

N E A
New England Archivists

IN PURSUIT OF THE FUTURE

SPRING MEETING | MARCH 14-16, 2024 | PROVIDENCE, RI



WELCOME FROM NEA'S PRESIDENT



Welcome to Providence, NEA! As we gather for this vital time of connection, conversation, and celebration, we are also “In Pursuit of the Future”—a fitting theme for an organization with a half century of history to its name. With our milestone 50th anniversary behind us, what lies ahead? The paths and possibilities are many, and we have the great joy of exploring them

together. I hope that you, like me, will come away from this meeting enriched and inspired by the community you find here, whether it is your first or fiftieth NEA experience. I'm grateful that you're here, and I'm grateful for the people who made “here” a possibility—the many NEA volunteers whose service sustains the organization, and especially the members of the Spring 2024 Program Committee. A bold future awaits us all—cheers to the pursuit!

SPECIAL THANKS

This event is made possible thanks to the hard work of our volunteer committees and coordinators. Thank you!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Sarah H. Shepherd, co-chair, Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library

Sarah Galligan, co-chair, New Hampshire Historical Society

Andrew Majcher, Brown University

Hilary Wang, Brown University

Jordan Jancosek, Brown University

Emma Barton-Norris, Bowdoin College

Michelle Peralta, Yale University

Sara Rogers, Harvard University Graduate School of Design

Jenna Colozza, Merrimack College

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Stephanie Krauss, co-chair, Harvard Medical School

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Sarah Arriaga, Nautic Partners

PROGRAM DESIGN

Laura Taylor, University of New England



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Spread the word and connect with fellow attendees by posting on social media with the hashtag **#NEASpring24!** Don't forget to tag us!

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2024 SPRING MEETING NOTES

VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

We recognize the need to ensure access for all attendees, regardless of geographic location. This year, all sessions and programming in the ballroom will be streamed. We hope that these sessions, along with virtual special events, will help build community and connection no matter where you're zooming in from.

 Use this icon to find virtually streamed sessions on the schedule.

CODE OF CONDUCT

In keeping with our Inclusion and Diversity Statement, NEA welcomes everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, age, religion, nationality, or professional status. We do not tolerate harassing speech or acts at NEA-sponsored conferences, events, meetings, or in NEA's online spaces including but not limited to the listserv, website, and wiki. Those who violate these rules will be asked to modify their behavior and may be sanctioned, asked to leave the space in which the incident took place, or expelled from the event at the discretion of the designated NEA Community Advocate(s).

All participants including presenters, instructors, and vendors, are required to abide by the NEA Code of Conduct. For the full Code, scan the QR code.



ACCESSIBILITY

NEA is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive environment for all of our events. For questions or concerns about accessibility, interpretive services, religious observance, or any other accommodations that would make the meeting more accessible for you, please contact NEA's Inclusion and Diversity Committee at diversity@newenglandarchivists.org.

RAMADAN

We recognize that this year's meeting falls during the holy month of Ramadan. If you are observing during the meeting, please know:

- Scan this QR code to view halal options at nearby restaurants.
- The prayer room is located in the 33rd Degree Room
- The nearest mosque is Masjid Ali, located about an 8-minute drive from the Renaissance Providence Downtown hotel or a thirty-six minute walk.



If you are interested in any other accommodations or have any questions or concerns, please contact diversity@newenglandarchivists.org. Ramadan mubarak!

RESPITE ROOM | HAYDN ROOM

A place for weary conference attendees to retreat and recharge, the Respite Room is a talk-free zone featuring soothing white noise, tasty snacks, and coloring books. Sponsored by the NEA Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator.

LACTATION ROOM | TEMPLE BOARDROOM

A lactation room is available for those who need to make use of it during the conference.

GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOMS | MEZZANINE AND BALLROOM LEVEL

Four gender neutral restrooms are available on the Mezzanine and Ballroom levels.

