C OVER — A UMass Boston student hangs a Committee Against Racism “Smash the Klan” sign to organize demonstrators in Scotland, CT against the Ku Klux Klan’s first open rally in New England in almost a century, held on September 13, 1980. This image is from University of Massachusetts Boston, Publications Office photograph collection. Courtesy of the Joseph P. Healey Library, University of Massachusetts Boston.

I NSIDE — Betts Coup discusses creating EAC-CPF records (page 4); NEA President Ellen Doon asks members to consider how they can support NEA and their fellow members (page 7); book reviews on *Appraisal and Acquisitions*, *Teaching with Primary Sources*, and *Desegregating the Past* (page 15); Anna Clutterbuck-Cook writes her last column as Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator with a look back at what has been accomplished and what comes next (page 18); and news from fellow NEA members, roundtables, and repositories (page 8).
Welcome to the October issue of the NEA Newsletter! As we begin American Archives Month, I’m sure we will all be busy and our minds will be abuzz with ideas from the “Infinite Conversations” we’ve had at the Fall Meeting. Despite the season’s hectic pace, I hope you can find a few moments to relax and enjoy what this issue has to offer.

Betts Coup discusses her experiences creating EAC-CPF records as part of the Boston Public Schools Desegregation Project and at the Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Medical Library (page 4).

NEA President Ellen Doon asks members to consider how they can support NEA and their fellow members through matched donations to one of NEA’s scholarship/award funds or by serving in an open volunteer position (page 7).

We have three book reviews this issue, covering a wide range of topics, examining Appraisal and Acquisitions, Teaching with Primary Sources, and Desegregating the Past (page 15);

In this issue’s “Who’s Missing from this Table?,” Anna Clutterbuck-Cook writes her last column as Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator with a look back at what has been accomplished and what comes next, in her column “The Service Begins When the Service Ends (page 18).”

Finally, as always, enjoy the latest news from NEA members, roundtables, and repositories from around New England (page 8) and check out upcoming conferences and events on our calendar (page 23).

Look for the NEA Board Meeting Minutes online!

NEA’s Executive Board Minutes are now exclusively online at <newenglandarchivists.org>.
EAC-CPF: A Different Approach to Description

By Betts Coup

Throughout my studies in the master’s program at Simmons College, I was fascinated by the concept of description and the ways we describe archival materials through descriptive standards like DACS and encoding standards like EAD and EAC-CPF (Encoded Archival Context – Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families). In my professional work as a processing assistant at the Center for the History of Medicine at Countway Medical Library, I’d been given the opportunity to create DACS-compliant, EAD-encoded finding aids, but had not yet been able to explore EAC-CPF and how it might aid users in accessing archival collections—and provide a unique connection between materials and their creators. However, while meeting to discuss an entirely different topic with Northeastern University Archivist Giordana Mecagni, I discovered the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Desegregation Project. It was partially funded by the Boston Library Consortium, in partnership with the University Archives and Special Collections at the University of Massachusetts Boston; the State Library of Massachusetts’ Special Collections; Boston College’s John J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections, Moakley Archive and Institute at Suffolk University, and the Boston City Archives. The project’s goal was to make available archival material that relate to how, what, and why busing occurred in Boston, as well as the after-effects it had on the community. This was done by scanning materials at many archives and creating a digital library of material that could be widely disseminated for scholarly and Boston Public School curricular use.

What interested me about this collection was that it seemed likely that there were connections not only between the archival materials being digitized, but also between their creators and subjects. This made it clear to me that the BPS Desegregation Project might well be a perfect opportunity to explore the type of description made possible by EAC-CPF (Encoded Archival Context – Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families). EAC-CPF is an XML schema adopted by the Society of American Archivists in 2011 to provide a flexible method for describing entities that have a relationship to archival materials as well as to other entities. In the case of the BPS Desegregation Project, those entities would include city, state, and national governmental officials and organizations, as well as local individuals and social justice groups. The range of entities was appealing, as it would span both local history—of which only a limited record remains—and the more public issues and incidents of the court-ordered desegregation of Boston’s public schools.

With the supervision and support of my academic advisor, Katherine Wisser, Associate Professor at Simmons College, as well as Giordana Mecagni and Michelle Romero, then both of the Northeastern Archives and Special Collections, we arranged a one-semester independent study which would entail the creation of a customized EAC-CPF template for Northeastern’s collections as well as numerous EAC-CPF records for entities included in the BPS Desegregation Project. Romero and Mecagni shared their descriptive metadata from the scanning project and prioritized various individuals and groups for description. Starting in late summer, I began carrying out research regarding those entities and exploring the EAC-CPF standard. What turned out to be the most challenging thing was in fact the very character of EAC-CPF itself. I was describing people or groups of people; I was not describing the materials they had created or of which they were subjects. As a processor, this was a striking change. We are accustomed to being focused on the materials within the collections, their relationships to each other, and not describing the people beyond a straight-forward biography. In the case of an EAC-CPF record, for example, are subject headings appropriate? People don’t have subjects, really. Would you want to be described by a subject? Instead, occupations seemed the closest way one could create authorized headings for persons or corporate bodies. Also, when describing places, we are describing a physical location and how an entity relates to it.

Once I’d gotten over these hurdles, I set down to the work of creating a template. The EAC-CPF standard is purposefully very open and flexible. There are few required
elements, and one can choose whether one puts in place controlled vocabularies for elements such as <placeRole>. Prior to starting work on a template, I looked into the ways other institutions have chosen to use EAC-CPF, such as the Harvard-Yale collaboration “Collecting the Dots: Using EAC-CPF to Reunite Samuel Johnson and his Circle,” as well as the Smithsonian’s and Tufts University’s implementations. It became quite clear that records could be remarkably robust or quite stripped down. After showing a few records to the Northeastern team, we elected to use the project from Harvard and Yale Universities as a model, though often with slightly less robust records due to a lack of sources about many local Boston entities.

