

L.A. as Subject Directory Portal Purpose Statement

The L.A. as Subject Directory Portal presents an invaluable publicly available resource to anyone who can benefit from greater engagement with archives.

The main purpose of the Directory is to connect people to the institutions and individuals that care for, collect, and make accessible the primary sources documenting the histories of Los Angeles and the surrounding regions.

The Directory also provides a centralized dynamic space that each L.A. as Subject archive member can utilize to promote, advocate for, and bring awareness to their collections.

The purpose and collective efforts associated with the building of the Directory ultimately makes it a gateway to the less visible archives and collections held by entities and communities, large and small, that have the common goal of celebrating and sharing the diverse stories and cultural heritage of Los Angeles.

For the Directory to continue to be robust and relevant, it must be actively and collectively maintained by the entirety of the L.A. as Subject archive membership.

L.A. as Subject archive members are entered into the Directory and must commit to keeping their Directory information current.

In addition:

- You or your organization must have (but not need to be entirely made up of) archive collections* and describe how they connect to the subject of Los Angeles.
- You or your organization must be the creators, custodians, and/or collecting body of the archive collection.
- You or your organization must make your collections openly accessible either onsite or remotely (i.e. digital library, exhibits, **regular** public programming)
- When providing access, you or your organization are doing so with the intent of serving the public good and not for profit or personal financial gain.

*According to the Society of American Archivists, archives are "the non-current records of individuals, groups, institutions, and governments that contain information of enduring value." (SAA, 2015). This means that archival records are:

- Primary sources, not secondary sources
- Created by individuals, groups, and institutions in the course of their work
- Often unpublished and not intended for publication
- "Raw" and uninterpreted
- Not the current records of an institution or individual
- Selected for preservation because of "enduring value"

In addition, archival collections are not predominantly made of reproductions of primary sources that are held in other institutions.