ly/10Y2kbQ>



THANK YOU