In what might seem like the reverse order, I started out creating a group of five records for entities that included individuals who were in governmental positions and were involved in social movements at the time, as well as corporate bodies of both government and civilian sorts. After bringing these in for discussion with all stakeholders, we made some minor adjustments, and from there I created a template that could be used for future records creation, as well as a best practices document. The intention was that I would follow these documents throughout the project, and that future processors or those responsible for describing entities related to Northeastern University’s more general holdings could also use them to create additional records. Thus, the controlled vocabulary we created for <placeRole> contains a variety of terms that could be used for the entities associated with the project, as well as Northeastern University’s institutional records and the social movement materials they collect as part of their mission.

We do not yet have a home for the records and thus I wasn’t able to put in place links between entities’ records. However, the connections between various entities were undeniable, clearly defined in the <cpfRelations> element. These included relationships between people and the organizations with which they worked, people with whom they were members of such organizations, and even individuals who might have been running against one another for election. Other relationships were between two organizations, often on opposing sides of the desegregation dispute, and many between government and non-governmental groups. However, nearly every relationship described as part of the project was defined as “associative” in EAC-CPF. The possibilities for describing relationships are fairly limited to a standard-wide controlled vocabulary: identity, hierarchical, hierarchical-parent, hierarchical-child, temporal, temporal-earlier, temporal-later, family, and associative. Associative is an open term, one that can refer to many types of relationships, and best described the vast majority of the connections between entities described.

EAC-CPF also provides a place to link archival and/or published materials, making connections between the entity and the records they might have created or of which they are a subject, and these can be further described as needed. Both <resourceRelations> and <cpfRelations> are intended to be robust and to be the place where EAC-CPF creates new and different access to collections. By looking at one record, one not only finds links to that entity’s collections, but also the other entities with which there is a connection—and in turn to the collections or materials related to those entities. When mapped, the data from the relations fields often looks like a web of connections, and each of those connections might well lead users to unexpected materials or paths of research.

At the same time I was creating this template and moving into records creation for Northeastern, I was also working closely with the Center for the History of Medicine’s Collections Services Archivist, Jessica Sedgwick, to create a template and introduce EAC-CPF records creation into processing practice at the Center, where I remain employed as a processing assistant. There were some different choices in the records. Our controlled vocabulary was tailored to the scientific or medical, institutional, and research-related collections the Center tends to have, and we made certain rules governing the types of relations that we would include to follow description practice. Moreover, the EAC-CPF records the Center’s staff is beginning to create are completed as part of processing, following the creation of a finding aid, and much of the material used in the EAC-CPF record is in fact borrowed from the finding aid. This simplifies the process and reduces the time obligation.

At this time, it’s hard to find a way to provide access to EAC-CPF records and thus to immediately see their usefulness. One challenge facing institutions that want to implement EAC-CPF as part of processing practice is that the standard is still young, and it’s not entirely clear where EAC-CPF records can be stored and made public unless on an institution’s own site as the Harvard-Yale collaboration,
Tufts, and the Smithsonian have all done. We weren't prepared to take that on at Northeastern (and aren't yet at the Center for the History of Medicine), but some forty-nine records, plus the template and best practice guidelines, are waiting for a new location at Northeastern, and the Center has officially added EAC-CPF records creation as a step in the processing of collections.

Even if EAC-CPF records are made available online, it's not always easy to see their use until they all come together in one location. For example, “Connecting The Dots” website provides access to all of their records, in easy, bulk-downloadable form at <https://wiki.harvard.edu/confluence/display/connectingdots/Records>. However, these are simply individual records, still viewable as XML documents. They also provide Excel spreadsheets that map all of the resourceRelations and cpfRelations between the entities for which records were created, to be found at <https://wiki.harvard.edu/confluence/display/connectingdots/Relationships+and+vocabulary>. These resources provide ample information about the methods used to create the robust records relating to the “Connecting the Dots” project, and the records themselves are useful for seeing the descriptive potential of EAC-CPF. Their best practice guidelines were formative for my project, and their public availability is a boon for anyone interested in developing EAC-CPF templates or guidelines.

However, the most easy to understand, visually helpful project that demonstrates the connections between entities as well as archival resources is SNAC, the National Archives' “Social Networks and Archival Context.” SNAC has a prototype search feature that creates remarkable displays of connections between the EAC-CPF records SNAC has created and collected from various repositories. The hope is that SNAC will become the online home for all EAC-CPF records, providing a single nation-wide resource for American records. While working out the next steps of the SNAC prototype, however, they have stopped accepting new records for the moment. Still, what is already present at their website <http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/index.html> is a clear display of the usefulness of EAC-CPF records for providing the links between and amongst entities and resources. If one does an individual search, one can see the data from the EAC-CPF record displayed, the sources for the record, and can find links to lists of related collections, the original EAC-CPF code, and perhaps the most visually interesting, a Radial Graph Demo that shows a web of connections. A great example of this is to search for “King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968” <http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/ark:/99166/w6x63m0v?mode=RGraph>. The web of relations varies from institutions with related collections to individuals and corporate bodies to whom Dr. King had some connection. This demonstrates the complex web of connections that EAC-CPF records can create between and amongst entities and resources. If one then clicks over to the list of collection locations, one can see the vast number of repositories with resources related to Dr. King. Though this is clearly an example with a great deal of data and innumerable relations,
I write this column on a hot summer day, but as you read it in October, NEA’s Fall Symposium is already behind us. The “Infinite Conversations” that we have enjoyed at MIT were a rich example of NEA’s ongoing exploration of different formats for its fall meetings, as a counter-balance to the larger and more formal annual meeting in the spring. I’m sure that the carefully crafted discussions that Liz Andrews, Nora Murphy, and their program committee invited us to join will resonate for a long while.