PRAYER ROOM | 33RD DEGREE ROOM

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	 Workshop: Engaging Students in Deeper Learning	Virtual
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Registration	Side Lobby (through Ballroom Entrance door)
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Tour: Providence Public Library Special Collections	Providence Public Library
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Workshop: How Learners Learn	Beethoven
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.	NEA Board Meeting	Mozart
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Afternoon Break	
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	Tour: John Hay Library at Brown University (Light refreshments available)	John Hay Library at Brown University

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Registration	Side Lobby (through Ballroom Entrance door)
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Vendor Showcase	Symphony Ballroom Foyer

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	New Member & NEA Board Meet and Greet	Symphony Ballroom Foyer
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.	 Plenary Speaker: Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai	Symphony Ballroom
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	All Attendee Break	
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions 1: 1.1 Activating the Archives: The Yale and Slavery Project and its Afterlives 1.2 Collecting LGBTQ+ History: Three Rhode Island Community-Based Projects  1.3 Right Now: Case Studies in Hybrid and Born-Digital Processing	Mozart Beethoven Symphony Ballroom
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions 2: 2.1 "Problematic Content Exists in Our Collections": Harmful Content Statements  2.2 Critical Historiography in the Classroom: Teaching Primary Sources with a Social Justice Lens 2.3 Expanding Access to Diverse Local History Collections through Collaborative Digitization	Mozart Symphony Ballroom Beethoven
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	All Attendee Break	
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions 3: 3.1 The Mumia Rules: Lessons for Future Carceral Collecting  3.2 Dude, Where's My Hollinger box?	Mozart Symphony Ballroom

3.3 Challenging Content,
Challenging Project: Divided
America

Beethoven

3.4 Balancing Acts: Case Studies
of Reparative Description and
Harmful Content Warnings

Handel

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

All Attendee Reception

Symphony
Ballroom

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generations to come.

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ITHAKA

JSTOR

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Registration	Side Lobby (through Ballroom Entrance door)
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Vendor Showcase	Symphony Ballroom Foyer
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Symphony Ballroom Foyer
8:15 - 9:00 a.m.	 Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony	Symphony Ballroom
9:15 - 10:30 a.m.	 Plenary Arts & Archives Panel: Lois Harada, Eli Nixon, and Paul Soulellis	Symphony Ballroom
10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Morning Coffee Break	
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions 4: 4.1 Revisions Required: Demystifying Professional Writing with the Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies  4.2 The Records Continuum: Strengthening Archival Programs with Records Management 4.3 Student Lightning Talks	Mozart Symphony Ballroom Beethoven
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Inclusion and Diversity Committee Reading Circle Resume Review	Mozart/Zoom Beethoven

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions 5:

5.1 Individual Presentations:

Mozart

- 5.1a A Peoples' Archive:
Promoting Awareness of a
Public Resource
- 5.1b Linking it Together:
Integrating Multiple Systems
for a Common Goal

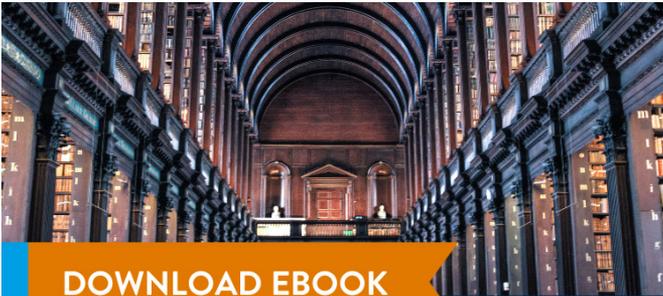


5.2 It's About Community:
Collectively Creating Our Story

Symphony
Ballroom

5.3 Women Religious Archival
Donations to Universities:
Matches Made in Heaven

Beethoven



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PLENARY SPEAKER

KANISORN WONGSRICHANALAI

Friday, March 15 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai is Director of Research at the Massachusetts Historical Society. He is the author of *Northern Character: College-Educated New Englanders, Honor, Nationalism, and Leadership in the Civil War Era* (2016). He is the co-editor of *So Conceived and So Dedicated: Northern Intellectuals in the Civil War Era* (2015) and *Wars Civil and Great: The American Experience in the Civil War and World War I* (2023). He co-directed the National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored project "West Texans and the Experience of War: World War I to the Present" while an Associate Professor of History at Angelo State University. He earned his PhD from the University of Virginia and has also taught at the University of Mary Washington and East Tennessee State University.



