On behalf of New England Archivists (NEA) and the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (A.R.T.), the Spring 2018 Program Committee is excited to welcome you to New Haven for our Joint Spring Meeting. It has been seventeen years since NEA last met in New Haven, and we hope you will enjoy your time at the Spring Meeting and your visit to the nation’s first planned city.

With this Spring Meeting and its examination of different forms of archival advocacy, our Program Committee is sounding the call to all archivists to “Rise Up.” We ask you: How can archivists better demonstrate the cultural value and social urgency of their work? What kinds of advocacy can help amplify awareness and bolster support for archival repositories within established institutions? How can best practices evolve to include the stories, traditions, and record-keeping methods of people and communities who are traditionally underrepresented in archival spaces? These are the questions that this year’s speakers plan to address, and we hope that, in turn, you will be inspired to explore new avenues of archival advocacy and the personal, professional, and political implications of incorporating advocacy into the archives.

We’ve filled every day with thought-provoking sessions and activities. On Thursday, we invite you to join a tour of a Yale or New Haven archival repository, attend workshops, or participate in a Day of Service volunteer event at the New Haven Pride Center or the New Haven Free Public Library. We’re ending the day with films digitized by the XFR Collective, an organization that works to lower the barriers to preserving at-risk audiovisual material, and dinner at area restaurants with colleagues.

This year’s partnership between NEA and A.R.T. affords us more opportunities for inclusive programming, along with the chance to make new and lasting connections with a rich and diverse community of professionals. Our full program reflects a multitude of perspectives, including the central voices of our plenary speakers, Emily Drabinski of Long Island University and Matthew Connelly of Columbia University. Not to be missed is the capstone of our event, an all-attendee reception hosted by the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

We thank you for participating in the Spring 2018 Meeting and for your willingness to think about how we can best advocate for our collections, our donors, our archives, and ourselves.

Thursday, March 22

8 a.m.  Registration opens (Pre-Assembly)
Use the NEA website (www.newenglandarchivists.org/Spring-2018) to sign up for an available spot on one of the Day of Service projects or join a tour. Ask at the Registration Desk for details.

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  WORKSHOPS
» You’re Hired! How to Navigate the Job Application Process (Wooster)
» Documenting Dissent: How LIS Professionals Can Support Community Archives (Chapel)
» Principled Archivists: How to Make the New DACS Principles Work for You and Your Users (George)

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  DAY OF SERVICE: MORNING
» New Haven Pride Center (84 Orange St)
» New Haven Free Public Library (133 Elm St)

10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.  Break (foyer outside George)

10:30 a.m. – noon  MORNING TOURS
» Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library
Technical Services and Yale University Library
Preservation and Conservation Services
» Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library
» The Whitney Library of the New Haven Museum

noon – 1 p.m.  Lunch on your own

1 p.m. – 5 p.m.  NEA Board Meeting (Church)

2 p.m. – 5 p.m.  DAY OF SERVICE: AFTERNOON
» New Haven Pride Center (84 Orange St)

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  AFTERNOON TOURS
» Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library
» Knights of Columbus Museum
» Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  Break (foyer outside George)
Sponsored by Iron Mountain
5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.  
**Movie Night (Sterling Memorial Library, Lecture Hall)**
This event offers a chance to learn more about the work of the XFR Collective, a New York-based nonprofit organization that partners with artists, activists, individuals, and groups to lower the barriers to preserving at-risk audiovisual media. XFR members will discuss the work of the collective and screen some of the material they have digitized. Time will be available at the end for a Q&A. Please note: no entry after 6 p.m.

6 p.m.  
**Dinner with Archivists (Omni Hotel Lobby)**
Get to know colleagues while enjoying delicious food. We are offering the opportunity for small groups of conference participants to get to know one another while visiting some of the best restaurants in the area. Reservations for up to 6 people will be made at 7 restaurants, or participants can stop by Café Nine for a slice of pizza sponsored by the Records Management Roundtable. Each dining group will have spots specifically for new members who are interested in getting to know seasoned professionals, and to ensure a mix of membership levels. Participants will meet in the Omni Hotel lobby, head to the restaurant as a group, and pay for their own meals. Sign up online at bit.ly/NEA-ART-Dining.

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**Friday, March 23**

7:30 a.m.  
Registration opens *(Pre-Assembly)*

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**Vendor Showcase (Grand Ballroom D)**

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.  
**Breakfast and New Member Meet-Up (Grand Ballroom D)**

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**Respite Room (Crown)**
A place for weary conference attendees to retreat and recharge, the Respite Room is a talk-free zone featuring tasty snacks and coloring books. Sponsored by the Inclusion and Diversity Committee.

