

archival outlook

Peddling Information

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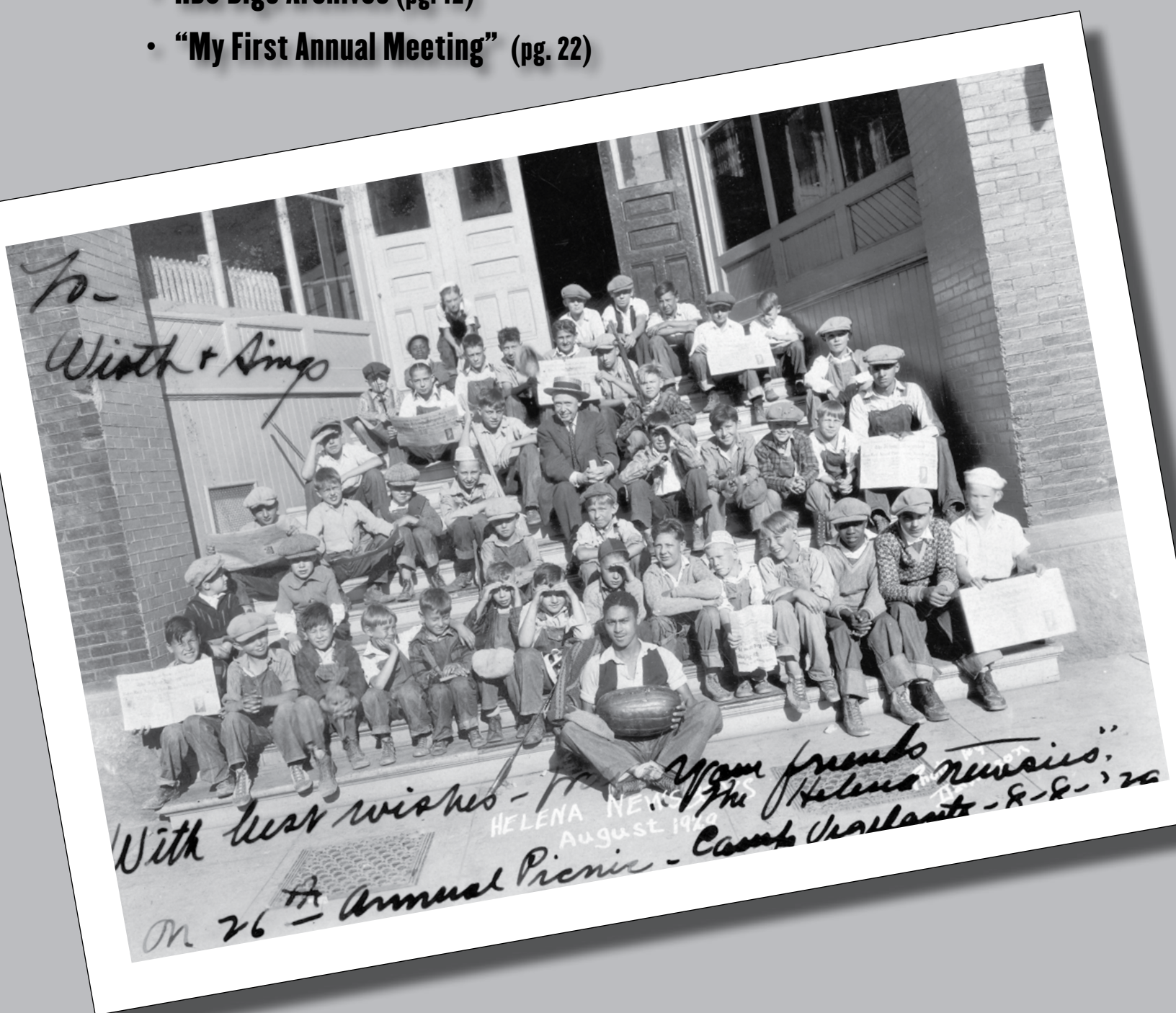


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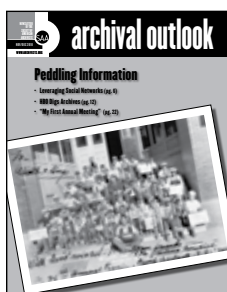
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On the cover

"Helena Newsboys, August 1929" . . . inscribed with the words, "With best wishes—from your friends 'the Helena newsies' on 26th Annual Picnic—Camp Vigilante 8-8-'29." The photo is one of 50,000 newspaper pages that the Montana Historical Society (MHS) digitized as part of its Montana Digital Newspaper Project. Turn to p. 8 to read about the project and how libraries and archives in Montana now contact MHS regarding how to digitize their newspapers.

archival outlook

the society of american archivists
serves the education and information needs
of its members and provides leadership to
help ensure the identification, preservation
and use of the nation's historical record.