We are nearing the end of the calendar year, a time when many of us think about giving. I’d like remind you of an opportunity to strengthen NEA’s awards program for a long and stable future. As announced in the spring, through the end of 2017, NEA will match from its general funds any donation to its scholarship and awards funds, up to $1,000 per award. This is an intentional investment in direct member support, and it is an investment that the Board chooses to make in partnership with members, recognizing that we are an organization of individuals dedicated to the growth and health of the archival profession in our region. Over the last three years, NEA has expanded its awards program, creating several Meeting and Travel Assistance Scholarships to support attendance at NEA meetings, as well as piloting an award that encourages program sessions focused on diversity, inclusion, and social justice issues in archives. We also established, through the generosity of an NEA member, an A/V Professional Development Award to ensure opportunities for members who work with audiovisual materials. These new awards complement the longstanding awards that have benefitted members for decades: the Richard W. Hale, Jr. Professional Development Award, which provides substantial support for professional development, and the Richard J. Haas Records Management Award, which funds projects promoting understanding between archivists and records managers. I made my personal donation to the Haas Award, because after working for several years as a Board member to ensure the administrative stability of this award, I want to see this fund remain robust enough to sustain creative ideas for many years to come. Perhaps you are passionate about providing learning opportunities or financial encouragement for meeting attendance. It is the Board’s hope that every NEA member who is able to contribute will do so, in any amount, large or small, during these last few months of the matching opportunity. We are a community; let us be generous with each other.

There are, of course, many ways to support NEA. Currently there are opportunities to serve on the Membership Committee, and upcoming opportunities in the Mentoring Program and in Program Committees. At its summer meeting, the Board voted to create an Inclusion and Diversity Committee to strengthen our commitment by engaging more than just a single Coordinator in this work, and creating new volunteer positions. Show your commitment to NEA by giving your time and enthusiasm.

It will soon be time to register for NEA’s Spring Meeting in New Haven, Connecticut. This year’s joint meeting with the Archivists Roundtable of New York City will have the theme “Rise Up!” I hope to see many of you there (March 22-24, 2018), enjoying New Haven’s great restaurants, theatres, libraries, and museums, as we are all inspired to advocate for archives and archivists in our workplaces and in the world.
News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Yale Center for British Art Hosts National Digital Stewardship Resident (NDSR) for Art Information

The Yale Center for British Art (YCBA) is hosting Cate Peebles, a 2015 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh’s MLIS program, as an NDSR Art resident for 2017-18. Organized by the Art Library Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, NDSR Art continues the tradition of previous NDSR cohorts by preparing new professionals to address the challenges of digital preservation.

Peebles’ project will use the digital preservation system, workflows, and procedures implemented by the YCBA’s Institutional Archives as a guide for developing and executing a digital preservation plan to ensure the integrity and accessibility of the museum’s born-digital records permanently held by departments outside the museum’s archives.

This project will demonstrate how existing digital preservation tools and strategies, typically only employed by archivists and digital preservation managers, can transform current practices used by museums to manage and preserve their growing collections of born-digital records. The lessons learned will provide a model for other museums regarding the management and preservation of born-digital historical records held by multiple departments. For more information contact: <catherine.peebles@yale.edu>.

MAINE

Maine State Archives Summer Projects Update

The Maine State Archives hosted three summer interns this year. Robert Adametz scanned and cataloged Navy correspondence and records of absent soldiers from the Civil War and uploaded the absent soldier records to the Digital Maine repository, available at <http://digitalmaine.com/absent_soldiers/>. Savannah Labbe focused on cataloging the Civil War regimental correspondence and records of deserters, and Dalton Chapman cataloged the Executive Council reports from 1820 to 1846. Through their efforts, the Main State Archives now have more records online and many of these significant historical records are now searchable. For more information on these projects, contact Samuel Howes, Maine State Archivist, at 207-287-5778 or <Samuel.Howes@maine.gov>.

MASSACHUSETTS

Berklee Awarded Grammy Grant and Acquires Liebman Materials

Berklee College of Music was one of fourteen U.S. recipients of a 2017 Grammy Foundation Grant, receiving $13,000 to preserve a collection of videotapes from 1985-2001. These tapes capture music legends such as David Bowie, Sting, James Taylor, and Billy Joel as they impart their wisdom in commencement speeches and performances for the college. Berklee plans to digitize these analog records to preserve the collection and provide more public access to these unique resources.

Also, Berklee recently acquired the personal collection of venerable jazz musician and educator David Liebman. Liebman’s nearly fifty-year career has spanned genres, from classical to rock to free jazz, and has included collaborations with Miles Davis, Chick Corea, and Elvin Jones. This archival collection consists of many manuscripts, recordings, and memorabilia documenting his career. Stayed tuned for pro-

Visit NEA online at: <www.newenglandarchivists.org>
cessing updates by following the Berklee Archives on Tumblr at <www.tumblr.com/blog/berkleearchives>.

For more information, please contact the Berklee Archives at <archives@berklee.edu> or visit <https://archives.berklee.edu/>.

Cambridge Historical Commission Library & Archives Blog

In addition to its Instagram and Facebook page, the Cambridge Historical Commission’s library and archives now have a regularly updated blog: <https://cambridgehistoricalcommission.wordpress.com>. Follow them as they share highlights from new donations and processed collections, staff and researcher favorites, and updates about our current projects—including the digitization of their architectural survey files (documenting all 13,000+ buildings in Cambridge) or the progress on their upcoming online library catalog through TinyCat. For more information, contact <egonzalez@cambridgema.gov>.

“Bridging the Research Data Divide” Project Completed at Center for the History of Medicine

The Center for the History of Medicine (CHoM), in collaboration with the University of Alberta Libraries (UAL), is pleased to announce the completion of the Bridging the Research Data Divide project, funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources.