PLENARY ARTS & ARCHIVES PANEL

LOIS HARADA, ELI NIXON, AND PAUL SOULELLIS

Saturday, March 16 | 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

The plenary panel, featuring Providence-based artists Lois Harada, Eli Nixon, and Paul Soulellis, will be a conversation about the intersection between art, archives, and communities. The panel will be moderated by Hilary Wang (Brown University).

Lois Harada (she/her) is an artist based in North Providence, RI. She has worked at DWRI Letterpress, a commercial letterpress print shop, since 2011 and joined the Rhode Island School of Design as a Critic in 2022. She is a printmaker and interdisciplinary artist encouraging viewers to revisit forgotten pieces of our past. Recently, she has examined Japanese American incarceration through her family's history.



Eli Nixon (they/them) builds portals and gives guided tours to places that don't yet exist, or exist but call for creative intervention. They are a settler-descended transqueer clown, a cardboard constructionist, and a maker of plays, puppets, pageants, parades, suitcase theaters, and low-tech public spectaculars. Nixon

collaborates with artists, activists, schools, mental health and recovery centers, libraries, and the more-than-human world to expand imaginative capacity and build muscles for collective liberation. They are an enthusiast and practitioner of nature drag, amateur flag dancing, and DIY festoonery. Nixon is proposing a new holiday in homage to horseshoe crabs. Their illustrated manual for celebrating the holiday, *Bloodtide*, is available through The 3rd Thing Press. Nixon is part of the New Georges' Jam and brotherdykes unlimited, an organizer with Showing Up for Racial Justice-R.I., a member of DARE's Behind The Walls Committee, and a parent of a teenager, among other contained multitudes. elinixon.com



Paul Soulellis (he/him) is an artist and educator based in Providence, RI. His practice includes teaching, writing, and experimental publishing, with a focus on queer methodologies, network culture, and archival justice. He is the founder of Queer.Archive.Work, a non-profit organization that supports artists, writers, and activists with access to space, tools, and other resources for queer publishing. He is also Department Head

and Associate Professor of Graphic Design at Rhode Island School of Design.

An advertisement for University Products. The main image shows an open red box filled with various archival materials. The box lid is white and features the University Products logo, which consists of a stylized 'U' made of black and red geometric shapes. Below the logo, the text reads 'UNIVERSITY PRODUCTS' in bold black letters, with 'PRODUCTS' in red. Underneath that, it says 'THINKING IN & OUT OF THE BOX SINCE 1968'. The main text in the center of the box lid reads 'New England's own manufacturer of archival quality materials for over 55 years'. Inside the box, several items are visible, each with a white label: '100% COTTON RAG MATBOARD (WHITE 1-PLY RIFFE 1', 'HEAVYWEIGHT FOLDER STOCK (20PT)', 'MOISTURE RESIST', and 'LIGHT TAN FOLDER STOCK (10PT)'. In the bottom right corner of the box, there is a circular callout with a white background and black text that reads 'Use code **NECAL** to save 15% plus fixed shipping rate'. The box is placed on a wooden surface.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

TOUR OF THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Thursday | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | 150 Empire St, Providence, RI 02903

Join us for a tour of the Special Collections at Providence Public Library (PPL) located in downtown Providence. The collection is home to tens of thousands of historic books, manuscripts, photographs, ephemera, maps, and other artifacts representing more than 4,000 years of human history and culture from around the world. The tour will be led by Jordan Goffin, Head Curator of Collections.

