

# Internet Technician Report IX

## On The Stevens County Crossroads on the Columbia Digital Archive

For January 2011

By Joseph Barreca

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> report in this series and the 15<sup>th</sup> month of archiving activity. (To read previous reports, visit <http://crossroadsarchive.org/about/documents/project-progress>.) Activity in the past few months was slowed by the holiday season. Another big change has been the loss of our project coordinator, Tracey Rice. She has moved on to full time employment out of the area. The Internet Technicians, Joseph Barreca and Susan Richart will be taking over Tracey's duties. Sue will be concentrating on posting material to the archive with the correct metadata. Joe will be arranging agreements and tracking progress.

The following chart shows the status of **inventory and prioritization of material** from the primary organizations in the original grant.

Agency or Organization	Contacted	Inventoried	Prioritized	Agreement	Digitizing
City of Chewelah and Chewelah Historical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
City of Colville	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
City of Kettle Falls (Library)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
City of Marcus	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Clayton Historical Society	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Geronimo's Restaurant	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Hunters Museum	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kettle Falls Historical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Loon Lake Historical Society	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Northport Historical Society	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Spokane Tribe	Yes	No	No	No	No
Stevens County Historical Society	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stevens County Library	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stevens County Planning	Yes	No	No	No	No
Tiger Historical Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
US Forest Service	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
US Park Service	Yes	No	No	No	No
Private Collections	Yes	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial
Northeast Wash. Genealogical Society	Yes	Partial	Partial	Partial	Partial
Valley Historical Society	Yes	Yes	No	No	No

All of the organizations envisioned in the original grant request have now been contacted and we have begun digitizing material from the majority of them.

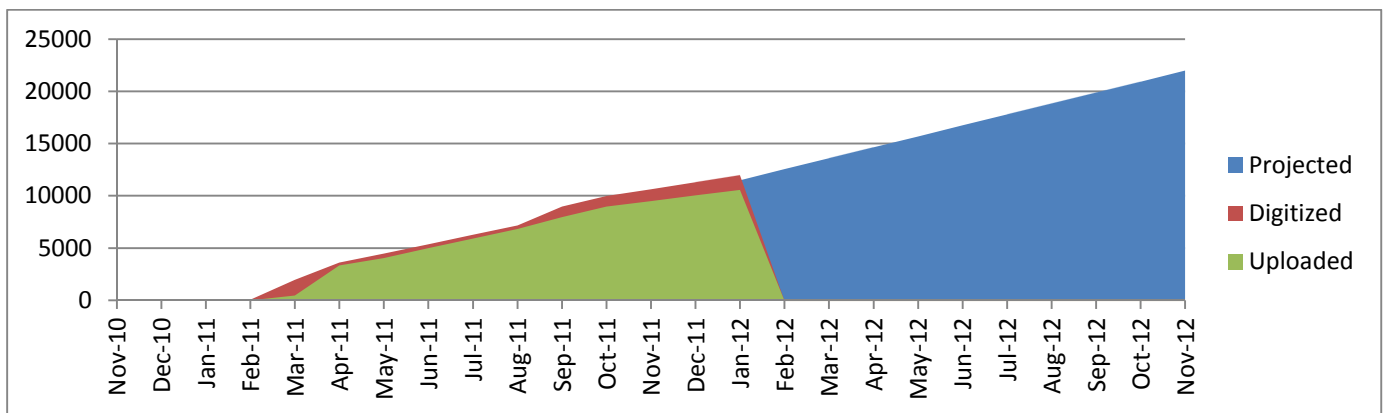
- Northport: Because of travel limitations and lack of response from Northport work there has been suspended until spring.
- Tiger Historical Center: A good deal of material from Tiger is being digitized. There is a lot more available. Distance and weather continue to be a factor.
- Loon Lake: The Loon Lake Historical Society has prioritized and digitized a great variety of material. We are near the limit of their expected allotment and need to create policies to deal with all the museums fairly.
- Chewelah: For the time being, work at Chewelah is complete.