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
**Friday Plenary: Matthew Connelly (Grand Ballroom ABC)**

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
**Morning Coffee Break with vendors (Grand Ballroom D)**
Sponsored by LYRASIS/ArchivesSpace

10:30 a.m. – noon  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

1.1  **What the Archives Reveal (Church)**

1.2  **Documenting Connecticut Communities (Wooster)**

1.3  **Many Hands / Whose Hands? (Grand Ballroom ABC)**

1.4  **Capturing the Squid (George)**

1.5  **Advocacy in Renovation Projects (Chapel)**
noon – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch on your own

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

1.6  Organizing for Power (Grand Ballroom ABC)

1.7  Finding Common Ground (Church)

1.8  Advocacy and Sustainability (Wooster)

1.9  Archives in a Museum World (George)

1.10  Oral History as Public Engagement (Chapel)

3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  Afternoon Break with vendors (Grand Ballroom D)

   Sponsored by The Winthrop Group

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

1.11  Power, Agency, and Representation in the Archives (Grand Ballroom ABC)

1.12  History Speaks (Church)

1.13  Holding the Line (Wooster)

1.14  Equity, Access, and Advocacy (George)

1.15  Coming Full Circle (Chapel)

4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.  Fair Use Game Show hosted by Kyle Courtney (Grand Ballroom ABC)

5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.  All-Attendee Reception at the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library (121 Wall Street)

   Sponsored by the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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**Saturday, March 24**

6:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  3.1-Mile Run

   Meet in the Omni Hotel lobby. All paces welcome. Join us for the 4th Annual Archives Meeting Run!

7:30 a.m.  Registration opens (Pre-Assembly)

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  Vendor Showcase (Grand Ballroom D)

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.  NEA Mentoring Program Drop-in Session (Wooster)

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.  Résumé Review (Church)

   Review résumés or have your résumé reviewed by an experienced colleague. Sign up at bit.ly/2EQRUpW.

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.  Coffee (Grand Ballroom D)

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  Respite Room (Crown)
9 a.m. – 10 a.m.  Saturday Plenary: Emily Drabinski (Grand Ballroom ABC)

10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  Morning Coffee Break with vendors (Grand Ballroom D)
Sponsored by Preservica

10:30 a.m. – noon  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2.1 Artists, Artifacts, Accessibility (Church)

2.2 The Legislative Process and Political Advocacy (Wooster)

2.3 Radical Empathy in Archival Practice (Grand Ballroom ABC)

2.4 Looking Up, Looking Out (George)

2.5 Acknowledging the Gap (Chapel)

noon – 1:30 p.m.  Lunch /NEA Business Meeting (Grand Ballroom ABC)
All attendees are welcome to join NEA President Ellen Doon and the NEA Executive Board for lunch, the annual NEA business meeting, and the NEA awards ceremony.

1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.  CONCURRENT SESSIONS

2.6 Out From the Shadows (Church)

2.7 Connections and Context (Wooster)

2.8 Transcending the Narrative of Neutrality (Grand Ballroom ABC)

2.9 When It's More Than Just Business (George)

2.10 Enhancing Underrepresented Collections (Chapel)

3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  Afternoon Break with vendors (Grand Ballroom D)
Sponsored by the Yale Center for British Art

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.  NEA Roundtable Meetings (Grand Ballroom ABC)

⚠️ A Lactation Room will be available for attendees to use during the conference. Check with the Registration Desk for details.

Schedule and room assignments are subject to change.
In keeping with our Inclusion and Diversity Statement, New England Archivists (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).

If you witness or experience harassing speech or acts at this NEA-sponsored event, please report your concerns to a designated Community Advocate, the instructor, and/or contact the Inclusion and Diversity Committee at diversity@newenglandarchivists.org.

Our full policy, including information about filing an anonymous report, may be found on the NEA website: newenglandarchivists.org/code-of-conduct.

+ The Art of Collaboration

featuring

The Children’s Books of Russell & Lillian Hoban
Richard Wright’s *Native Son* on Stage & Screen
Studies in Creativity

at the

BEINECKE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

on view through April 15, 2018
**NEA ANNUAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PROJECTS**

The Day of Service is an annual part of NEA's volunteer outreach initiative. It was first conceived at the Spring 2013 Meeting with the StoryCorps project “Why Worcester?” and continued with projects at the Portsmouth Public Library in 2014, the Boston Public Library in 2015, the Maine Historical Society in 2016, and the Sturgis Library and the Bourne Historical Society in 2017. During the annual Day of Service event, archivists come together to help their colleagues improve access to important archival collections across the region. This year, volunteers are offered experiences at two possible sites.

