



Dear Survey Participant,

The survey you have just opened represents a historic opportunity for archives, museums, libraries, and historical societies across South Dakota. The South Dakota Connects to Collections project, sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, is the first attempt to prepare a comprehensive picture of the condition and preservation needs of this state's collections.

We strongly encourage you to take the time to complete this survey because:

- The survey results will be used extensively in the years ahead as administrators, policy makers, government agencies, and private funding sources make decisions that affect the preservation of collections.
- The South Dakota Connects to Collections project will assess collections in all media, in all formats, and in all types of institutions. We need your help to ensure that institutions of your type are accurately represented in the final results.
- Institutions that tested the questionnaire found it to be a thorough self-assessment, helping them gather information that was useful for long-range planning and funding requests.

Completing the survey usually takes about an hour. In appreciation of your time, we will send you a copy of the final survey report that will be publicized statewide.

Please complete the questionnaire by November 1, 2009.

Information that will help you complete the questionnaire may be found in the attachment labeled "Instructions" For additional assistance; contact Jane Roth Williams, Associate Curator of Outreach, at 605-773-6935 or jane.rothwilliams@state.sd.us.

We appreciate the gift of your time and information. Thank you for participating in this important project to document the needs and condition of our state's cultural heritage.

Sincerely,

Helen B Louise, Director
Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society

As a part of the "Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action" this statewide planning project is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and matched with non-federal dollars. This project is a partnership between South Dakota State Historical Society, South Dakota State Library, and the Association of South Dakota Museums

