*Representative-at-Large Candidate*

**Name:** Jill Piekut Roy

**Education:** BA in Human Ecology from College of the Atlantic (2012) and MS in Library and Information Science from Simmons University (May 2020)

**Employment (Relevant to Archives):** Archivist & Special Collections Librarian at Patten Free Library in Bath, Maine; Prior to 2020, Jill worked as a cataloger; museum assistant at Maine Maritime Museum; and in the historic building preservation trades.

**Service to New England Archivists:** Regular, and former studentmember

**Service to Archives Profession:** A founding member of the Maine Community Archives Collaborative, helping librarians and archivists create digital preservation strategies for COVID-19 collections; Hosts a weekly Zoom program to promote the Patten Free Library’s archival program, bringing together local historians, archivists, and curators to address representation of people of color and queer communities in local history; Works with academic archivists from the University of Maine system, helping to develop a Maine union manuscript catalog, keeping in mind the needs of small archival programs outside academia.

**What do you consider to be one of the greatest challenges archivists in New England are facing at present, and what are potential paths NEA can take to address this issue?**

Some of the archives and museums I have worked with have powerful yet unknown collections. Small and rural archives, in particular, have expressed bewilderment when it comes to registration and cataloging, let alone digital access. Yet they hold records that complicate the New England story: records of the slave trade, vanished industries, and influential yet marginalized people, plus a growing collection of digital material representing individual experiences of the pandemic.

Cataloging capacity can be built up by accessible workforce training and institutional partnerships. New England Archivists can be a hub for skill sharing, mutual support, and networking through casual and participatory virtual meetings. Working with the Maine Community Archives Collaborative, I have been blown away by my colleagues’ shared interests, knowledge, and willingness to collaborate in order to bring archives to the people during the pandemic. Clearly, our profession is not lacking in ability! Our members have so much to share. Let’s try new strategies for connecting and learning together.