**NEW HAVEN PRIDE CENTER**

The New Haven Pride Center (NHPC) serves the needs of Connecticut’s LGBTQI community through educational, social, and support programming. In collaboration with NHPC Executive Director Patrick Dunn, volunteers will participate in a video-recorded oral history project to document the stories of queer-identifying people in the New Haven community. Volunteers can participate in this project in a variety of possible roles: interviewing, video recording, transcribing, cataloging, and uploading videos online.

**NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The mission of the New Haven Free Public Library (NHFPL) is to ensure that all of New Haven’s citizens have full and unlimited access to information and knowledge so that they may meet the needs of daily living, have opportunities for self-education, and participate successfully in self-government. Volunteers will help establish intellectual control over a variety of records related to library history (photographs, slides, scrapbooks, journals, and borrowing ledgers), enabling the library to provide better access to these materials. Volunteers will also help develop workflows to continue this work beyond the Day of Service.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**NEA FALL 2018 MEETING: A SYMPOSIUM ON ARCHIVAL ETHICS**
Friday, October 26, 2018
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston, MA

**NEA SPRING 2019 MEETING**
April 4-6, 2019 | Hilton Burlington, Burlington, VT

**2018 A.R.T. SYMPOSIUM: THE UNCOMFORTABLE ARCHIVE**
Thursday, October 18, 2018 (proposals due May 25)
MORNING TOURS

BEINECKE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY TECHNICAL SERVICES AND
YALE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICES

This tour will include a visit to the Beinecke's processing spaces and photography studio, the Yale University Library’s conservation laboratory, and a shared digital archaeology laboratory. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Omni Hotel lobby to take the Yale Shuttle to the facility as a group. Look for a volunteer holding an NEA sign.

HARVEY CUSHING / JOHN HAY WHITNEY MEDICAL LIBRARY

The Harvey Cushing / John Hay Whitney Medical Library is the central library for Yale's medical school and is home to the Cushing Brain Collection, a historical collection of brains of people diagnosed with Cushing's Syndrome. This tour will feature a view of the archival workspace as well as the Cushing Brain Collection.

THE WHITNEY LIBRARY OF THE NEW HAVEN MUSEUM

The Whitney Library collects and preserves records of New Haven history from its founding through the present day. This tour will give an introduction to the library’s collections with a focus on the balance between preservation and access. It will feature discussions concerning collecting policies, collection housing, conservation decision-making, researcher access, and how collection materials are used in museum exhibits.

AFTERNOON TOURS

MANUSCRIPTS AND ARCHIVES

Yale's primary repository for Yale and local history, Manuscripts and Archives also holds collections that document diplomatic history and LGBTQ+ history. This tour will include a look at both the repository's archival processing workspace and its newly renovated reading room.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM

The museum and archives preserve the history of the Knights of Columbus organization. This tour features the museum’s current exhibition, World War I: Beyond the Front Lines, and will focus on exhibit development and the preservation considerations for long-term display of collection materials. The tour will also include a behind-the-scenes view of the archives workspace and a discussion of lone arranging within a larger organization.

BEINECKE RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

The Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library is Yale’s primary repository for literary archives, early manuscripts, and rare books. Join this tour of the library in downtown New Haven to see the Beinecke building along with exhibitions on view.
When copyright issues arise in the archives, it can feel over-whelming and even nerve-racking. But this evening's program turns copyright into a game, complete with music, sparkly jackets, and prizes. In game show format, our host, Kyle Courtney, will present several fair use cases that can occur in archives and libraries. Expert panelists will make arguments: is it fair use or not?

YOU DECIDE!

The audience gets to vote anonymously with their cell phones. This game show is a fun way to test your knowledge and to explore the nuances of copyright law.

WHO WILL WIN?

Everyone wins when they better understand copyright and fair use!
Matthew Connelly is professor of history at Columbia University. Connelly holds a bachelor’s degree from Columbia and a PhD in history from Yale. His publications include *A Diplomatic Revolution: Algeria’s Fight for Independence and the Origins of the Post-Cold War Era* (2002) and *Fatal Misconception: The Struggle to Control World Population* (2008). Connelly’s current research focuses on confronting the national security state in the age of “big data.” In 2013, he created the “Declassification Engine,” a MacArthur grant-funded project, which uses metadata, computational methods, and digital tools to uncover redacted material in declassified documents and facilitate access for researchers. Connelly also teaches an interdisciplinary course, Hacking the Archive, and serves as principal investigator for History Lab (history-lab.org).
Emily Drabinski is Coordinator of Library Instruction at Long Island University, Brooklyn, where she also serves as secretary of the faculty union, the Long Island University Faculty Federation. She sits on the board of *Radical Teacher*, a journal of socialist, feminist, and anti-racist teaching practice, and edits *Gender & Sexuality in Information Studies*, a book series from Library Juice Press/Litwin Books. Drabinski’s research and writing interests include critical perspectives on knowledge organization and access and the role of information workers as organizers for social change. Drabinski holds a BA in political science from Columbia University, an MSLIS from Syracuse University, and an MA in composition and rhetoric from Long Island University, Brooklyn.
Explore
Britain in the World

Free and open to the public
1080 Chapel Street, New Haven
1 877 BRIT ART | britishart.yale.edu
@yalebritishart #YCBA

Britain in the World display, fourth-floor galleries,
Yale Center for British Art, photograph by Richard Caspole
LYRASIS is an international member-driven, nonprofit serving archives, libraries and museums.