The project sought to close a gap in current data management practices by providing guidance on describing health-sciences research data for long-term and multidisciplinary reuse. CHoM and UAL will soon distribute a metadata profile, including recommended elements for use by both active researchers and the special collections community.

CHoM opened four collections during the project: the Harvard School of Public Health Longitudinal Studies of Child Health and Development records; the Marie C. McCormick papers; the Steven L. Gortmaker papers; and the Harvard School of Public Health Harvard Prevention Research Center records. Metadata for each collection was deposited in the Center’s Dataverse for added discovery <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/centerhistoryofmedicine>.

For more information, please contact the project’s Principal Investigator, Emily Novak Gustainis, Deputy Director of the Center for the History of Medicine <emily_gustainis@hms.harvard.edu>.

Edward W. Wagner Personal Archive Finding Aid Available Online

The Harvard University Archives recently completed the processing and creation of an online finding aid for the personal archive of Edward W. Wagner, Professor of Korean Studies at Harvard for thirty-five years and a pioneer in the study of Korean history in the United States. A specialist in pre-modern Korean history, Wagner’s research centered on the study of the elite structure of Korea’s Yi (Chosŏn) dynasty. Processing included the digitization of nearly 2,000 pages from the collection.

The Wagner archive (10 cubic feet) dates from 1942 to 1998. The collection documents Wagner’s academic and professional career as a teacher, writer, and historian and highlights his role as an authority on the history and language of Korea. Research files, writings, and correspondence principally document Wagner’s attempts to define and characterize the political-social elite component of traditional Korean society (yangban) during the Korean Yi Dynasty from 1392 to 1910.

The finding aid is available online at Harvard University’s OASIS website <http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.ARCH:hu40016>. For more information, contact Dominic Grandinetti at 617-998-5242 or <dominic_grandinetti@harvard.edu>.

Hingham League of Women Voters Records Organized and Cataloged

This summer, the records of the Hingham (MA) League of Women Voters were organized and cataloged by Robert Malme at the Hingham Historical Society and Heritage Museum. The League, founded in 1933, had a collection of records, photographs,
and publications going back to the 1940s that document the chapter’s efforts to encourage local citizens to become active and informed members of the community. Malme created a detailed inventory of the thirteen-box collection which he arranged for the League to donate to the Society in July. The League collection was the first large-scale donation received by the Society since they moved back into their newly renovated headquarters. The expanded Old Derby Academy building now houses a permanent museum space to display its many collections and an environmentally controlled archives and reading room available to researchers and the public. For more information, visit the Society’s website: <www.hinghamhistorical.org>.

**Leominster’s 1915 Time Capsule Contents Now Available to View Online**

The Leominster Public Library has announced the completion of the digitization of the 1915 City Hall time capsule collection. Images of the contents can now be viewed at the Digital Commonwealth at <https://tinyurl.com/y9xofzxd> or by linking directly from the Library’s website <www.leominsterlibrary.org>.

The time capsule was placed in the cornerstone of Leominster’s Municipal Building on July 5, 1915, during a three-day observance of the 175th anniversary of the Town of Leominster, which became a city later that year. It was removed in 2015, during Leominster’s 275th anniversary as a community and 100th anniversary as a city.

For additional information, contact Jeannine T. Levesque, Historical & Genealogical Collections Coordinator, at the library at 978-534-7522, or e-mail questions to leomref@cwmars.org.

**Luther Richardson Fowle Papers at Williams College Special Collections**

This summer, Brieanna Chillious, Archives Intern for the Williams College Special Collections Department in Sawyer Library, processed the Luther Richardson Fowle Papers. Luther Fowle was a 1908 graduate of Williams College and went on to become a missionary, as well as the treasurer for the American Board of Commissioners on Foreign Missions. Fowle served in many roles during his professional career as a missionary, including secretary and president of the Turkish YMCA and an American attaché from 1917 to 1919. The collection includes correspondence that he wrote and received from family, artifacts that Turkish archaeologists collected from the Ankara province, as well as journals, posters, newspaper clippings, and photographs that document his
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travels in the Near East. The finding aid for this collection will be made available soon. For more information, please contact Katie Nash, College Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at <kcn1@williams.edu> or visit <special-collections.williams.edu>.

**The Newton Graphic Digitized by the Newton Free Library**

The Newton Free Library recently digitized several decades of The Newton Graphic newspaper. The Newton Graphic was a weekly paper that ran from 1886 to 1997. All issues printed between 1919 and 1950 have now been published on Internet Archive. Images underwent Optical Character Recognition (OCR) conversion so every entry is keyword searchable. Currently, 1886-1918 is being digitized and will be uploaded upon return from the vendor. Please have a look at <http://newtongraphic.newtonfreelibrary.net/>. For questions or more information about the project, please contact Kim Hewitt, Newton Free Library, at 617-796-1360 or <khewitt@minlib.net>.

**Remembering the 1940s - An Intergenerational Video History of World War II**

The Winchester Archival Center has taken a lead role in the town’s observance of the 75th anniversary of World War II. One major project, “Remembering the 1940s,” has involved high school students interviewing senior citizens who remember or know stories about daily life and service during the war era. In collaboration with local access cable television (WinCAM), one student edited an hour-long documentary, integrating video with documents and images, that has been shown in the community. It is now available through the public library and on demand, <http://wincam.org/programs/on-demand/>. Participants were invited to a Living History Day at the high school for further discussion.

The Center’s archivist has been writing monthly newspaper features and creating public programming and displays in Town Hall, which have resulted in donations to the Archives and Historical Society. Additional projects will continue through 2020. For more information, please contact Ellen Knight, <archives@winchester.us>.

**Recording Lives: Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age**

The role of libraries and archives today is a pressing concern of citizens around the world and a central issue for democratic societies, touching the core of who we are as individuals, cultures, and nations.