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Transformational Best Practices

From September 28 through October 1, I attended the Best Practices Exchange (aka BPE) "Unconference" in Phoenix, Arizona. Despite temperatures of 105° each day, BPE was a fabulous event that yielded important insights for SAA members and the archives profession as a whole. The theme was "Libraries and Archives in the Digital Era."

What is BPE? The BPE meetings, discussion list, and website are designed for "librarians, archivists, records managers, and other information professionals dedicated to managing digital information primarily in state government." According to its 2010 Web page, BPE is "not a traditional conference" because "there are no speakers in the traditional sense of the word."

Instead of typical sessions, there are facilitated large group sessions and small topic-based exchange sessions. The point is for attendees to share their experiences on particular topics. At the end of the day everyone comes back together to discuss the major themes that emerged from the smaller sessions.

Although the notion of a total "unconference" would in no way serve the needs of SAA members at our annual meetings, there could be small "unconferences" within the larger, formal structure of SAA Annual Meetings. Thank you to Richard Pearce-Moses, BPE host this year, who suggested that SAA Roundtables and possibly SAA Sections provide excellent forums for the exchange of best practices among peers without all the barriers that traditional sessions pose. This approach allows for more interaction and true exchange of ideas than do formal sessions. I encourage roundtable and section leaders to look at the BPE website and consider experimenting with their session structure. The Museum Computer Network conference in Austin, in October 2010, also hosted "unconference" sessions in parallel with the regular program.

Best Practices Exchange has evolved significantly over the course of only four years. The first BPE was held in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 2006. At that meeting most of the participants were just exploring the area of digital preservation; identification and implementation of best practices seemed a good distance in the future. I missed the intervening meetings but in four years (five meetings) the digital preservation landscape—and especially what has been going on in state and federal agencies—has changed dramatically.

Certainly Library of Congress funding through the National Digital Information Infrastructure Preservation Program was an impetus for a good deal of the activity. Research, demonstration, and national leadership grants from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, along with other funders, also supported much of the innovation at BPE this year. But the source of progress and innovation was not just funding; it was also establishment of strategic alliances and collaborative networks.

BPE attendees, many of whom are SAA members, worked together on some impressive projects—impressive in the technical sense, but also from social and behavioral perspectives. They developed and applied new technologies, but also developed and applied new workflows and best practices that involved people working with the technology and delivering information to users in a timely and relevant fashion. Many of these projects were far larger than a single institution could develop and support, and the collaborative environment produced better thinking on the problems that government repositories face than isolated work generally does.

SAA affords even greater possibilities for collaboration and innovation than does a much smaller group such as BPE. Two hundred or so people met in Phoenix this past September for BPE; close to two thousand met in Washington, D.C., for the Joint Annual Meeting in August. Although many members view "SAA" as simply a strategic affiliation on their résumé and an annual meeting at which one chats and has a drink with old friends, SAA can be so much more. Members must take more strategic advantage of the fabulous network of colleagues. Today's teenagers may believe that social networking is only instant messaging through a computer and posting to Facebook. The more "senior" among us realize that membership organizations and conferences are long standing and highly effective forums for networking.

I encourage members to use SAA for all it's worth. Attend the annual meetings, and when there, meet new friends, work with long-established contacts, and welcome student members to the profession. Most of all, work the room and get your money's worth out of your dues and registration fees, seeking out collaborative partnerships that will lead to RFP—*relentless forward progress*—of the profession. We will all benefit in the process. ❖



I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

In late October we launched a new public awareness campaign—*I Found It In The Archives!*—to address an important desired outcome in SAA's Strategic Plan: "Using American Archives Month as one communication vehicle, plan and implement a public relations campaign, directed to users of archives, whose goals are to 1) increase users' appreciation of archives; 2) continue to 'brand' American Archives Month as a profession-wide opportunity to build public awareness; and 3) increase archivists' involvement in public awareness activities [2010-2014]."

Year 1 of the campaign will run from October 2010 through August 2011. In year 2, *I Found It!* will run from September through August, thus integrating more effectively into American Archives Month (AAM) in October. Although we expended resources on the new campaign rather than on AAM this year, I'm pleased to report that many organizations conducted Archives Month activities—and many did so at a higher level than in past years. (That is to say, it's catching on!) You may have noticed that throughout October we highlighted a different repository on the SAA home page every few days. I encourage you to visit www.archivists.org/aam for a complete list of what your colleagues did to celebrate AAM 2010, as well as "evergreen" public relations tips to assist you in planning an event, issuing a press release, prepping for a media interview, conducting a career day visit, and more. A directory of state archives celebrations can be found on the Council of State Archivists website at www.statearchivists.org.

