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## **Whyte Museum promotes online accessibility to collections**

Banff, Alberta

Whyte Museum's Archives and Special Collections Library are pleased to announce that we have digitized and uploaded 160 scrapbooks for online accessibility through the Whyte Museum's online database. You can access the scrapbooks [here](#); each scrapbook can viewed online and downloaded as a PDF.

Scrapbooks are a form of self-publication that people of varying economic status are able to undertake as long as they have paper, scissors, and glue. Due to the construction of a scrapbook, and the various materials used, scrapbooks pose accessibility and preservation challenges – glue breaks down and loses its adhesiveness, newspaper clippings yellow and degrade, often leaving scrapbooks worse for wear.

Because of these challenges, public access to scrapbooks in archival holdings is often limited as a preservation measure. Ease of use is also a factor with researchers, as the scrapbooks can be cumbersome, and its contents not adequately described. Scrapbooks have been one of the most under-utilized research resources in the Whyte Museum Archives. The recently digitized scrapbooks are representative of the Canadian Rocky Mountain community from upper and middle-income families from the 1800s-1970s and promise to provide new insights. For more information, see April 2020 article in [The Cairn](#).

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