Recording Lives brings together specialists from academia, public libraries, governmental agencies, and philanthropic and commercial archives to explore common ideas about value across the institutional boundaries that too often separate us.

The opening public lecture by Robert Darnton at the Boston Public Library on October 5 is followed by morning and afternoon panels at Boston University on October 6 and 7 that explore the following areas:

1. Setting Directions for Libraries and Archives in the Digital Age
2. Preservation Spaces, Open and Closed
3. Digital Scholarship and Practice
4. The Global Politics of Archives

All events are free and open to the public. Please register at <http://sites.bu.edu/humanitiesforums/>.

**Worcester State University Hires First Full-time Archivist**

In July 2016, Worcester State University (WSU) hired its first full-time archivist, Ross Griffiths, to oversee the Archives, Special Collections, and Rare Books and to serve as a liaison for History and Political Science.

Much of the past year has been spent appraising and processing existing collections that include 380 rare books, 150 linear feet of materials related to WSU history, and 120 linear feet of special collections, including papers of South African poet and political dissident, Dennis...
Brutus, and works by cartoonist and Worcester native Malcolm Gordon.


Archives and Special Collections are located in the Learning Resource Center on the campus of WSU. The reading room is open Wednesdays from 1:00 - 4:00PM during the fall and spring semesters or by appointment. For more information, please contact <rgriffiths@worcester.edu> or 508-929-8391.

RHODE ISLAND

PPL Special Collections Receives $63,660 from NHPRC

Providence Public Library (PPL) received a $63,660 grant from the National Archives’ National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The grant, President Nixon impeachment rally in front of the East Bridgewater First Parish Unitarian Church, circa 1973. A large “Impeachment Now” sign hangs on the steeple. The church structure still stands today, but the Unitarian group folded in the early 1980s. This image is from the collection of Reverend Paul John Rich, the church’s minister from 1962 until his resignation in 1978. Courtesy of the Maxwell Library, Bridgewater State University.
awarded through NHPRC’s Access to Historical Records: Archival Projects funding category, will support PPL’s effort to process, describe, and provide access to AS220’s extensive organizational records and creative works.

PPL recently acquired the organizational archives of AS220, a nationally recognized arts organization in Providence, Rhode Island. AS220 is credited as a national model for urban revitalization and in its advocacy for the role of artists and art practice within community development. AS220’s archives encompass thirty years of organizational records including the creative output of artists, performers, and musicians who have used their venues to create and showcase their work.

The grant will support a one-year project that will include the hire of a full-time project archivist to process and describe the collection, preserve and provide access to audiovisual recordings, and create priorities for future digitization.

Rhode Island Historical Society Announces New Initiative, the “Field Trip Free for All”

The Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) is pleased to announce our new initiative, the “Field Trip Free for All.” This program will offer, at no cost, teacher-supervised visits to the RIHS’s museums and research center for students from preschool through higher education, as well as for homeschool families and educational organizations.

The RIHS Robinson Research Center (RRC) has designed a series of orientations to cover a wide range of curriculum needs, from early Rhode Island history to the National History Day theme. RIHS librarians will also work with educators to develop custom orientations tailored to course topics. For questions about the RRC orientations or collections, please contact RRC Manager Michelle Chiles at <mchiles@rihs.org> or 401-273-8107 x410.

This expansion of resources at the RIHS, which fosters historical literacy through hands-on research experiences, has been made possible by recent major donations, including an anonymous bequest. For more information, please visit <www.RIHS.org>.

Rhode Island Special Collections Roundtable Formed

The Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services is forming a Special Collections Roundtable for library staff who have responsibility for special collections. The purpose of the OLIS Special Collections Roundtable is to connect staff from all types of Rhode Island libraries, who have responsibility for the care and access of unique or rare manuscripts, records, books, visual materials, local history, and other collections, for the purpose of discussion, peer education, and collaboration. The goal is to create a local community where the individuals who are responsible for the care and access of special collections can connect and discuss opportunities, challenges, best practices, and current trends in the field—learning from one another or from other experts invited to present to the group. The inaugural meeting is scheduled for December 2017. For more information, contact Donna Longo DiMichele at <donna.dimichele@olis.ri.gov>.

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NEA Has Ten Roundtables!

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<www.newenglandarchivists.org/roundtables>
Reviews


—Rose Oliveira, Linda Lear Special Collections Librarian, Connecticut College

The Society for American Archivists' book series *Trends in Archives Practice* provides a concise introduction to different aspects of archival management in the digital age. *Appraisal and Acquisition Strategies*, written by Geof Huth, Megan Barnard, Gabriela Redwine, and Erin Faulder, and edited by Michael Shallcross and Christopher Prom, is an excellent addition to this series. The book is divided into three chapters, or modules: “Appraising Digital Records,” “Collecting Digital Manuscripts and Archives,” and “Accessioning Digital Collections.” Each module follows the same format: introduce readers to several key ideas on the topic, provide a short bibliography for further reading, and illustrate certain basic principles through real-life case studies. The appraisal and accessioning modules include checklists and sample workflows as well, which should help interested readers implement the models discussed.

In “Appraising Digital Records,” Geof Huth helps readers navigate the complexities of appraising large quantities of digital materials. He identifies several complications that are unique to digital appraisal—for instance, the ease with which digital materials are copied, or the speed with which they are exchanged—and discusses several strategies for dealing with them. He presents the details of the digital appraisal process in two sections: one on basic appraisal reports, and one on technical appraisals for more complex records.

In “Collecting Digital Manuscripts and Archives,” Megan Barnard and Gabriela Redwine explain how to integrate digital archives into collection development. They outline the issues that collection policies should address, and emphasize the importance of building relationships with donors—which is key to the successful collection of born-digital materials. They provide a list of questions which archivists and potential donors should ask themselves throughout the pre-acquisition process. The section which explains how to discuss digital habits with creators, the section on privacy issues, and the section on copyright were particularly helpful.