What is *I Found It In The Archives!* all about?

Per Helen Tibbo's introductory letter in the step-by-

step guide to the campaign (see www.archivists.org/i-found-it for a downloadable PDF): "We ask all SAA members to join in a common effort in launching *I Found It In The Archives!*, reaching out to individuals who have found their records, families, heritage, and treasures through our collections. Ask your users, your friends, and people you've never met to share their stories of discovery. Set up a contest, select the best entries, and allow others in the online world to vote for their favorites. Your winners will join others in what will be a national competition next year. *I Found It In The Archives!* will culminate in August 2011 with a celebration of the people we serve, the history we preserve, and the significant contributions of archivists as we mark the milestone of SAA's 75th Anniversary."

The campaign encourages widespread use of social media to promote local contests and conduct public votes of users' submissions. At the national level, we'll also make liberal use of social media to spread the word to our members and to conduct the national competition. We've developed a Twitter hashtag for the campaign—#foundarch—that we hope you'll use to share your experiences with other SAA members as you develop and implement your local contest.

Please join us to make *I Found It In The Archives!* go viral! Let's see how many people we can involve as we reach out, engage, and raise awareness of who archivists are, what archivists do, and the many ways in which archives and archivists touch people's lives.

As always, we welcome your comments and questions. And we certainly welcome your institution's participation in *I Found It In The Archives!* ❖

2011 FELLOWS NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS COMPETITION

The Society of American Archivists annually names Fellows and recognizes outstanding achievement in the archives profession through an awards competition. SAA offers 17 opportunities for professional recognition and financial assistance, with concentrations in the following areas:

Outstanding Contributions to the Archives Field

- Fellows
- Distinguished Service Award
- Sister M. Claude Lane, OP, Memorial Award
- Spotlight Award

Public Awareness

- J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award
- Philip M. Hamer—Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award

Publishing Excellence

- C.F.W. Coker Award
- Fellows' Ernst Posner Award
- Preservation Publication Award
- Theodore Calvin Pease Award
- Waldo Gifford Leland Award

Scholarships

- F. Gerald Ham Scholarship
- Mosaic Scholarship
- Josephine Forman Scholarship **NEW**

Travel Assistance

- Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award
- Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award
- Donald Peterson Student Award



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American
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For more information on selection criteria and nomination forms, go to:
Scholarships, Awards, and Travel Assistance: www.archivists.org/recognition
Fellows: www.archivists.org/recognition/fellows.asp

Completed forms must be postmarked by Feb. 28, 2011, with exceptions noted.

How to Harvest Social Networking Sites

JENNIFER RICKER and AMY RUDERSDORF, State Library of North Carolina

In the mid-1990s, as the Internet's influence began to rise and state government finances started to decline, digital publications replaced printed resources. This trend meant production was less expensive and the product more easily shared. A fundamental shift in government publishing practice was born—coupled with a workforce with little opportunity for professional development and a modest understanding of the nuances of technology. By 2003, the vulnerability of both print and digital publications was glaringly evident.

For decades, North Carolina's Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) State Library and State Archives managed the acquisition, organization, storage, and long-term access to paper publications and records produced by the agencies of North Carolina's state and local government. A 1987 statute (125 11) directed the State Library to be the "official, complete, and permanent depository for all State publications..."

In no legal statement are e-mail, websites, social media, or whatever-comes-next technologies mentioned. Therefore, DCR needed to answer two immediate questions. Were these new forms of communication public records and government publications? And, if so, did DCR have the resources to preserve them?

DCR's answer to the first question was absolute: the format within which communications are transmitted is of secondary importance—the content of communications is the imperative, and must be preserved. This led to the second question. Again, DCR was sure that if action was not taken, whatever the time and expense, total loss of valuable sociological, governmental, and historical data was imminent. Search for digital preservation methods thus began.

Harvesting the Web

After researching several website archiving solutions, in 2006, DCR settled on the Internet Archive's Archive-It tool. By the end of 2008, DCR harvested more than 25 million state government Web pages, PDFs, documents, and images. Just as DCR began to settle into a routine, Web 2.0 caused another cultural shift.

In 2008, the presidential and North Carolina gubernatorial elections helped bring social media and Web 2.0 to the fore. Candidates and the public used social media as inexpensive ways to discuss and vet ideas—a cultural phenomenon that recorded society's reaction to major political, social, and historical happenings.

Near the end of that year, with the election of the United States' first African American president and North Carolina's first woman governor, DCR beta harvested a few of the more

Were these new forms of communication public records and government publications? And, if so, did the Department of Cultural Resources have the resources to preserve them?

popular social media sites. Archive-It staff developed the technology, DCR staff trialed the software, and the North Carolina governor's office amassed a list of state agency social media sites to capture.