- Digital Services
- Preservation Services
- Consulting & Training
- ArchivesSpace Registered Service Provider
- ArchivesSpace Organizational Home
- ArchivesSpace and Islandora Hosting

www.lyrasis.org
1.1 What the Archives Reveal: Slavery in American Churches and Universities

In recent years, churches and universities have begun to reckon with their deep-rooted connections to slavery. Material evidence of these institutions’ engagement with slavery lies hidden in plain sight in archives and special collections, providing both subject and means for historical truth-telling. In the Episcopal Church, archivists are leading efforts to identify strategies of reconciliation in recognizing the legacies of slavery and segregation and advocating for church-wide spiritual and political justice. Once examined primarily for their ability to tell histories of “great men doing great things,” church records are now being reevaluated and mined for their usefulness as primary sources of social and political history. Similarly, over the past decade, universities including Brown and Harvard have been exploring their ties to slavery. Archivists have played critical roles in these efforts by curating exhibitions and websites that reveal stories of real people whose lives until recently have been ignored and unrecognized.

Juliana Kuipers, Harvard University Archives (co-chair)
Ross Mulcare, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University
Jean Ballard Terepka, St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in New York City (co-chair)

1.2 Documenting Connecticut Communities: Conversations with Local Community Archives

Join the Community Archives Advocates Roundtable for a panel presentation that will introduce NEA to local community archives in the Connecticut area. Attendees will gain a better understanding of community archives and learn about the similarities and differences, missions and goals, and day-to-day operations of three of them. This is an opportunity to listen to community archivists, embrace and appreciate their work, and possibly find avenues for collaborative projects or supportive partnerships. Including presentations from three active community archives, this panel will mark the beginning of this NEA Roundtable’s efforts to bring knowledge of community archives into the spotlight.

Keith Brown, Gay Spirit Radio Archive
Joan Cavanagh, Winchester Workers Exhibit and Book Project
Rebecca Morin, Holyoke Community College (chair)
Steve Thornton, Shoeleather History Project
Many Hands / Whose Hands? Archiving the Web, Collaboratively

Web archiving brings new narratives and sociotechnical challenges into archival spaces. The breadth, depth, and ephemerality of collective and individual experiences of the web demands collaborative archival approaches. How can archivists, creators, and subjects of web-based material together establish context-sensitive, ethical approaches to web archiving? This session focuses on working together to capture the live web efficiently, comprehensively, and sensitively. With sustainability, collection building, and division of labor as central themes, we'll discuss experiences with outreach, collection policy development, and maintenance. We'll also consider strategies to advocate for the documentation of the web within and beyond institutional infrastructures. We hope to leave participants with both answers and questions as they embark upon their own collaborations.

Samantha Abrams, Ivy Plus Libraries, Columbia University (chair)
Amy Wickner, University of Maryland, College Park
Karl-Rainer Blumenthal, Archive-It / The Internet Archive
1.4 Capturing the Squid: Creating Access to Complex Cultural and Creative Production

Recently acquired by Providence Public Library (PPL), the records of two Providence-based arts organizations engaged in social practice — AS220 and UPP Arts — have many things in common. They represent organizations that have evolved organically in response to community needs. They also reflect the output of artists, performers, and musicians who have moved outside the commercial or gallery worlds to engage with issues related to race, gender, sexuality, socio-economic disparities, urban development, and the environment. Each collection includes a wide variety of record formats and exemplifies contemporary local history created by individuals often ignored in archives. In response, PPL shifted its traditional processing approach to integrate the values of social practice into the archival method. Archivists worked collaboratively with donors to develop processing plans, identify potential users of the materials, and think creatively about description and access for those users. Discussion with both archivists and donors will highlight the opportunities and challenges that have arisen.