- Clayton: We are now processing Clayton material.
- The Kettle Falls Historical Center: The work at this museum has involved creating a digital inventory of their material in Musarch software. The system is now installed on their computer and the images are in the queue to be uploaded to the archive.
- Springdale: The material at the small museum attached to a restaurant in Springdale is not a good fit with this project. Springdale is however an important town in Stevens County History. More good material is available through the city and the school. We are working on getting access to it.
- City of Colville: We now have some digital copies of their material and are planning to acquire more.
- Spokane Tribe: We have some good contacts with the Spokane Tribe. Their material is more sensitive than most but they have an interest in participating in the project.
- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LARO): We have a close working relationship with the Archeology staff at LARO. We have scanned several large maps using their equipment and they have helped develop local oral histories. These contributions don't show up in our volunteer time because Federal staff time is not considered a matching contribution.

**Power Points Presentations:** In December, Joseph Barreca gave a presentation on civic groups to the Colville Rotary Club. That material is being enhanced and will be posted on our website.

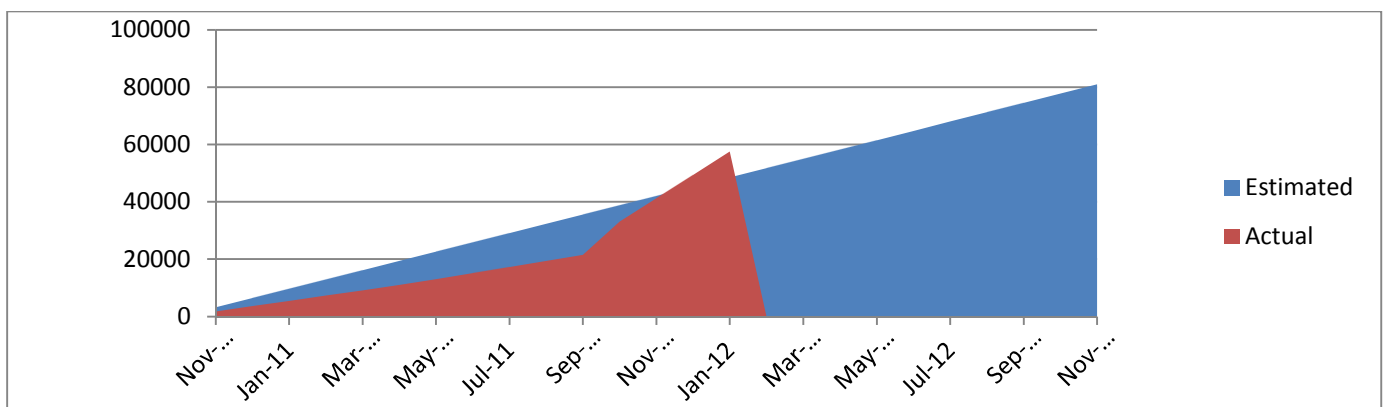
**Local publications:** In the past couple of months we have had an article on mines in the Northport area and an article on home births based on birth records from Chewelah published in local papers. Both provided links and explanations of our project.

