The following narrative concludes the “Utah’s Connecting to Collections Project (UC2C): A Statewide Preservation Initiative” (LG-41-09-0021-09) which included a one-year extension on the original grant duration.

Workshop Delivery
Following approval by IMLS to repurpose $6,975.28 in savings accrued through frugal spending during the initial part of the grant, Tom Clareson was invited by the UC2C Project Task Force to teach a workshop on Fund Raising and Grant Writing – a critical need identified through the statewide preservation assessment. Due to scheduling conflicts Mr. Clareson became unable to fulfill this commitment, so Barclay Ogden (Head of Preservation, University of California, Berkeley and a principal instructor for the Western States and Territories Preservation Assistance Service – WESTPAS) agreed to conduct the training in his stead.

Mr. Ogden taught a workshop entitled, “Creating and Funding Preservation Projects to Enhance Collection Care” in two Utah locations – Salt Lake City on 26 May 2011, and Springville on 27 May 2011. Both workshops were well attended by institution representatives eager to develop funding strategies for the purpose of engaging a preservation consultant to conduct an institutional preservation assessment at their library or museum. As a result of these workshops several Preservation Assistance grant proposals have been drafted for submission in the next review cycle and it is hoped these will lead to substantial improvements in several of the state’s cultural heritage institutions where preservation assessments have not previously been conducted. This is seen as a first step in identifying preservation priorities and finding creative solutions for beginning to address those priorities.

Dissemination of UC2C Survey Results
A flyer describing the results of the UC2C Statewide Preservation assessment process has been written, designed and printed and is currently being disseminated throughout the state. It is hoped this publication will help increase awareness about the outcomes of the UC2C Statewide Preservation process and lead to increased commitment toward collection preservation on the part of members of institutional boards and the state’s legislature.

Next Steps
Utah and Arizona Connecting to Collections task forces collaborated in 2010 to write and submit a joint C2C Implementation grant to IMLS. While this first proposal proved unsuccessful the two task forces have closely analyzed generous and supportive feedback from the grant reviewers and are currently meeting to improve the proposal for resubmission in the current year. If successful, the joint UT/AZ Connecting to Collections Implementation project would provide much needed preservation education and onsite assessments for a number of smaller museums, archives, and historical societies spread across the vast geographic distances of both states.