

PRESERVING
Your
Trails Research Collections

(This is *Your* Legacy!)

Some OCTA members doing research about the emigrant experience have developed sizeable collections of trails research material. If your collection is or was important to *you*, then you'll want your efforts to be appreciated. For your work to live on, your collections should be available for future researchers. But--in cases of sudden illness, death or long term dementia, all too often the spouse does not know what to do with the material. Or the children or grandchildren are not interested. This leads to the material being disposed of, dispersed eeny-meeny-mino-mo, sold for ten cents on the dollar, or perhaps the collection is broken up to sell for highest dollar.

As OCTA members grow older they need to remain aware that what they have accumulated needs to be saved and made available to those who follow. Even genealogy research that relates to the emigrant experience (sometimes rare diaries and letters) should be included here.

Choosing when to donate your collection should be decided while you're still of sound mind. While OCTA encourages you to consider donating to one of the OCTA-affiliated trails libraries (Independence, MO; Sacramento, CA; or Laramie, WY), you may very well wish to donate closer to home.

The members of OCTA do not presume to tell you where to place your collection. But OCTA would like to have a record of where you deposited it.

Whatever you decide, you may use the accompanying generic donation form (opposite page) to specify where your trail research materials should go.

The OCTA Library Committee

Generic Donation Form

For Use in Donating

OCTA Members' Research Collections

I, _____, being of sound mind, declare that after my death
(name)

I wish to have my trails research materials, as further described below, donated to:

(Name of institution) _____

(Address) _____

(City and State) _____

(Telephone) _____

These materials include:

(# of books) _____; (# of documents) _____;

(# of maps) _____; (# of research notes) _____;

(# of CDs & DVDs) _____; (# of other materials) _____.

I ask that my spouse, my children, or my grandchildren, or the executor of my will, ensure that this request is executed as above stated, within 16 months after my decease.

(Signed) _____ (Date) _____

- Copies of this form given to (check each, as accomplished):
1. — My spouse
 2. — My children
 3. — My grandchildren
 4. — My executor
 5. — OCTA Headquarters