Figure 1: Items in the Archive



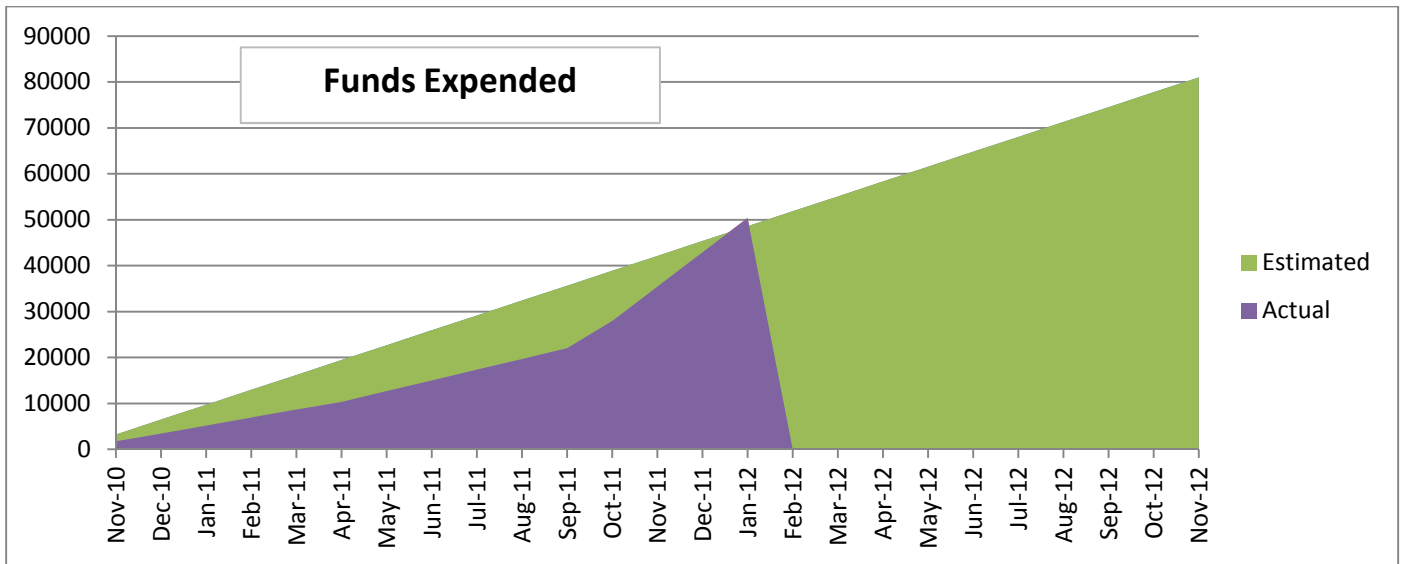
The amount of material in the archive continues to meet projections. Now that we are digitizing at the Stevens County Historical Society Museum in Colville, much more material than we are set up for is readily available.

Figure 2: Matching Contributions



Large additions to the contribution category from inventory time at Chewelah put us back on track to meet expected goals there. The more pressing issues will be around prioritization, publicity, volunteer recognition and the future of the project.