Registration is required.

TOUR OF THE JOHN HAY LIBRARY AT BROWN UNIVERSITY

Thursday | 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | 20 Prospect St, Providence RI 02912

Come take a tour of the John Hay Library, home to Brown University's remarkable collection of rare books, manuscripts, and University Archives. We'll showcase highlights from the collection and walk through the building, which was constructed in 1910. Light refreshments will be served after the tour from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Registration is required.

NEW MEMBER MEETUP & NEA BOARD MEET AND GREET

Saturday, March 16 | 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Are you a new member? Come join the NEA Board and leadership and meet other new members of NEA.

RESUME/COVER LETTER REVIEW

Saturday, March 16 | 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Asynchronous | ongoing

It's never not a good time to improve your resume! Sign up for a one-on-one asynchronous/remote or in-person resume review and get paired with an archivist who can offer a fresh perspective and constructive advice on how to shape your resume/cover letter.

If you are looking for advice on your cover letter it is recommended you supply your reviewer with a copy of the job posting the cover letter is matched to.

IDC READING CIRCLE

Saturday, March 16 | 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Facilitated by Matt Amedeo and Caro Langenbucher (in-person) and Susanna Coit (on Zoom)

Join the Inclusion and Diversity Committee for a discussion of the article “A Weapon and a Tool: Decolonizing Description and Embracing Redescription as Liberatory Archival Praxis,” by Tonia Sutherland and Alyssa Purcell from *The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion*. This piece discusses decolonization methods and Critical Race Theory as frameworks for addressing colonial concerns about archival description. The authors use current archival trends to argue that redescriptive practices should be rooted in justice and liberation rather than basic notions of diversity and inclusion.

Join the reading circle as we discuss this article and pose a number of discussion questions that can get us all thinking about reframing how we work with archival description.



Scan the QR code to read the article.

ALL ATTENDEE RECEPTION

Friday, March 15 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Come join your colleagues, friends, and peers for a lively reception! We will have appetizers for everyone.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Saturday, March 16 | 8:15 - 9:00 a.m.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops will be held virtually and on-site Thursday, March 14. Advance registration is required.

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN DEEPER LEARNING (VIRTUAL)

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. | Jay McTighe

In this interactive webinar, educator and author Jay McTighe will address important questions as he explores ideas from the award-winning book, *Teaching For Deeper Learning: Tools to Engage Students in Meaning Making* (ASCD, 2020). What is deeper learning? What kind of instruction is needed to help students learn deeply? Jay will present a set of practical and proven strategies and associated tools to actively engage students in making meaning.

HOW LEARNERS LEARN (IN-PERSON)

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Ronit Carter

This interactive, hands-on workshop will give attendees a basic yet powerful tour through some of the fundamental research principles of effective learning, with personal reflection and practical considerations for teaching, presenting, and all forms of educating.



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1.1 ACTIVATING THE ARCHIVES: THE YALE AND SLAVERY PROJECT AND ITS AFTERLIVES

Jennifer Coggins (she/they), Yale University

Jeanne Lowrey (she/her), Yale University

Michael Morand (he/him), Director of Community Engagement, Beinecke Library, Yale University

Charles Warner, Jr. (he/him), Yale and Slavery Working Group

Institutional archives are valuable resources for organizations grappling with the legacy of slavery and anti-Black racism. However, these records are not always easy to use and only tell part of the larger story, particularly when community memory lives outside of administrative records. Dedicated research projects provide a valuable opportunity to bring different perspectives in conversation with each other. Drawing on work done for and inspired by the Yale and Slavery project, this panel will explore how special projects can identify previously underutilized or under-described collections, suggest areas of further systematic research, and provide opportunities for continuing collaboration between the archive and the community. A common thread of these efforts is the recognition of institutional archives as living, dynamic bodies of documentation shaped by a long lineage of records creators, stewards, archivists, and users. This session highlights opportunities for archivists to engage our communities in the work of reinterpretation and repair.