Dave Dvorchak, AS220
Janaya Kizzie, Providence Public Library
Wendy Korwin, UPP Arts
Kate Wells, Providence Public Library (chair)

1.5 Advocacy in Renovation Projects

Planning a renovation or building project for archives requires advocating not only for the space needed for processing, shelving, and researcher interaction with collections, but also for the appropriate preservation environment and security measures. Our work requires square footage and infrastructure that many outside our profession do not immediately understand; archivists must communicate effectively with administrators and architects to achieve a functional space that is designed well for the work we do. In this session, architects will explain the phases of design and construction and discuss what they have learned from archivists and librarians about their work and needs, and archivists with experience in renovation projects of varying scale will discuss how they advocated within their institutions and with architects for space and improvements. Presentations will be followed by time for discussion and questions.

John Apicella, Apicella + Bunton Architects
J Bunton, Apicella + Bunton Architects
Ellen Doon, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University (chair)
Nanci Young, Smith College
Peter A. Nelson, Phillips Exeter Academy
Karen J. Trivette, Fashion Institute of Technology
1.6 Organizing for Power

Want to get things done? Organizing principles and practices are valuable skills for any archivist to master. Whether you need to advocate for a new copy machine, make the case for a digital preservation program, or address wages or working conditions within your institution, you can’t do it alone: you need a crew of impassioned people working together to get the goods. This session will teach two fundamental organizing skills: how to talk to people when you want them to join your team, and how to make and assess lists so you know whom you need to talk to and how. Participants will learn — and practice! — necessary organizing skills and will leave the session ready to get started at their home institutions.

Jessica Farrell, Harvard Law School Library (chair)
Emily Drabinski, Long Island University
1.7 Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Training for Cultural and Emergency Response Communities

The documentary and cultural heritage of our nation is at risk from man-made and natural disasters. Disasters disrupt people’s lives, impact continuity of governmental functions, and jeopardize the existence of our nation’s cultural collections — but, as cultural heritage organizations recover, so does the community. This session will present the experiences of both instructors and participants in a five-part workshop series on disaster preparedness and emergency response for cultural heritage organizations and firefighting communities. Developed thanks to a two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the workshops were created jointly by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, COSTEP MA, and the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services/Massachusetts Firefighting Academy. In addition to training people to prepare for and respond to disasters, the workshops have enabled a close relationship to develop between the cultural heritage and firefighting communities.

Donia Conn, Cultural Heritage Collections (chair)
Captain Greg Morin, Deputy Fire Chief, Auburn, MA
Penni Martorell, Wistariahurst Museum

1.8 Advocacy and Sustainability: Current Issues in Digital Preservation

Information professionals are often tasked with advocating for and implementing digital preservation practices within our institutions. This session will explore various approaches to digital preservation and the questions we face, including: How do we advocate effectively? What does collaboration look like, and how are digital preservation issues presented to “non-experts”? How do environmental, financial, and social ethics concerns affect our approaches to digital preservation? What can we learn from colleagues outside of the archives profession? How do institutions balance unique priorities, resources, and digital preservation needs? Incorporating examples from diverse institutional contexts and record types, the speakers will discuss case studies and resources to inform future collaboration and sustainable digital preservation efforts that will provide wider, more equal access to our collections.

Elizabeth England, Johns Hopkins University
Amber LaFountain, Center for the History of Medicine at Harvard Medical School
Cate Peebles, Yale Center for British Art (chair)
Jenn Schlick, MIT Energy Initiative
Surella Seelig, Brandeis University
1.9 Archives in a Museum World: Navigating Internal and External Outreach

Museums and museum staff tend to be object-centered in their concerns and cataloging, and so archives situated within museums face unique challenges and opportunities. Internal outreach that educates museum staff about archival best practices is key, from one-on-one meetings about records management to developing a controlled vocabulary to discuss manuscripts with non-archivists. Internal outreach goes hand in hand with promoting the archives to external audiences as well; as we clarify the role and importance of archives to museum staff and to ourselves, we find common ground, synergy with the object collections, and new partners for archival advocacy. This session will explore specific cases of internal and external outreach: what kinds of challenges they present, scalable strategies, and how internal and external outreach influence each other.

Michelle Chiles, Rhode Island Historical Society (chair)
Ellen Dyer, Maine State Museum
Kate Herbert, Maine State Museum, Maine State Library, and Maine State Archives
Michelle Interrante, Harvard Art Museums
Katherine Meyers Satriano, Harvard’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology

1.10 Oral History as Public Engagement

As oral histories preserve a group’s experiences, they can also be a source of strength and power. Join us to hear about four distinct oral history projects and experiences: a project at the Weeksville Heritage Center documenting the history and heritage of the Weeksville community of Brooklyn, New York; projects at the New York Philharmonic Archives to capture the recollections of orchestra musicians and audience members for its 175th Anniversary and for the Centennial of Leonard Bernstein; work at the Center for the History of Medicine to document the experiences of students, trainees, and faculty of underdocumented communities at Harvard Medical School; and a report of the 2018 NEA/A.R.T. Day of Service oral history project at the New Haven Pride Center.

