PRRLA 2023 Conference Presentation Proposal

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**Establishing the Sierra Nevada/Central Valley Research Archive**

The Central Valley region in California has been the main agricultural base for the state and the United States, and yet the history of the region has also long been neglected. Many of the materials relating to the history of the region had been scattered in different places and sometime lost. The UC Merced Library has been trying to preserve materials that document the literary, cultural, and artistic, and natural history of the region.

This presentation will focus on the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) funded project, Establishing the Sierra Nevada/Central Valley Research Archive, at UC Merced. The goal of the project is to preserve archival materials that relate to the Sierra Nevada mountains and the San Joaquin Valley, and make them digitally available to researchers worldwide. When completed, the Research Archive will include materials from the U.S. National Parks (Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks), the U.S. Forest Services archives, and many valuable materials about the Central Valley such as farm worker movements and so on.

The presentation will address the preservation, development and discovery of the Sierra Nevada/Central Valley research archives as efforts of building special collections at UC Merced through partnership and collaboration, as well as exploring sustainable ways for the future.