1.2 COLLECTING LGBTQ+ HISTORY: THREE RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS

Winner of the NEA Inclusion and Diversity Scholarship

Kate Wells (she/her/hers), Providence Public Library

Mev Miller (she/her/hers), Wanderground Lesbian Archive/Library

Virginia Thomas (she/her/hers), Providence College

Angela DiVeglia, moderator (she/her/hers), Rhode Island School of Design

This presentation features representatives from three Rhode Island community-based LGBTQ+ collecting projects: the Rhode Island LGBTQ+ Community Archives, Queer StoRIes Oral History Project, and the Wanderground Lesbian Archive/Library. They will discuss what it means to be community-based LGBTQ+ archives, the centrality of their values statements, commonalities and differences between their collections and approaches,

considerations for access and collecting, challenges and opportunities, and how the projects support each other and collaborate. Guided by a moderator, panelists will consider: How do LGBTQ+ archives challenge and influence traditional archives? What futures do these archives hope to foster? How can community archives act nimbly in ways that allow them to respond to timely needs and events, including rapid response collecting? How can archivists in traditional repositories work with and support community-based collections? How do we define “community” for LGBTQ+ people whose stories remain underrepresented?

1.3 RIGHT NOW: CASE STUDIES IN HYBRID AND BORN-DIGITAL PROCESSING (VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON)

Irene Gates (she/her), Northeastern University

Zachary Maiorana (he/him), Schlesinger Library, Harvard Radcliffe Institute

Gillian McCuistion (she/her), Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Emily Ping O’Brien (she/her), Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Eric Sonnenberg (he/him), Yale University

Hilary Wang (she/her), Brown University

Melanie Wisner (she/her), Houghton Library, Harvard University

Born-digital and hybrid collections are increasingly common, and yet many repositories’ born-digital programs are still only nascent. In this session, archivists will present on born-digital or hybrid collections they’ve processed, highlighting decision points, challenges, platforms used, finding aids created, and more, providing attendees with concrete examples to consider as they process, or begin thinking about processing, born-digital material in their own repositories. Presentations will consist of the following case studies: accessioning (and processing) an author’s hybrid papers at Houghton Library; how the Schlesinger Library processes born-digital materials using digital forensics software and scripting; onboarding of Preservica and the initiative to preserve images from the university’s DAM at Worcester Polytechnic Institute; reprocessing the born-digital component of an already processed hybrid collection at Brown University; processing a hybrid collection with a large and varied born-digital component at Yale University; and processing both a hybrid and born-digital collection at The New School.

2.1 “PROBLEMATIC CONTENT EXISTS IN OUR COLLECTIONS”: HARMFUL CONTENT STATEMENTS

Katherine M. Wisser (she/her/hers), Associate Professor, MS Program Director and Director of the Archives Concentration, School of Library and Information Science, Simmons University
Jacob Savory (he/him/his), Simmons University Alumni

Direct access to archival resources online has motivated repositories to address the materials in our collections that represent outdated and harmful content. One solution repositories have adopted to mitigate harm through exposure is to include a “Harmful content statement” on their access systems interface and additional warnings attached to these digital materials. Presenters have identified 98 harmful content statements published by repositories to understand their structure, language and themes. Their analysis reveals that these statements share some commonalities but also vary widely in interesting ways. The presentation provides an overview of the corpus of statements and some suggestions for constructing statements that effectively manage the tension between opposing goals: the ethical responsibility to maintain the integrity of the historical record and the provision of protective measures against potential harm. Topics addressed include the defining characteristics of statements, the vocabulary of harm, common resources referenced, and actions taken and their justifications.