Barbara Haws, New York Philharmonic Archives
Joan Ilacqua, Center for the History of Medicine at Harvard Medical School (chair)
Katherine Isham, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University
Obden Mondésir, Weeksville Heritage Center
1.11 Power, Agency, and Representation in the Archives

How is power perpetuated in the archival record, and how can archivists empower underrepresented voices in the archives? The session discusses archival initiatives designed to empower Black and Indigenous communities by finding underrepresented voices and gaps in existing archives, creating new archives, and reclaiming physical and intellectual control of their own archives. Case studies will include the Black Sound and the Archive Working Group at Yale University, the History Keepers Program at Yale, the Protocols for Native American Archival Materials, and the Indigenous decolonization initiative at the San Diego Museum of Man. Viewing archives through the lens of power, agency, and representation forces us to radically reimagine research processes, professional training and recruitment, access protocols, appraisal methods, and what it means to be an archivist.

Stephanie Bredbenner, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University (chair)
Polly Cancro, Pratt Institute School of Information, The Morgan Library & Museum
Emily DiLeo, Irving S. Gilmore Music Library, Yale University
Afua Ferdnance, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University
1.12 History Speaks: The Making of CRIS Radio’s “Voices of WWI”

CRIS, Connecticut’s radio-reading service, the Connecticut State Library (CSL), and IDEAL Group, a technology company dedicated to enhancing independence for individuals with disabilities, collaborated on a project to provide access to archival documents and publications for individuals unable to read print materials, using human-narrated recordings and e-books. The documents came from CSL’s rich collection of World War I materials; the voice talent and recording production from CRIS; and the tools to create searchable e-books from IDEAL Group. Panel members will moderate a conversation on the process, challenges, and benefits of collaborating among diverse organizations. They will also discuss the challenges of working with and creating transcripts from various document formats, including government records and publications, diaries, newspapers, and questionnaires compiled from returning World War I military personnel. Participants will be able to explore the recordings and witness a demonstration by panel members of the free open-source e-book and knowledge mining tools developed for this project.

Diane Weaver Dunne, CRIS Radio (chair)
Christopher Kelly, CRIS Radio
Lizette Pelletier, Connecticut State Library
Christine Pittsley, Connecticut State Library
Allen Ramsey, Connecticut State Library

1.13 Holding the Line: Self-Care as an Act of Resistance

For many individuals working in archives and special collections, challenging work environments arise when social and political climates quell diversity, discourage inclusive behaviors, and devalue archives and the labor that sustains them. This session explores how archivists can advocate for themselves, prioritizing self-care while juggling professional and institutional demands. Speakers will present firsthand accounts of confronting oppressive systems, coping with micro- and macro-aggressions on the job, and dealing with cultural devaluation of their labor. Then discussion will open to all participants, focusing especially on identifying practical tactics for dealing with workplace stresses and models for behavior that can help de-escalate or eliminate problematic interactions. This session will recommend ways those working in the archives field can respectfully and ethically support each other while protecting their own mental, physical, and professional well-being.

Erik Bauer, Peabody Institute Library
Gayle Schechter, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center
Jessica Steytler, Congregational Library and Archives (chair)
**1.14 Equity, Access, and Advocacy: Stories of Archival Transformation**

Recent archival discourse reflects an increasing attention to complex issues concerning equity, access, and advocacy: equity not only in terms of diverse collections that reflect the experiences of marginalized communities, but also of progressive approaches toward developing inclusive repositories; access in terms of the research skills, discovery tools, and institutional openness required to utilize collections for educational, civic, and personal enrichment; advocacy in terms of robust support for collection development and usage, both internally and externally. This session will present stories of experimentation and transformation in public libraries in the northeast and across the nation, particularly focusing on the evolving roles of community-centered archivists whose decisions have social, educational, and political implications. The enduring civic importance of public libraries — where issues of openness, neutrality, and ethics continuously inform archival practice — confirms that archival work cannot be static or insular and must instead strive to be dynamic, transparent, and participatory.

Diantha Dow Schull, *DDSchull Associates* (chair)

**1.15 Coming Full Circle: Advocacy Throughout the Records Life Cycle**

Archives and records management activities are intertwined within the records life cycle model and are often implemented in tandem to ensure the successful management of information. This being the case, it is very important for archivists and records managers to work together in order to promote each other’s activities. When records managers stress the importance of archives in maintaining permanent records, it helps to provide a compelling argument for the funding of archival activities. Likewise, if archivists stress the need for a fully developed records management program in order to ensure that all permanent records are properly maintained, it helps to bolster support for records programs. This session will focus on how archivists and records managers can work together to advocate for one another as well as promote a more complete information management program within their organization.