In “Accessioning Digital Collections,” Erin Faulder discusses the importance of creating realistic and iterative policies and procedures for the accession of digital records. Faulder reviews the Open Archival Information System model and the Producer-Archive Interface Methodology Abstract Standard. She suggests ways for institutions to adapt both of these to their particular needs. From initial contact to final ingest, Faulder takes the reader through the most significant stages of the accessioning process while also providing recommendations for dealing with messy, real-world scenarios.

Overall, the book is clear, explanatory, and informative. Each author brings extensive experience in government and academic archives to their modules. Perhaps the book's greatest asset, however, is the scalability of the best practices discussed throughout. Each module presents several different types of practical strategies for building and appraising digital collections, while also acknowledging that each institution will adapt the ideas to fit their individual circumstance. A wide spectrum of readers are likely to enjoy this book.

*Appraisal and Acquisition Strategies* is relevant for anyone interested in building competency in, or in reviewing, the practical steps involved in appraising, acquiring, and accessioning digital records. It is a solid introduction that comes with additional resources for furthering one's knowledge of the field.


—Rosemary K. J. Davis, Accessioning Archivist, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

The modules in this book, utilized individually or as a cohesive progression, provide effective tools for understanding and explaining the importance of archival literacy. Lisa Hinchliffe’s introduction focuses on the vital necessity of using primary sources for pedagogical purposes. Building on this, Elizabeth Yakel and Doris Malkmus' module on “Contextualizing Archival Literacy” does some in-
credibly heavy lifting—they explain the history of teaching with primary resources, assessment models, archival standards within the profession, and ideas about how archival materials can be more effectively utilized in the future. Importantly, Yakel and Malkmus make their explanatory text inclusive of instructors at all levels. Essentially, this module works as an instructional and informative text, as well as an elaborate script for archival advocacy.

Building on this momentum, the next module focuses on the intricacies of boots-on-the-ground teaching. Sammie L. Morris, Tamar Chute, and Ellen Swain cover a massive amount of territory including learning spaces, different levels of engagement for archivists, instructional design, and materials selection. This chapter succinctly codifies the pedagogical practices that archivists and librarians have been deploying in their institutions for years, democratizing access to these procedures. The appendices are essential as well, providing a tremendously rich list of readings and funding resources, along with sample course descriptions and a handy lesson plan template.

“Connecting Students and Primary Sources: Cases and Examples” makes a perfect capstone for this book. Chute, Swain, and Morris show these instructional strategies in action, with supporting material about logistics, institutional support, and faculty engagement. It helps to see how these big ideas could actually be implemented and even more so, it helps to see how many moving parts are required to produce truly effective and important instructional opportunities.

One of the biggest strengths of this illuminating user-centered volume is the eloquent and informative tone that exists throughout each section. The modules offer up a blend of personal experiences and practical approaches that will not only help archival educators strengthen their pedagogical chops, but which will also contribute to a spirit of common purpose within the archival profession. Promoting interaction and scholarly engagement with primary sources must remain an enduring mission for those who choose to work in archives. This book shares the sort of insight, analysis, and detailed resource lists that will help anyone make their pedagogical strategies stronger, whether they’ve been teaching for years or just starting to try to convince their administration that getting archival material into the hands of students is a worthwhile pursuit. Reading this book will not only make you a better archivist and a
better instructor, but it can also help you convince others that the work you’re doing is important.


—Judy Huenneke, Senior Research Archivist, The Mary Baker Eddy Library

“I don’t want to watch slavery fan fiction,” declared Roxane Gay in a recent New York Times article (July 25, 2017). She explained: “Each time I see a reimagining of the Civil War that largely replicates what actually happened, I wonder why people are expending the energy to imagine that slavery continues to thrive when we are still dealing with the vestiges of slavery in very tangible ways....”

Professor Gay makes a good point, but awareness of the past is crucial to understanding the present and anticipating the future. This awareness may seem to be easy to obtain today, when so much historical information is truly at our fingertips, but is this information accurate and unbiased?

Robyn Autry’s Desegregating the Past focuses on this question in relation to the “reimaginings” found in the exhibits of history museums in South Africa and black history museums in the United States. It has a lot to say to curators, archivists, and historians, including those who aren’t directly involved with exhibitions or collections relating to apartheid or American racism. Dr. Autry, who teaches at Wesleyan University (Middletown, Connecticut) raises question after question about approaches to history, interpretations of history, and even avoidances of history. It’s unsettling, thought-provoking, and very informative. Consider this point, in relation to both South Africa and the U.S.: “If history is written by the victors, then who revises it? Another set of victors do, those that see themselves as speaking on behalf of the subaltern or those social groups that have been historically excluded or effectively erased from conventional historical accounts” (27).

When apartheid came to an end in South Africa, society changed in almost every way, and museums there needed to change. Nelson Mandela spoke of this on September 24, 1997, at the opening ceremonies of the Robben Island Museum:

Having excluded and marginalised most of our people, is it surprising that our museums and national monuments are often seen as alien spaces? How many have gone to see one of our monuments? In other countries such places throng with citizens.... With democracy we have the opportunity to ensure that our institutions reflect history in a way that respects the heritage of all our citizens.... (78)

But can we “construct coherent narratives of collective life in the face of deep fragmentation” (191)? In other words, is it truly possible to have a museum that correctly tells the stories of slaves and masters, Afrikaners and the native Africans they enslaved and oppressed? Autry is not so sure, and I am not either.

Desegregating the Past gives its readers much to think about, and the fact that it supplies more questions than answers is not a criticism. Controversies in this country such as white supremacist violence and the continuing disputes over Confederate monuments tell us that past, present, and future continue to be closely entwined; “slavery fan fiction” will be with us for some time to come. 