By the fall of 2009, the beta was complete and DCR captured Governor Perdue's Flickr, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube sites with varying degrees of success. By early 2010, all identified North Carolina government social networking sites (of those mentioned above) were captured at least quarterly by Archive-It.

Heritrix Web Crawler

Archive-It's Web harvesting technology, Heritrix, is described by the Internet Archive as an "open-source, extensible, Web-scale, archival-quality Web crawler." Heritrix captures and stores all harvested Web sites in the International Standard "WARC" (Web ARChive) file format, which is then rendered back to viewers using the Wayback software. Other institutions use Heritrix, and many are working to develop or enhance its social networking harvest capabilities. Due to the open nature of the Heritrix project, by the time this article goes to press some of the issues discussed below may be resolved.

Flickr Capture

Flickr sites perform exceptionally well when rendered back as WARC files in the Archive-It environment. The pages look and feel quite similar to the live Flickr site—save for a banner that runs along the top of every harvested page alerting users that they are viewing an archived website. Beyond that, the Flickr WARC files should work according to live Web user expectations.

Twitter Capture

Two major components of a Twitter feed are tweets and shortened URLs. According to Twitter.org, a tweet is a "message posted via Twitter containing 140 characters or fewer." A shortened URL redirects a user to the original URL and helps save space in a tweet. Responsive tweets and content linked via shortened URLs each pose challenges for Heritrix.

Pages linked from Twitter posts can be harvested by adjusting Archive-It's default crawler settings. The crawler then completely harvests the page redirected from the shortened URL and embedded files such as images, CSS, and JavaScript. The setting adjustment that enables this process cascades across all harvests, capturing all shortened URLs on other websites in a single harvest session. DCR captures all pages to which shortened URLs point, but their value is manually assessed after the harvest. If they are deemed out of scope, the links are blocked in future harvests.

Responses by or to other Twitter users present an even greater challenge. Twitter feeds are identified for capture before the harvest begins to run, therefore it is impossible to capture a full Twitter conversation if only one Twitter user in a discussion is being harvested. A single-sided conversation means that important contextual information needed to fully understand a message may be missing.

Facebook Capture

Facebook continues to challenge the Archive-It team. The database-driven site incorporates great amounts of Javascript—long the bane of crawlers—rendering differently with each interface alteration made by the Facebook team. While the Archive-It programmers diligently work to keep up, Facebook's interface changes occur often enough that rendering the site correctly is challenging.

For example, when the Facebook "Oops" box appears, suggesting that content has not been harvested, this generally implies that content is in the Archive-It database but cannot be rendered. Additionally, concerns over privacy have led Facebook to beef up security settings offered to users, most recently in May 2010. Since that time, even capturing public pages like Governor Perdue's requires that Archive-It partners perform the impolite act of disregarding "robots.txt" files.

YouTube Capture

Like Facebook, YouTube's website is driven by complex scripting and databases that cause ongoing programming challenges. Videos captured using the Heritrix crawler and stored in the WARC file format cannot currently be rendered. However, Archive-It is working on functionality that allows users to view these archived videos outside of the archived page.

Future Challenges

Many websites are currently being harvested by Archive-It, but issues remain. Identifying the scope of a harvest—which sites an organization wants to focus its capture on—is the first. It is easy enough to identify the governor's homepage, but what about in-scope sites that are less clear and must be done manually?

Likewise, maintaining a list of active social networking users can be challenging. Without the help of the North Carolina governor's office, this project would not be as far along as it is in identifying the various sites maintained by state government. Determining a process for keeping this list up-to-date is imperative to the future success of this program.

The changing privacy policies of social networking sites require constant upgrades to the Heritrix crawler. If these upgrades are not in sync with an organization's unique Archive-It settings, the capture of data may be hindered and its rendering diminished. By default, Archive-It is a polite harvester, recognizing and obeying robots.txt files when posted. These files can inconveniently block what would otherwise be considered public records. Ensuring the preservation of the public record can mean ignoring robots.txt files, an action with which many in the field are not entirely comfortable. ❖

This article is based on the Session 602, "A Flickr of Hope: Harvesting Social Networking Sites," presented at Archives Records/DC 2010 by Chair Kelly Eubank (North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources), Judith Cobb (OCLC), Lori Donovan (Internet Archive), Jennifer Ricker (State Library of North Carolina), and Bonita L. Weddle (New York State Archives).*

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Successes and Challenges of the Montana Digital Newspaper Project

MOLLY KRUCKENBERG, Montana Historical Society

Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in the National Digital Newspaper Project during the July 2009 to June 2011 grant cycle, the Montana Historical Society (MHS) eagerly welcomed the opportunity to digitize 50,000 newspaper pages as part of its Montana Digital Newspaper Project. All facets of this project were new to MHS—and with that comes a great story to share!