2.2 CRITICAL HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE CLASSROOM: TEACHING PRIMARY SOURCES WITH A SOCIAL JUSTICE LENS (VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON)

Erica Donnis (she/her), Congressional Papers Archivist, University of Vermont
Amy Rae Howe, Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, Champlain College, and Academic Director for the Women, Gender & Representation Pre-College Program, Smith College
Annabel Kusnitz, Champlain College
Brigham Boice, Champlain College
Jordan Conlon, Smith College

How does the critical examination of primary sources offer important methods for teaching content with a social justice lens? Join an archivist and two faculty members as they discuss how they have introduced undergraduates to critical historiography addressing both historic and contemporary social issues. They will present sample lessons featuring analog and digital collections that explore local history, community memory-

making, curation ethics, and the role institutions of higher education have played in both perpetuating and disrupting dominant cultural narratives. These lessons utilize best practices of social justice to create inclusive spaces for students of different identities and life experiences to view, analyze, and discuss primary sources together.

2.3 EXPANDING ACCESS TO DIVERSE LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE DIGITIZATION

Dee Bowers (they/them), Center for Brooklyn History at Brooklyn Public Library

Dylan Gaffney (he/him), Forbes Library

Jacquelyn Oshman (she/her), New Brunswick Public Library

Since 2017, The Internet Archive's Community Webs programs has partnered with public libraries and heritage organizations to diversify the historic record. More than 150 public libraries and cultural heritage organizations have joined and collectively archived over 100 terabytes of web-based community heritage materials. Recently, Community Webs received support from the NHPRC Archives Collaboratives program for the digitization project Collaborative Access to Diverse Public Library Local History Collections. The collaborative effort will digitize and provide access to a diverse range of content from across the country that represents the experience of immigrant, indigenous, and African American communities throughout the United States. In this session, three of the project's participants will discuss the collections they've digitized and the impact they expect this project to have within their communities.

3.1 THE MUMIA RULES: LESSONS FOR FUTURE CARCERAL COLLECTING

Mary Murphy (she/her), Nancy L. Buc '65 LLD '94 hon Pembroke Center Archivist, Brown University

Amanda Knox (she/her), Pembroke Center Assistant Archivist, Brown University

In the summer of 2022, Brown University acquired the papers of Mumia Abu-Jamal, once known as the most recognized man on death row. The effort required two years of curatorial work prior to the collection arriving on Brown's campus, and an additional year of processing work to make the collection available for research. The curator and processing archivist responsible for the efforts will discuss the successes, roadblocks, and failures of acquiring and processing the Abu-Jamal papers. They will also share lessons others in the profession might apply to future carceral collecting as

this collecting direction becomes mainstream. They will close by opening the conversation up to Q&A with the audience.

3.2 DUDE, WHERE'S MY HOLLINGER BOX? (VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON)

Chris Tanguay (she/they), MIT
Rachel Van Unen (she/her), MIT
Thera Webb (she/her), MIT
Sarah Bowman (she/her)

Have you ever spent hours looking for a missing box? Do you have too many collections and not enough space? We can help! In this session, staff at the MIT Libraries will discuss their experience using Airtable and other tools to regain physical control over large, unruly collections. The panelists will cover managing a multi-person shelf read, a project to uncover hidden collections, and making optimal use of limited onsite storage and processing space.

3.3 CHALLENGING CONTENT, CHALLENGING PROJECT: DIVIDED AMERICA

Andrew Majcher, Brown University (he/him)
Ariel Flowers, Brown University (she/her)

Brown University Library was awarded two grants for the Divided America Project from NHPRC and the Arcadia Foundation to digitize and provide access to over 1 million items from the Hall-Hoag Collection of Dissenting and Extremist Printed Propaganda. This collection is currently challenging to use because it is only described at the organization level and the content can be difficult for patrons to engage with because of controversial topics. In this session we will talk about why the collection warrants extensive digitization, an overview of the work, and provide lessons and challenges learned from taking on a large digitization project.

