

## Museum using grant to preserve history

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Administrator



Volunteer and recent UMF grad Nick Bucci and Maine State Library Director of Collections Adam Fisher working in the library's scanning lab.

**RANGELEY** - The Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum in Oquossoc has received a \$10,000 grant to preserve and share its growing collection of vintage media items, converting them into film that can be shared online.

The grant was awarded through Maine Community Foundation's Community Building Grant Program and will be used to help enhance the museum's collections management, accessions and archiving efforts. The museum is one of two operated by the Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society.

"This will be a huge help in improving our organizational effectiveness and the museum's capacity to better preserve and share its growing collection of artifacts," said OSHM Executive Director Bill Pierce.

In 2016 alone, the museum has received more than 90 separate donations or loans of vintage items of regional significance. The grant funding will help OSHM preserve and share its collection by converting old film, still images and printed materials into a digital format. These items can then be shared online for use in schools, in museum's exhibits as well as through the websites of the museum and other partnering organizations.

The MCF grant came at a very important time for the evolving museum, Pierce said.

"We were falling behind in our efforts to properly archive our growing collection," he said, "and this funding will better



UMF student intern, Love Call, working in the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum's dedicated collections management and storage room.

enable us to better preserve and share the various documents, photos and films that are coming to us weekly."

The grant will also help the museum utilize student interns from the University of Maine Farmington's Partnership for Community Advancement. Those students have been accessioning and digitizing materials both at the museum and at the Maine State Library in Augusta.

The MCF funding has also allowed the museum to initiate an effort to scan the old "Phillips Phonograph and Maine Woods" newspapers. A single newspaper that was later renamed, the paper enjoyed a circulation that crisscrossed the eastern half of the nation in the late 1800s. This was largely due to the region's popular and abundant fish and wildlife resources and the famous column written by Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby.

"These wonderful old publications provide a unique look back into life in this part of Maine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries," said Pierce.

Users will be able to read the many volumes of this once very popular newspaper right on their computer screen or conduct a digital "word search" which will then provide a list of every article or advertisement that contains that word. A portion of the volumes to be scanned will come from the Phillips Historical Society, who have agreed to help with the effort.

"The Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society is very grateful for the important partnerships in this effort," Pierce said. "The Phillips Historical Society, the Maine State Library and UMF are all working together to accomplish some very important work, and this grant has helped make that possible."

The collections management work will continue right through the winter.