In undertaking the project, MHS hired one full-time project coordinator and one part-time project technician to assist with microfilm evaluation, metadata creation, and quality control. Choosing the historically significant newspaper titles to digitize was a multistep process. It began with the Selection Advisory Board, which is composed of academics, journalists, genealogists, local historians, and MHS staff. This composition ensured that multiple viewpoints were considered in the selection process.

What to Digitize . . .

The Selection Advisory Board considered Montana newspapers within the general confines of the grant (published between 1836 and 1922) and settled on nine titles: two daily newspapers representing different geographic areas and economic

interests in the state; several smaller newspapers that represented different points of view, including African American titles *Colored Citizen* (Helena, 1894) and *Butte New Age* (Butte, 1902-1903) and socialist and female-edited *Montana News* (Lewistown, 1904-1912); and the first newspaper published in the state, *Montana Post*.

The general time period of 1885-1905 holds significance to Montana history as it marks the entrance of the railroad in the state, the end of the open range era, the silver bust, the

start of the homesteading boom, and the beginning of the reservation period for Native Americans.

Identifying a Vendor

After deciding on 50,000 pages from these historic newspapers to digitize—one page of a newspaper equals one digital



The office of the *Yellowstone Journal* in Miles City, Montana, circa 1879. Montana Historical Society Research Center Photograph Archives, Helena, Montana.

image—we moved on to the more difficult task of designating a vendor to digitize microfilm, create derivative files, and provide metadata with the correct derivatives. Because the Montana Historical Society is a state government agency, it is required to follow state procurement laws and use a competitive process for selecting a vendor. At the recommendation of our state procurement office, we opted for the Invitation for Bid (IFB) process rather than the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

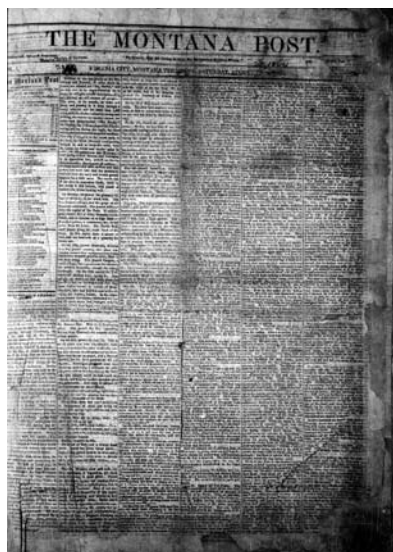
The primary difference between the two systems is that IFB respondents are reviewed only on the basis of cost and reference checks; RFP respondents can be reviewed on a number of criteria set by the requesting agency. IFB is considerably shorter and faster.

Perfect Image of Washington was selected as the digitization vendor. The company had experience in digitizing microfilm for a number of state institutions—however, it had not previously created metadata to the exacting standards set by the Library of Congress. With no former experience with National Digital Newspaper Project, Perfect Image's cost was significantly less than other respondents—totaling \$25,500 (or \$.51 per image x 50,000 pages).

Prepping to Go Digital

Taking an inventory was requisite to determine who held the master microfilm for the titles. Initially, MHS planned to limit the digitization to newspapers for which it holds the master microfilm, but the Selection Advisory Board felt strongly about certain titles for which MHS did not hold the master microfilm. Several reels of master microfilm were purchased from third-party vendors. Although this was an unexpected cost, it was not a hindrance.

With staff on board, newspaper titles chosen, standard office equipment and one microfilm reader purchased, and a vendor selected, MHS began collecting the metadata from the newspaper images that is used in the image and XML files created for the project. Staff worked from the second-generation negative of the microfilm. We attempted to use the public



The first page of the first issue of the *Montana Post*, published in Virginia City, Montana, on August 27, 1864.

access copies of the film, but discovered too many differences between the reels for gathering accurate metadata. The metadata is collected in an Excel spreadsheet and reviewed by staff for quality control. It is then exported from the Excel spreadsheet into an Access database, per the vendor's request. This metadata, along with the second-generation master microfilm, is sent to the vendor for digitization.

Perfect Image generated the master digital image and accompanying derivatives, performed an optical character recognition (OCR), and created all accompanying XML metadata files. The vendor validated the files using Library of Congress software designed specifically for this project and then returned all of the information to MHS on a hard drive.

After receiving a batch from Perfect Image, staff members performed additional quality control on the data—reviewing the issue metadata, images, header metadata information, and OCR to ensure that they meet the standards outlined in the National Digital Newspaper Project specifications. MHS verified and validated 100% of the data received back from the vendor, but as we continue working with the vendor and our confidence level grows, this level is anticipated to be reduced to as little as 10% of the data.