Lauren Barnes, *S&P Global, NYC*
Dorothy Dougherty, *National Archives at New York City* (chair)
Jennifer Williams, *Emerson College*
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2.1 Artists, Artifacts, Accessibility: Fostering Creative Practices in the Archives

This interactive session brings together archivists who have worked closely with artists as both content creators and researchers and will offer attendees a space to brainstorm and share their experiences. Angela DiVeglia and Jeremy Ferris will discuss their process of creating and publishing the comic book “Lizard Ramone in Hot Pursuit: A Guide to Archives for Artists and Makers.” Colleen Quigley will dance her presentation, which addresses the myriad of practical and philosophical issues relating to the archiving of the performing arts from the archivist/dancer perspective. Finally, the presenters will facilitate a conversation about the challenges and rewards of working with artists, with a focus on creative research, outreach tools, access points, documenting performance, and research-based art.

Colleen Quigley, Memorial University of Newfoundland’s Archives and Special Collections
Angela DiVeglia, Providence Public Library (chair)
Jeremy Ferris, Simmons College

2.2 The Legislative Process and Political Advocacy

Archivists’ jobs, practices, and institutions are impacted by government budgets, policy decisions, and political maneuvering. With a firmer understanding of legislative processes, we can all become advocates for our profession. Seasoned political organizer Michele Evermore will discuss how budget-making happens on a national and local level and will cover some basic tools of advocacy, such as meeting with your legislators, phone banking, and letter writing.

Michele Evermore, SEIU 1199 (chair)

2.3 Radical Empathy in Archival Practice

Responding to Michelle Caswell and Marika Cifor’s foundational text, “From Human Rights to Feminist Ethics: Radical Empathy in Archives,” this roundtable will provide a forum for discussing the ways in which our profession can “center radical empathy and obligations of care.” Following brief presentations from speakers, small-group conversations will bring together speakers and attendees to focus on applying radical empathy as a theory and practice within their work.

Molly Brown, Simmons College
Rosemary K. J. Davis, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University
Giordana Mecagni, Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections (chair)
Anna Robinson-Sweet, Simmons College
Kelly Wooten, Sallie Bingham Center for Women’s History & Culture, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Duke University
2.4 Looking Up, Looking Out: Personal Advocacy in the Workplace

When faced with a personal challenge in the workplace, we often feel alone. We find ourselves in situations that make speaking up for what we need difficult. But we are not alone. Many of our colleagues face the same self-advocacy conundrums. In this session, four panelists will share their own efforts to advocate for themselves. From organizing forums to combating oppressive power structures in LIS institutions and pedagogy, to advocating for oneself and one’s archive in underfunded institutions, speakers will present strategies and lessons learned from their self-advocacy. There will also be time to engage in small participatory discussion groups to strategize our way forward. We can combat isolation by working together.

Quincy Knapp, Simmons College
Bridgett Pride, Simmons College
Molly Wheeler, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University
Jenny Swadosh, The New School (chair)
2.5 Acknowledging the Gap: Diversifying Our Collections, Services, and Workforce

To properly document, serve, and reflect our communities, inclusion and diversity in the archives are imperative. This session will address these issues as they relate to our collections, services, and workforce. How can we design systems that account for diverse cultural materials and ways of knowing? How can we ensure that underrepresented voices and perspectives are represented in our collections, exhibits, events, and outreach efforts? How do we build bridges between large organizations and communities to help capture their stories? How do we increase diversity within the archives community and create a work environment where all members can thrive? The session will incorporate perspectives from an interdisciplinary information systems design project, an LGBTQ+ community archives, an international audiovisual preservation organization, and institutional programs to increase mentorship and diversity.

Joan Ilacqua, The History Project and the Center for the History of Medicine at Harvard Medical School
Gabriela Redwine, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University
Amanda Rust, Digital Scholarship Group at Northeastern University Libraries
Rose Oliveira, Connecticut College (chair)

2.6 Out From the Shadows

Challenging collections offer our institutions an opportunity to relate to current events and enrich our audience’s understanding of and connections to the past. Through the use of artifacts and facsimiles from their collections, presenters will describe recent efforts at the Wadsworth Atheneum to use difficult collection material to foster constructive dialogue on equity, bias, and inclusion; highlight intersectionality, advocacy, and LGBTQIA collections at True Colors, Inc.; and discuss various programs the Litchfield Historical Society has undertaken to create conversations around sensitive collections, as well as challenges with cataloging and digitizing such collections. Presenters will describe the changing ways in which these relics have been used, interpreted, described, and displayed in their institutions. They will also explore how these collections can help us understand and contextualize current events. Participants will be invited to offer their own perspectives on using challenging documents and artifacts.

