



MWSA REVIEW

An indispensable reference tool for the serious film researcher!

Try doing a search for a specific film housed in the US National Archives using the Archive's online database: the ARC – Archival Research Catalog (found on archives.gov). You *might* find what you're looking for; but you won't find things so thoughtfully organized and cross-referenced as you will in Philip Stewart's new book, *America's Film Vault*.

In the book's introduction, the novice film researcher, producer, or student will benefit from Stewart's overview of the Archives' holdings, the different sources of those holdings, how they're organized, and a short-but-fascinating look into the history of each basic category of film: civilian, military, and donated.

However, this book is not just for the beginner. Expanding on the 1972 reference work of two Archives employees (which has not been updated since that time), *America's Film Vault* also belongs on the bookshelf of the seasoned veteran. The book's handy and useful layout, which includes a thorough subject and title index, will facilitate the search/research/exploration of the experienced Archive sleuth as well.

Perhaps best of all, Stewart's organization by resource group (RG) holdings, might just facilitate that unexpected discovery that takes one in a whole new direction!

Thumb through this book or spend a few minutes on Phil Stewart's website. The reader can't help but notice that this third installment in his "Historic Footage Project" is--as the author admits--a labor of love. It's also a tremendously helpful and easy-to-use guide map to the film treasures waiting to be found and enjoyed in our nation's National Archives.

Review by John Cathcart, MWSA Reviewer