3.4 BALANCING ACTS: CASE STUDIES OF REPARATIVE DESCRIPTION AND HARMFUL CONTENT WARNINGS

Caro Langenbucher (they/them), Processing Specialist, Dartmouth College
Dan Everton (they/he), Researcher and Archivist Support Assistant, Brown University
Janaya Kizzie (they/she), Processing Archivist, Brown University

In recent years, the idea of providing content warnings for potentially harmful content has gained ground both inside and outside the field

of archives. In the archives world, harmful content warnings are often connected to reparative archival description, as both practices aim to mitigate harm against historically marginalized groups as well as researchers. But what does this actually entail? And what are the potential risks involved? In this panel, we will present three case studies illuminating some of the challenges and complexities involved in understanding and implementing harmful content warnings and reparative description for archival collections.

4.1 REVISIONS REQUIRED: DEMYSTIFYING PROFESSIONAL WRITING WITH THE JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVAL STUDIES

Stephanie Bredbenner (she/her), Yale University

Kara Flynn (she/her), University of Connecticut

Monika Lehman (she/her), Yale University

Sally Blanchard-O'Brien (she/her), University of Vermont

The Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies is an open-access, online academic journal funded by Yale University and New England Archivists. The journal publishes research articles, case studies, book reviews, and other scholarship which furthers awareness of issues and developments in the work of professional archivists, curators, librarians, and historians. Professional and scholarly writing can be intimidating, but JCAS actively seeks broad participation and diverse perspectives from all corners of the field, including graduate students, new professionals, and paraprofessionals. This session will provide an overview of JCAS's history and editorial process, share the experiences of recent JCAS authors in their own words, and explain various ways to get involved with the journal. There will be ample time for members of the editorial board to answer questions.

4.2 THE RECORDS CONTINUUM: STRENGTHENING ARCHIVAL PROGRAMS WITH RECORDS MANAGEMENT (VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON)

Jennifer Williams, Emerson College (Moderator)

Taylor McNeilly, Wheaton College

Betsy Pittman, University of Connecticut

Elizabeth Carron, Boston College

Implementing a records management program can be a daunting task for archivists who do not have extensive training or work experience in this area. However, an organization-wide strategy for managing active and semi-active records can enhance archival efforts by bringing the importance of proper

maintenance and disposition of records to the fore. In this panel discussion, we will review how archivists can use records management best practices, principles, and tools within their departments to strengthen their archival initiatives.

4.3 STUDENT LIGHTNING TALKS

- **Retracing Manuscripts: Managing Change by Investigating the True Roots in our Archives**
Kai Miyabayashi McGinn, Simmons University
- **Digitizing the Cape Ann Museum Library & Archives' Collection of Logbooks**
Angela Sun (she/her/hers), MLIS Student at Simmons University
- **Digitizing LGBTQ+ Visual History at The History Project**
Marco Lanier (he/him), Simmons University
- **Towards Inclusive Description in Music Collections**
Regina Dziergas, she/her/hers, Simmons University '24, Harvard University
- **Community in Photographs: The Religious of Jesus and Mary**
Sarah Slocum (she/her/hers) Simmons University

5.1A A PEOPLES' ARCHIVE: PROMOTING AWARENESS OF A PUBLIC RESOURCE

Lauren Gray, Reference Librarian for Researcher Services at Massachusetts Historical Society

As former SAA president Rachel Vagts said in her 2021 Presidential Address, archivists must extend a “radical welcome” to the archives and “are the ones who can make our welcome explicit, who can open the gates and create space for all who wish to join us.” Awareness, approachability, and access are three critical cornerstones of the archival profession. Archivists grapple with shared challenges, like: How do we present the archives in the public sphere? How do we get the public interested in and knowledgeable about our resources? How do we best serve our communities? Archival institutions should work in tandem with their communities to provide support and education for all. This presentation will address strategies in place at the Library Reader Services Department at the Massachusetts Historical Society to promote the MHS's presence in the community and to support inclusive and diverse public history.

