

ONLINE ARCHIVE OF CALIFORNIA

OAC provides free public access to detailed descriptions of primary resource collections maintained by more than 200 contributing institutions including libraries, special collections, archives, historical societies, and museums throughout California. Here you can browse collection guides of all the available collections at Cal State LA.

WHY DO I NEED OAC???

Although Cal State L.A. has a vast collection of archival material, there is a limit to the number of items CSULA holds. The OAC online search engine helps researchers locate specific collections at different libraries across the state of California. Most importantly, the OAC online resource page provides students with archival finding aids that facilitate and guide an intentional and strategic research process.

What Kind of Information can I Find on the OAC??

 You may discover the content of archives, libraries, and museum collections. You may also find their physical location and their contact information. Some archives are available online with thousands of images

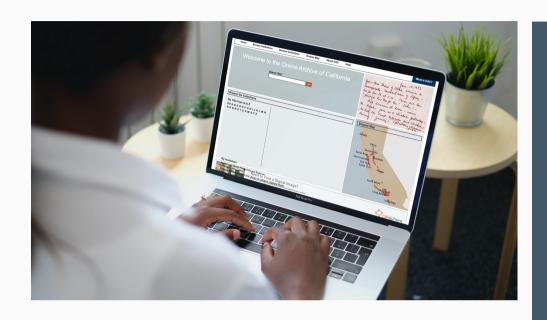
Why aren't the items I'm looking for digitized ?

 Not all collections have been digitized for a number of reasons including funding and resources. In some cases, when the research has identified a specific collection with the assistance of a finding aid, the researcher may ask for the items to be digitized.

I need to see the physical object. How can I find out more about it??

The OAC does not own, store, or house any
of the materials described in these
collection guides. To find out how you can
access a particular item, contact the
contributing institution directly. A link to
contact information is included at the top
of every collection guide and on every
digital item.





Finding Aid Structure

- **Collection Name**
- Collection ID #
- Location
- Abstract
- **Preferred Citation**
- Biography/Historical note
- **Scope and Content**
- **Series Description**

WHAT IS A FINDING AID???

A Finding Aid is an organizational tool, A **Document Containing** Detailed, Indexed, And Processed Metadata, and Other Information About a specific collection of records within an archive. The Finding aid is an important tool for researchers to analyze prior to viewing a collection in person.



Sample Search

- 1. Access OAC Website: http://www.oac.cdlib.org/
- 2. Type in "Gloria Arellanes" in the search bar.
- 3. Locate "Arellanes (Gloria) Papers 1967-1979" and click on it.
- 4. Access the pdf file on the top right corner.
- 5. The pdf will lead you to the finding aid.