Frank Mitchell, The Amistad Center for Art & Culture at the Wadsworth Atheneum
Ira Revels, Gay Spirit Radio Archive Project
Linda Hocking, Litchfield Historical Society (chair)
2.7 Connections and Context: Three Projects in Archival Description

Changes in descriptive and encoding standards and tools have created new opportunities for archivists to describe collections and creators. One presenter, focusing on the SNAC (Social Networks in Archival Context) project, will discuss issues of applying demographic terms in authority records, both their potential value and the issues raised for archival description. A group of cross-institutional archivists will report on their recent “Relationships Workshop,” at which invited participants (archivists, educators, and students) discussed issues surrounding the representation of relationships in archival description, including issues of directionality, temporality, and sensitivity, resulting in a forthcoming best-practices white paper. Speakers from Yale University will report on an ArchivesSpace reclamation project, sharing best practices for creation of agent and subject records, methods for reconciling existing finding aids and collection-level catalog records, and experiences in collaborating with vendors to enhance legacy data, including addition of linked open data URIs.

Mark Custer, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University
Susan Pyzynski, Houghton Library, Harvard University
Jessica Sedgwick, Center for the History of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Karen Spicher, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University (chair)
Katherine Wisser, School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College

2.8 Transcending the Narrative of Neutrality

At a time when citizen engagement in local, regional, and national politics is on the rise and activists across the political spectrum are asking questions about the accountability of local, regional, and national governments to the people, many archivists are wrestling anew with our responsibilities as political actors. What professional ethics and personal values inform, or should inform, our daily work? What form does political advocacy take in archival spaces? What political inequities are replicated in archival collections, spaces, and practices — and how do archivists acknowledge and challenge these patterns? What is the role of archivists in advocating for, and facilitating as, government employees, as well as advocating for government record-keeping, accountability, and transparency? Roundtable participants will discuss the sociopolitical urgency of archives work and suggest ways for archivists to engage in political action and debate.

Anna J. Clutterbuck-Cook, Massachusetts Historical Society
Ashley Levine, Artifex Press (chair)
Rachel Muse, Vermont State Archives and Records Administration
Dennis Riley, New York State Archives
Ayoola White, Simmons College, DERAIL Forum
2.9 When It’s More Than Just Business: Advocating the Value of Corporate Records

Business records play a vital role in documenting society. Yet their importance is not always recognized by the public or even by the very institutions that create these rich materials. Archivists who work with business records must often promote their worth to internal audiences, records creators, and even the community at large to prove how these critical and underused resources can provide value. Presenters will describe advocating for archives as a tool to drive business value and promote culture within an institution; efforts to protect the legacy of philanthropic foundations and nonprofits by raising awareness of archives and promoting good record-keeping practices; and the use of corporate records to inform a local documentary on urban renewal — and how a business repository can become a trusted community partner. Through their presentations, the speakers will examine the relationship between business archives and users, and the role of business records within society.

Jamie Martin, IBM Corporate Archives (chair)
Kerri Anne Burke, Citigroup Center for Culture
Bob Clark, Rockefeller Archive Center
Lewis (L. J.) Strumpf, IBM Corporate Archives

2.10 Enhancing Underrepresented Collections and Reaching New Users

Winner of the 2018 Inclusion & Diversity Session and Travel Assistance Award

Speakers will present on efforts to improve collection access for underrepresented communities and to highlight collections documenting those communities via enhanced description and digitization. Projects discussed will include Boston College’s re-processing and digitization of Jamaican folk tales recorded by schoolchildren from the Joseph J. Williams Ethnological Collection, and UMass Boston’s processing of the papers of Theresa-India Young, a practitioner of traditional African fiber arts and coil basketry, community organizer, and artist activist. We will also hear how Lawrence History Center’s outreach efforts, despite socioeconomic challenges and language barriers, are bolstering its immigrant community’s interest in and passion for their new city’s history.

Meghan Bailey, Joseph P. Healey Library, UMass Boston
Stephanie Hall, John J. Burns Library, Boston College
Amita Kiley, Lawrence History Center
Annalisa Moretti, John J. Burns Library, Boston College (chair)
Lynn Moulton, John J. Burns Library, Boston College
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HOW CAN ARCHIVISTS BETTER DEMONSTRATE THE CULTURAL VALUE AND SOCIAL URGENCY OF THEIR WORK?  WHAT KINDS OF ADVOCACY CAN HELP AMPLIFY AWARENESS AND BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES WITHIN ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS?  HOW CAN BEST PRACTICES Evolve TO INCLUDE THE STORIES, TRADITIONS, AND RECORD KEEPING METHODS OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES WHO ARE TRADITIONALLY UNDERREPRESENTED IN ARCHIVAL SPACES?

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