Once all quality control has been completed, the metadata and images are shipped to the Library of Congress via hard drive. Additional quality control is completed by the Library of Congress prior to the images being added to the Chronicling America database.

Hurdles

With any new venture, impediments are inevitable. Challenges in getting the digitization part of the project up and running have cropped up. The majority of them are centered on ensuring that the deliverables produced by the vendor meet the technical specifications for the project. Issues have occurred regarding OCR production, specifically, the time to create the OCR for each image initially took up to one hour to complete. This has now been corrected with the time being reduced considerably. Other issues occurred as the vendor did not create valid jpeg2000 files and the header information in the files was both incorrect and in the wrong location.

The most substantial issue was with the newly created PDF files. The files generated an error message when they validated, and the source of the error could not be determined. Ultimately, an exemption file for the error was created that we now use when validating our images.

The issues that MHS encountered in establishing valid deliverables caused unanticipated delays in the project. Currently, we are about two to three months behind our initial schedule; however, with these major issues being corrected, we are moving forward with the project.

Many libraries and archives in Montana contact us regarding how to digitize their newspapers, and this site has helped to make that information more accessible.

Leveraging Outcomes and Lessons Learned

The information and experience gleaned from the Montana Digital Newspaper Project was leveraged to build additional resources for the use and digitization of Montana's newspapers. Project staff created a Montana Digital Newspaper Project Wiki, which includes information on the project as well as general information on newspaper digitization.

MHS has become a resource for other institutions considering similar projects. Many libraries and archives in Montana have contacted us regarding how to digitize newspapers, and our site has helped to make that information more accessible. We also have used our National Digital Newspaper Project data to test OCLC's FlexLoader, a tool specifically designed to load this type of data into CONTENTdm.

With the complete run of the *Montana Post* now available on the Chronicling America website (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>) and a second batch of images delivered to the Library of Congress, we are finally experiencing a successful outcome to the project. Lessons along the way were important to this success, from the IFB process through digital review. Regardless of your vendor selection, allow more time than anticipated to set up your project. A multitude of details will await being ironed out! ♦

*This article is based on Session 706, "Challenges and Success Stories from the National Digital Newspaper Project," presented at Archives*Records/DC 2010 by Chair Mary Molinaro (University of Kentucky), Helen Aguera (National Endowment for the Humanities), Gerald Hirsch (The State Historical Society of Missouri), and Molly Kruckenberg (Montana Historical Society).*

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Improving Accessibility for People with Disabilities

MARK A. GREENE, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming

With the SAA Council's adoption in August 2010 of the "Best Practices for Working with Researchers/Archives Employees with Physical Disabilities," developed by the Joint Working Group on Accessibility in Archives and Records Management of the Archives Management Roundtable/Records Management Roundtable, a sorely neglected topic within our profession is being addressed.

Until then, the profession's diversity efforts—whether in recruiting archivists, attracting and serving patrons, or expanding and strengthening our collections—could not be said to include much attention to individuals with disabilities. For example, Elizabeth Adkins's 2008 SAA presidential address, "Our Journey Toward Diversity—and a Call to (More) Action," does not make reference to the disabled.

As one of only three relevant articles I found in our professional literature notes, "If the quantity of a profession's literature is an indication of that profession's interest in or awareness of a particular subject, it is fair to say that American archivists have not shown a particularly keen affinity for the

We need to move further toward a broad reorientation of our professional ethos, one that gives priority to the people who do the work, research, and produce the records.

disabled person." This was taken from Ronald L. Giraldi, "The Archival Setting and People with Disabilities: A Legal Analysis." Prior to the formation and work of SAA's Joint Working Group on Diversity, I could find but one bright note. The Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), in conjunction with the National Organization on Disability (NOD) and Keystone Systems, Inc., gave its 2004 Disabilities Service Award to an archival repository, the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections, University of Toledo, for its Regional Disability History Archive Project.

Librarians are far ahead of us. In addition to the American Library Association's (ALA)

pre-conferences focused on issues of accessibility for the physically disabled in 2002 and 2007, in the 1990s alone there were approximately 90 articles and books published for librarians working with, collecting for, or employing individuals with disabilities.

