

# Mining the Backlog: Uncovering Collections to Enrich Labor Community Heritage and Memory

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**PennState**  
Fayette, The Eberly Campus



# Patch Work Voices Project

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- Began in the 1970's
- Collection of oral histories
- Artifacts, photographs, and other materials donated by interviewees and coal community into the early 2000's
- Accession records were created, on occasion, and some records were kept in notebooks

# Focus - Patch Work Voices Community Collection

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Challenges of this particular backlogged collection:

- History of accession
- Archival Processing
- Learning curve

Plan to use the collection to enhance and rebuild the story of the mining community within the region, while also improving accessibility and diversity.

# History of Accession

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This collection, aside from the oral histories, is roughly estimated 180 linear feet.

- Mission of the project and collection (Then and Now)
- Donations and Accession Records
- Storage
- Archival Processing (Then)





# Archival Processing (Now)

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- Hire Collections Services Assistant
- Inventorying collection
- Learning curve
- Preservation concerns

## Next Steps...

- Weed
- Rehouse
- Finding aid and access



# Enhance and Rebuild the Mining Community Story

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- Redesign and update the CCHC Museum
  - Educational
  - Inclusive & Diverse
- Improve archival accessibility
- Expand collections to include
  - Modern mining (1960's to 1980's)
  - Enhance diversity within the collections
- Significant transformations this and similar projects could have on the library and archival profession

# Thank You!

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