5.1B LINKING IT TOGETHER: INTEGRATING MULTIPLE SYSTEMS FOR A COMMON GOAL

Lenora Robinson (she/her), Project Archivist for the Deaf Catholic Archives, College of the Holy Cross

Lisa M. Villa, Digital Scholarship Librarian, College of the Holy Cross

This presentation will describe how we made the goal of the DCA creator and curator—interconnecting his lists in Word with digitized content—be realized and offer suggestions for building out a large collection with several structures that require different technical treatments. We will demonstrate how three systems were harnessed to form efficient workflows, arranging effective setups within multiple applications and uploading thousands of items into an efficient online collection that allows linking these applications to create multiple access points for a large and growing collection.

5.2 IT'S ABOUT COMMUNITY: COLLECTIVELY CREATING OUR STORY (VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON)

Greg Colati, Connecticut Digital Archive, UConn Library

Michael Howser, Connecticut Digital Archive, UConn Library

Kenia Rodriguez, Connecticut Digital Archive, UConn Library

Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) members have preserved hundreds of thousands of items about Connecticut history, but far too few objects represent daily life in the recent past, content often captured on smart phones and shared in social media. These digital memories are inherently fragile, and without an effort to gather and preserve, much of the story will be lost. To address this challenge, we are launching My Town My Story (MTMS), a two-year project to help public libraries and other place-based organizations to build local digital history collections by encouraging individuals and community groups to contribute to the collective memory of their town.

My Town My Story enables people to choose their own digital photos, videos, and other documents to preserve and share with their friends, neighbors, and the rest of the world, creating a community-driven collection of material to illustrate the story of the places and people of Connecticut.

5.3 WOMEN RELIGIOUS ARCHIVAL DONATIONS TO UNIVERSITIES: MATCHES MADE IN HEAVEN

Kate E. Bradley, MLSIS, MA (she/her), Librarian/Archivist, French Institute at Assumption University
Denise P. Gallo, Ph.D. (she/her), Archivist, US Province of the Religious of Jesus and Mary

Fifty years of declining vocations for women religious in the US have resulted in an aging population. Often facing imminent closure, congregations are struggling with unfamiliar issues, not the least of which is selecting a repository for their archival legacies. Historically, such discussions led to “safe” solutions like historical societies or diocesan archives. Conversely, based on rumors of neglect and disinterest, university archives (Catholic or lay) were frequently rejected. Fortunately, such distrust is waning. This session considers how the donation of the archives of the U.S. Province of the Religious of Jesus and Mary to the collections of the French Institute at Assumption University has resulted in a different model. We will discuss inherent issues, compromises, and methods used throughout the collaboration. The agreement not only strengthens the partners’ commitments to the history of Franco-Americans but also preserves the Sisters’ legacy while reinforcing the academic mission of the French Institute.



An archivist’s job is big and broad.

“To appraise, acquire, arrange and describe, preserve, authenticate, and provide access to permanently valuable records.”

Source: Society of American Archivists

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

NEA's Spring 2024 Meeting might be upon us, but it's never too early to start planning ahead! Check out what's next for NEA:

SPRING 2025 MEETING

Springfield, Massachusetts

March 13-15, 2025

Want to play a part in shaping next year's Spring Meeting? Volunteer to join the Program Committee! For more information, scan the QR code above.

JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVAL STUDIES READING GROUP WITH CLAUDIA MALLEA

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 - 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Join New England Archivists to explore critical archival practice while discussing Claudia Mallea's article, "Using Metadata to Mitigate the Risks of Digitizing Archival Photographs of Violence and Oppression," in the *Journal for Contemporary Archival Studies*. Attendees are invited to join in an open discussion of this article, where they can hear more from Mallea, pose questions to the group, and collaborate on how this discussion reflects or informs their own work. Scan the QR code to register.



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