Brandeis University students celebrate Halloween by taking a stab at pumpkin carving. This image, taken in 1963, comes from the University Photography Collection. Courtesy of Brandeis University Archives & Special Collections.
I accepted the position of New England Archivists’ first Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator in November 2014 with some trepidation. With our recently-adopted Inclusion and Diversity Statement in hand, NEA leadership was ready to take action. But what would effective short-term and long-term action look like? Would I have support from the organization to institute change? How would I adequately assess and address the needs of New England’s archivists for a more just and inclusive professional environment? These were some of my initial reservations as a relatively young and newly-involved member of NEA, yet I felt it was important to work on these issues and was committed to charting out a path that future Coordinators might find useful to follow.

Over the past three years, I have been grateful to my fellow archivists within NEA for enthusiastically welcoming my proposals and bringing their own concerns forward so that we might address them together. Thanks to the members who brought me ideas and requests, we have made structural changes to our Spring Meeting to ensure people of all genders feel welcome, that nursing parents have space to feed their children, people with a wide variety of dietary needs are fed, and that specific accommodations for participants with disabilities are advertised and provided. These changes have been institutionalized as part of the Spring Meeting planning guide. We are in the second year of our three-year pilot program to encourage session proposals on social justice themes with the Inclusion and Diversity Travel and Session Award.

Thank you, also, to our members for your support in adopting our code of conduct, the policy instrument backing up our stated commitment to building and maintaining an environment where members and guests are free from harassment. While this anti-harassment policy was not developed in response to any specific incident of exclusionary hostility, it does establish a framework through which we can handle any such incidents as they arise. Even more importantly, in my opinion, the code of conduct establishes a common expectation for all members and guest participants in NEA events that we respect the full humanity of one another, honor each other’s complex life experiences, and strive to learn how our multiple identities inform our perspectives both personally and professionally.

These are steps in the right direction, but we still have a long journey ahead to address the structural inequalities baked into our profession.

Like most of us, I am member of multiple communities, some of which grant me social privilege and others of which pull me toward the margins. I am a white woman who is two comfortable generations away from poverty, with advanced degrees and a full-time job. I am a bisexual woman, married to another woman, and a paycheck or two away from not making rent. I may perpetuate racism and be mansplained to in the same meeting. I might have my bisexuality erased and make boorish middle-class assumptions in the same conversation. Working in a field that is, statistically, dominated by white women, I am mindful of the fact that my lived experience often hampers my understanding of how personal bias and structural oppression work in our field. While I may be intimidated by the giant portraits of white men hanging in the research library, I have never had to wonder if my wearing my headscarf was against library policy, or whether my identity papers were acceptable enough to grant me access to rare manuscripts. I have never had to call ahead to an archive asking whether they can accommodate my wheelchair in the reading room.
Since taking on this role, I have had a number of conversations with colleagues, other white women, who have voiced concern about women like us—white women—occupying the role of Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator within our organization. Their concern, as I understood it, was that our whiteness could prevent us from identifying and addressing forms of exclusion that we had not personally experienced; a valid concern. Yet my response has always been that it is precisely individuals like us who must learn to think in ways our structural privileges have encouraged us not to think. We must stop looking to our colleagues of color, and colleagues from other socially marginalized communities, to lead the way. We need to listen to them when they tell us we have work to do, and then it is our responsibility to really hear what they have to say and make meaningful change.

Shortly after the November 2016 election, I walked through the doors of Arlington Street Church, a Unitarian Universalist congregation in the heart of downtown Boston. Having grown up mainline Protestant, I had become impatient with my denomination in the late 1990s as they grappled rancorously over issues of human sexuality. Yet in the wake of the election I felt the urgent desire to recommit myself to a community of mutual responsibility that would collectively hold one another accountable in the challenging years ahead. Arlington Street Church is slowly becoming that community.

At the end of Sunday worship at Arlington Street Church, those gathered in the sanctuary reach out across the aisles to join hands in a final prayer. Our benediction always includes the reminder that “the service begins when the service ends.” That walking out into the world outside, we must continue and continue and continue to move forward towards a more inclusive future.

As I close out my term as Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator—in the midst of challenging times—I encourage each and every one of you to find your Arlington Street Church, in whatever form it takes. Find a community outside of your workplace—outside your profession—that will help you to remember your values and center social justice in your everyday lives. Work to hold your profession and workplace accountable. Organizations and institutions function—above all—to perpetuate themselves and the power imbalances that have sustained them. They resist change. It will take concerted and continuous effort, on all of our parts, to ensure meaningful social justice progress is made.

In July 2017, the NEA Board, at my recommendation, voted to establish an Inclusion and Diversity Committee, with a chair and three members, who will continue—and hopefully expand—the work of the Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator. If you would be interested in serving on the Committee, now or in future, please email <diversity@newenglandarchivists.org> to inquire. The committee positions will be three-year terms with the initial committee members serving one-, two-, and three-year terms to establish continuity.

The service begins when the service ends. I look forward to discovering where our service together, as a community of archivists, toward a just, equitable, and inclusive future takes us in the years to come.

Anna Clutterbuck-Cook is the inclusion and diversity coordinator for New England Archivists. She earned her BA in women’s studies and history at Hope College and her MA/MLS in history and archives management at Simmons GSLIS. She serves as reference librarian for the Massachusetts Historical Society and can be found online at <thefeministlibrarian.com>.
and many of the entities for which I created records would have a significantly reduced web and list, it’s still clear that EAC-CPF is a new way of describing and connecting entities to resources—and users to both entities and resources.