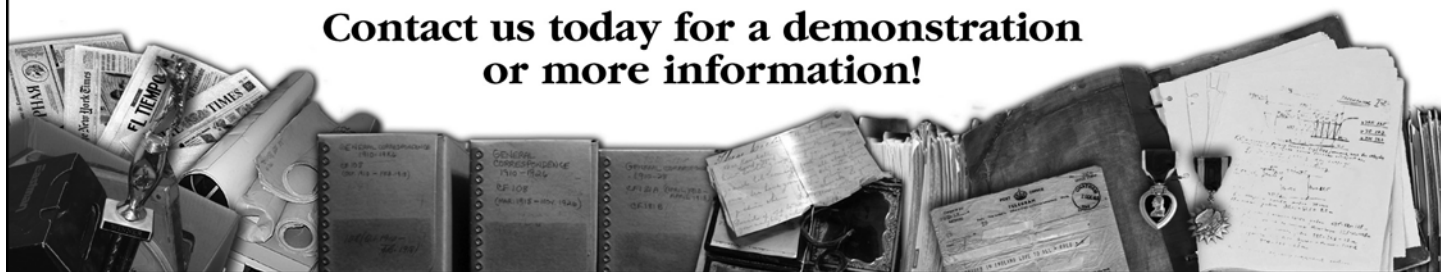
The archives profession must do better. Paying attention to disability issues is, in part, a selfish thing to do—as baby boomers age, a higher and higher percentage of individuals will find



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themselves impaired, to varying degrees, by arthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart ailments, and other illnesses that require a degree of accommodation. We cannot afford to ignore this large segment of the profession or of our researchers.

Sensitivity and accommodation for the physically disabled is also a matter of law. But too often, organizations and businesses use the Americans with Disabilities Act—I hope you'll pardon the expression—as a crutch, living by its letter and not much more. As a recent survey notes, "One of the most striking issues . . . is that while most (archival) institutions are more than willing to make accommodations for employees with disabilities, few, if any, are made for patrons with disabilities (beyond what is mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act)." For a look, reference Michelle Ganz's "Diversity in Archives and Records Management Survey."

Relying on the letter of the law for accessibility is wholly insufficient. When I became director of the American Heritage Center in 2002, I learned that even a building technically compliant with the ADA may not be truly accessible. Built in 1993, and thus supposedly conforming to ADA requirements, the AHC's building opened with "accessibility" to the main entrance for mobility-impaired visitors consisting of a ramp one tenth of a mile long with a 4.5% grade (on highways such grades are posted with warning signs). By the time I arrived the university had built an elevator, but it deposited people in front of a massive, heavy set of entrance doors not equipped with electronic assists.

I believe the archives profession is properly evolving to be more about humans than about records. I certainly acknowledge that worrying about, much less actually addressing, accessibility issues for the physically disabled in your repository risks seeming like "just one more thing I'd like to do but can't possibly." However, everything we actually decide to spend time on and treasure is a matter of subjective priorities.

10 Questions . . .

Fortunately, prioritizing improved attention to the physically disabled need not be onerous for an archival institution. Let me ask you to ask yourselves or your administrators 10 questions:

1. Do you have a chair for patrons to sit in by the reference desk while they speak to a reference archivist?
2. Are your information and/or reference desks uniformly too tall to respectfully serve individuals in wheelchairs or scooters? Conversely, are your tables for researchers too low for wheelchairs to pull close enough?
3. Do you have available for patrons tools as simple as magnifying glasses to assist those individuals with vision impairment?
4. Have you tried to navigate from your visitor and staff parking lots to your reading room and work areas in a wheelchair or on crutches?
5. Have you thoughtfully analyzed the true necessity for requirements to "lift at least 35 pounds" found in so many archival job descriptions? Are there alternatives to that

requirement that would permit you to hire or retain an otherwise excellent employee unable to carry heavy boxes?

6. Have you analyzed the accessibility of your website for individuals with vision and hearing impairments? Fortunately, there is a website, <http://wave.webaim.org/>, that analyzes any other site and gives feedback on its accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
7. Have you tested the ease with which your main public and staff doors open, or whether handles rather than knobs would make use easier and more efficient? The force necessary to open a door can usually be adjusted for no cost.
8. Do you have a prominent sign (and/or page on your website) offering assistance to physically disabled individuals to make such patrons feel more welcome?
9. Are your in-house exhibits accessible? For example, how tall are your cases? How large is the label font?
10. Have you considered whether documenting individuals and communities with disabilities should be a part of your acquisition goals? Even institutional archives may have the opportunity to acquire materials relating to employee support or social groups that can add to our understanding.

If a repository cannot answer "yes" to all of these questions, I would suggest it has work to do. None of these items is very expensive. All can make a big difference to employees, researchers, and communities.

Our profession tends to implicitly prioritize means over end, and technical process concerns over the human dimension of our work. We need to move further toward a broad reorientation of our professional ethos, one that gives priority to the people who do the work, research, and produce the records. Such a perspective will have profound and meaningful consequences for our priorities, including overdue attention to employees, researchers, and records creators who happen to be physically disabled. ♦

Notes

This article is a shorter version of Mark A. Greene's paper from "Archival Accessibility for All: An Awareness Forum" at the *DC 2010* conference. For background and context for the forum, see the introductory remarks by Daria D'Arienzo, "At Heart a Human Issue," at http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/store/PDFs/conf/dc2010/Archival-Accessibility_DArienzo.pdf.