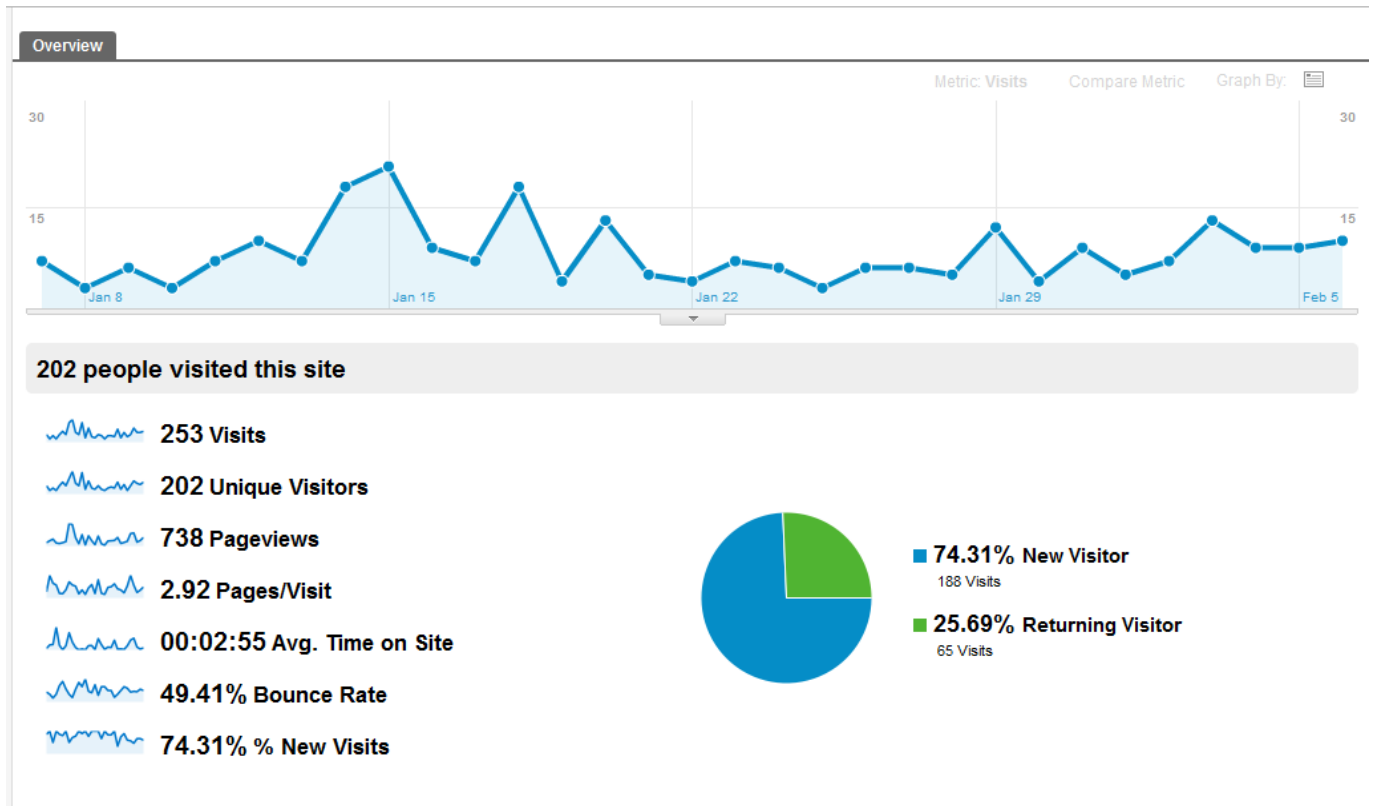
Figure 3: Funds Expended to Date



The funds expended are still as projected. Despite having one less staff member we are expecting to use the monies as budgeted in the personnel category