Until SNAC or another shared repository is up and going, it remains a challenge to display EAC-CPF records—and even once such a site is available, ensuring that records are updated and all linked entities are described will be a challenge. This will take cooperation within an institution and among various contributing institutions. For example, some of the entities I described as having relations to the record entities don’t yet have their own records, and eventually these will need to be created and the links made. To provide the most unique connections and thus the best access to archival materials archivists need to continue to add to and edit EAC-CPF records, which is a challenge when one considers our profession’s general lack of spare time and funding for additional work. Still, the benefits of these EAC-CPF records and the connections they provide between materials and entities is undeniable, and is an exciting frontier in archival description.
Aeon is not another front end system. Really.

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Other systems are about description and discovery. But Aeon is about fulfillment.

Some systems help you catalog and make objects discoverable within your institution or on the web. Others manage the creation of the repositories in which objects can be digitally stored, searched, and found.

Aeon makes the pieces work together for you and your researchers.

Aeon unites these systems to help meet the challenges of delivering better service to researchers, improving collection security, and gathering meaningful statistics to support the assessment needs of today’s institutions.

Aeon focuses on workflow of special collections and archives—allowing requesting from your ILS or finding aids, tracking reading room interactions including check-out and re-shelving of materials, and handling digitization requests.

To see how Aeon fits the pieces together, sign up for a free web demo at www.atlas-sys.com/demo/. Or, email us at aeon@atlas-sys.com.

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NEA Roundtable Updates

Records Management Roundtable (RMRT)

By the time of this publication, the Records Management Roundtable will have facilitated a session for the NEA Fall Meeting on September 23. The session was a panel and facilitated discussion regarding intermediate topics in records management. In addition, we are hosting a networking reception at the College Club of Boston, on November 2nd. RSVPs will be sent to roundtable members. If you’d like to get involved, contact the Roundtable chair, Andrea Belair, at andreabelair@gmail.com or join our Google discussion group at <https://groups.google.com/forum/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=footer#!overview>.

Roundtable for Archivists of Religious Collections (RARC)

The Roundtable for Archivists of Religious Collections (RARC) met for the first time at the spring 2017 meeting. In attendance were individuals from a variety of institutions, including diocesan archivists, academic archivists, archivists of male and female religious orders, and archivists of fraternal organizations such as the Knights of Columbus.

Following introductions, discussions covered free resources that would be helpful to people whose archives are newer, or recently moved, and the digitization of religious records. We welcome all those who are interested. If you would like to find out more about our group, please contact Meg Smith at <mbsmith@episcopalct.org>.

People

Amelia W. Holmes is the new library and archives manager for the Nantucket Historical Association. She holds an M.S.L.S. with a concentration in archives and records management from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. While there, she served as the Carolina Academic Library Associate for Special Collections Technical Services at the Wilson Special Collections Library. She has also held positions at UNC’s North Carolina Collection and Sloane Art Library as well as the History of Medicine Collections at Duke University.

On May 15, Barbara Austen moved to the Connecticut State Library as a Librarian II, with responsibilities for processing, digitization, and reference work in the Department of History and Genealogy. She is leaving the Connecticut Historical Society where she was the Archivist for thirteen years.

As of July 24, 2017, Ashley Selima became Rhode Island’s new state archivist. Selima had been a lead librarian for a town library department from 2013-2017 and has a background in MLIS and MPA. The previous state archivist, Gwenn Stearn, retired in May 2017 after twenty-five years of service.

NEA Invites You to Start a Roundtable!

NEA members are encouraged to start a Roundtable—a new, more informal way to get involved with NEA and the archival community, and to connect with others around your interests and needs as a professional. Roundtables organize workshops or events, develop conference sessions, and work with NEA committees on specific initiatives. Take your discussion online through Twitter, Facebook, a blog, or an e-mail list, or make recommendations to the NEA board based on the experience of Roundtable members.
Calendar of Events

Press releases and other announcements should be sent to Sean Parke at parke.sean@gmail.com. Please provide the date, time, place, a brief description of the event, and an internet link for contact information and/or registration.


October 19-21, 2017. Pulp Culture Comic Arts Festival and Symposium at the University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont. This year’s focus is non-fiction cartooning. for details visit: <https://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/pulp-culture/>.


October 26, 2017. 3:00 pm. “Managing the Unexpected.” This webinar will provide tips on dealing with unexpected issues that may occur during a grant-funded project. Visit <https://www.statearchivists.org/programs/cosa-webinar-series/> to register for free.

November 2, 2017. The NEA Records Management Roundtable will host a networking reception at the College Club of Boston. RSVPs will be sent out soon to members of the roundtable. For details, please email <andrea.belair@yale.edu>.


Promote your photograph collections!

The NEA Newsletter is seeking submissions from repositories in New England for back cover pictorial features in This Season in New England History. Submissions should be in digital format at 300 dpi or better, along with a caption detailing the subject of the photograph. Please email submissions to <sally.blanchard-o'brien@sec.state.vt.us>.

Almon Marean (ca.1840-1932). A veteran of one of the Civil War’s most famous regiments, the 20th Maine, Marean owned and operated his farm on Oak Hill Rd. in Standish, Maine. In 1926, he posed with apples for Portland Press Herald photographers. The Maine Historical Society received a $149,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to digitize the glass plate negatives of the Portland Press Herald newspaper and its subsidiaries. Along with the glass plates, the grant also allows for MHS to digitize its earliest photographs, including daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes. In total, the project will place over 20,000 images online, free and accessible through the Maine Memory Network, and the Society’s Past Perfect Online database. The grant runs through July 2018. Courtesy of Maine Historical Society.
“Girls with Apples”

Two young girls stand with a harvest in the early twentieth century. The image is part of the Ernest K. Thomas Collection. Thomas served as Providence's Superintendent of Parks and as the Chief of Forests, Parks, and Parkways of the Rhode Island Department of Agriculture and Conservation. His agricultural photographs have recently been cataloged and will soon be available to researchers. *Courtesy of the Rhode Island Historical Society.*