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John Stokes and unidentified men in peach orchard, 1911. Photo from the Lake Country Museum and Archive.

UBC Okanagan Library leads project to bring local history to life

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Digital portal provides access to photographs and documents from the past. A new online resource has brought the faces and names of the Okanagan's colourful and vibrant history into the 21st century.

Coordinated by UBC and featuring rich, local content from project partners, this new website brings the people and places from the Okanagan region onto the screens of valley residents. Recently launched, Digitized Okanagan History (DOH) currently includes almost 4,000 photos and documents dating back to the turn of the last century. And that is just the beginning.

"While we have some 3,800 items available on the site, we have scanned or collected more than 30,000

Sicamous. Their goal was to digitize two-dimensional documents and photos tucked away in a variety of collections using portable scanners. Since then, they have been uploading the images to the DOH portal, the online resource created by the Okanagan Region Historical Digitization Project, which was generously funded by a private British Columbia based foundation, says Berringer.

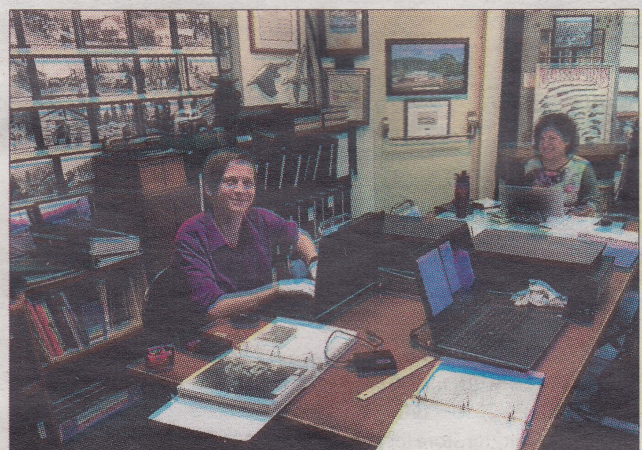
The goal is to provide a centralized portal to support research and generally improve access to local resources. Prior to the launch, anyone interested in accessing a photo or document dating back to the past century would have to visit the local museum or historical society—many of which are run by volunteers and have restricted hours. DOH links people to all 11 repositories and many of the hidden historical treasures on

beneficial for people interested in regional history, whether working on research or curious about their family's past, UBC's university archivist Chris Hives says it goes deeper than that.

"Through this project, we've been able to ensure that multiple digital copies of these photos exist in different places. There is in the historical community, concern about

possible damage to these irreplaceable resources through fire or flood," says Hives. "I see this as a definite contribution to the long-term stewardship efforts and preservation of history. Now, we can ensure ongoing access to those images that document the history of these unique communities."

Explore the project's digital collections: doh.arcabc.ca. Credit



11 PROJECT PARTNERS

Armstrong Spallumcheen Museum and Art Gallery

Enderby and District Museum and Archives

Historic O'Keefe Ranch

Lake Country Museum and Archive

Lumby and District Museum

Naramata Heritage Museum

Osoyoos and District Museum and Archives

Peachland Museum

Sicamous and District Museum and Historical Society

South Similkameen Museum

Summerland Museum and Archives

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