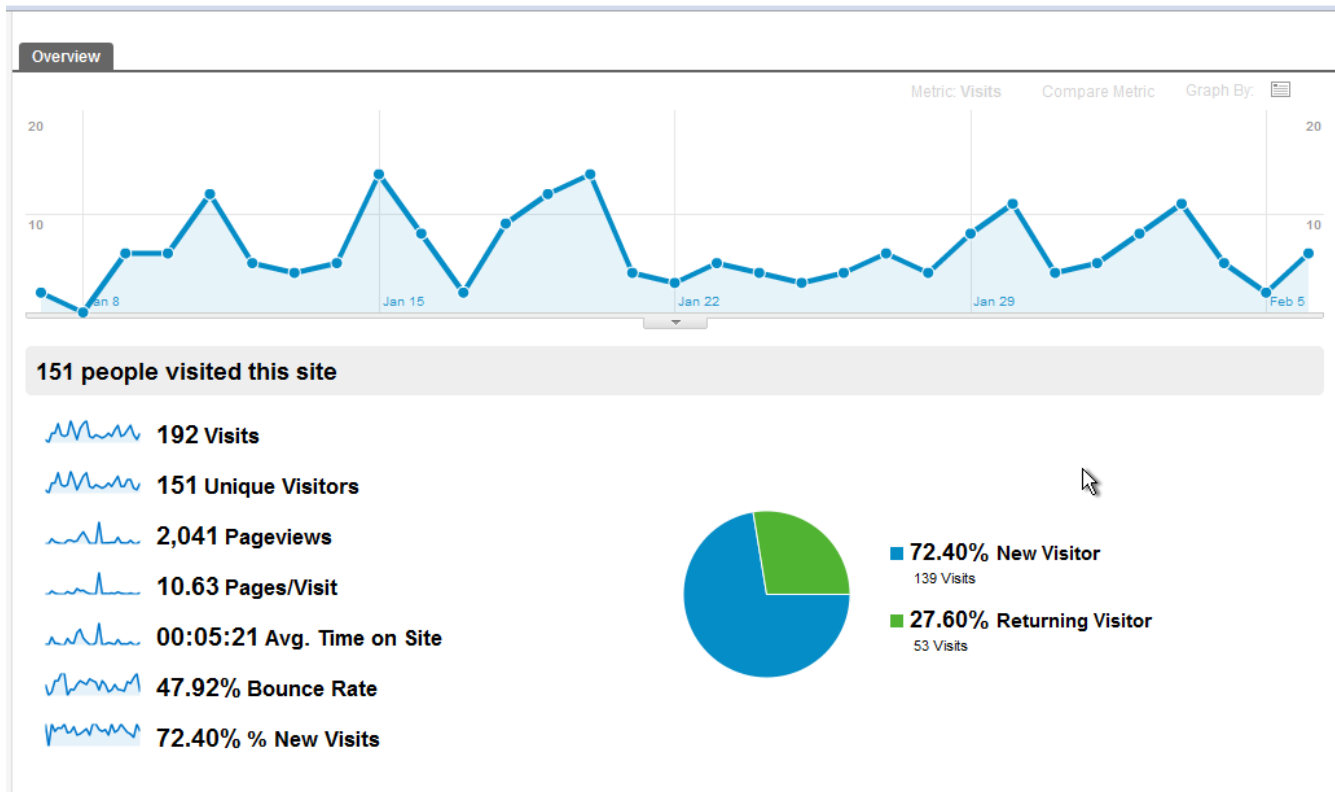
## Website Tracking:

Figure 4: CrossroadsArchive.org Activity



The interpretation and business site for the Crossroads archive continues to have a large percentage of new visits. The number of visits has almost doubled since the last report in October as have the page views. Time on the site is about the same.

Figure 5: Crossroads.net Activity



Overall visits to the archive site are up by 50% as are pageviews. The percentage of new visits is also up by 50%. Momentum is growing around this project and it is hard to pin down one particular cause. Two innovations during this period account for some of this interest.

1. We have added a name index to the interpretive site, [crossroadsarchive.org](http://crossroadsarchive.org). As we extract names from the images we have scanned, we can embed them in the images themselves and the pages of the Omeka archive. But the handiest links are those in the link section of the .org site. We have more than 40,000 clickable links now in that set of .pdf files. They link back to school annuals, pictures, bank ledgers and other material in [crossroadsarchive.net](http://crossroadsarchive.net). This makes a very handy tool for genealogists, who are a majority of our visitors. <http://crossroadsarchive.org/links/name-links>
2. We now have Google maps on the interpretive site for active Granges, historic Granges (<http://crossroadsarchive.org/maps/granges>), and the local portion of the Walla Walla to Colville military road, the first wagon road branching off of the Oregon Trail into Washington Territory.

Our interaction with the Granges is tapping a potentially huge number of grange histories for the area. Presentations to other groups who keep track of their own history are opening up similar histories.

## Summary:

As some concerns about volunteer support and the ability to actually digitize and assign metadata to 22,000 images are diminishing, we are facing questions with bigger organizations on how this online archive will affect their research income and the number of images in their part of the archive will be fairly allocated. We are also facing the usual travel hardships of winter. Like a tree, we have sprouted many branches, each of which is beginning to grow on its own. Transitioning to self-support for the archive and into new ways of making local history preservation self supporting are the biggest challenges ahead of us. We also want to do more to recognize the History Detectives who make this project possible.