The Joint Working Group on Accessibility is currently working on both disseminating the list of 10 questions and providing resource suggestions for successfully addressing each question. The list focuses entirely on individuals with physical disabilities; individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illness must not be overlooked, either, but space does not permit consideration of their needs in this article.

HBO Series “Boardwalk Empire” Digs into Archives

JENNY SCHOOLEY, SAA

All cameras were on Atlantic City Free Public Library this fall. And the library’s archivist, Heather Halpin Perez, can now add a TV show to her résumé. When the local paper, *Press of Atlantic City*, stopped by the library to conduct research for “Boss of the Boardwalk”—a promotional documentary for the new HBO series “Boardwalk Empire”—Perez became a key piece in the filmmaking.



A portrait of Enoch “Nucky” Johnson, ca. 1925, who, as Perez details, was “a Robin Hood-type city boss; he amassed great wealth from the vice industry in Atlantic City, but he helped the less-fortunate. He was not a cruel crime lord, but rather a benevolent dictator.”

The documentary provides background on “Boardwalk Empire,” a historical fiction account of Atlantic City during the Roaring Twenties. Real-life Atlantic City crime boss Enoch “Nucky” Johnson is the basis for the main character, “Nucky Thompson,” in the HBO series, which launched in September. A *Press*

reporter sought out the library’s Alfred M. Heston Collection of Atlantic City history for the documentary and his interest was piqued by what Perez had to offer.

“I stopped by the library at the beginning of my research on the topic, and the discussion I shared with Heather helped me shape my approach to Nucky Johnson’s life and the questions I wanted to answer,” says Dan Good, *Press* reporter who directed the documentary. “She also helped us track down Nucky’s nephews, which shouldn’t be ignored.” Good’s research totaled roughly 15 to 20 hours at the library.

“When news came out that this show was being produced, I began reading up on it,” says Perez. “It” being Atlantic City and Nucky in particular.



Atlantic City Free Public Library Archivist Heather Halpin Perez assisted with HBO’s production of the documentary, “Atlantic City: The Original Sin City,” offering her knowledge of old-time Atlantic City, its attractions, buildings, events, and business practices of the 1920s and 1930s.

Along with work on “Boss of the Boardwalk,” Perez also contributed to HBO’s production of “Atlantic City: The Original Sin City,” another documentary preceding the HBO series.

Credit can certainly be given to the role archives played in the “Boss of the Boardwalk” documentary. With Perez’s insight and knowledge, the filmmaker relied on 10 photographs from the archives. The images illustrate Nucky’s power and his community status.

In 1925, a picture of young Nucky was included in “Who’s Who in New Jersey!” There’s also a photo of Nucky with perhaps the most notorious gangster in American history, Al Capone. In another image, Nucky is at the 1933 Miss America

pageant surrounded by prominent figures of the time, including Joseph P. Kennedy and comedian Red Skelton.

“Although he wasn’t well-known on the national scene, he was behind all of the operations of Atlantic City,” says Perez. “He controlled not only the doling out of jobs, but by extension, the operations—legal and illegal—of the city as well.”



Radio announcer Norman Brokenshire, an unidentified woman, Miss America Pageant official Armand Nicols, Miss America 1933 Marion Bergeron, Enoch “Nucky” Johnson, Joseph P. Kennedy, and Red Skelton at the Million Dollar Pier in 1933.

Other pieces from the archives collection contributing to the documentary included maps from the 1920s, advertisements, Nucky's unpublished biography, newspaper files, pictures of the Ritz Carlton that opened in 1921 (where Nucky lived in a suite), the boardwalk, press clips of Atlantic City on microfilm, city directories, oral history interviews with people who knew Nucky—any and all material Good needed to dress up his film.

"I am on camera showing pictures of old Atlantic City and Nucky, which really give life to the show," says Perez. "Without archives, viewers would see only talking heads and not images."

About Boardwalk

Based on the book *Boardwalk Empire: The Birth, High Times, and Corruption of Atlantic City* by historian Nelson Johnson, the HBO series is set at the dawn of prohibition.

With crooks, lawmen, and working-class members as the character base, the story revolves around the bootlegging and political operations of ruthless kingpin Nucky Thompson, the fictional version of Enoch "Nucky" Johnson. He's part of the old guard of the criminal empire with guys pining to rise through the ranks. The characters live in a world where federal agents try their best to catch the mobsters.

Although Perez did not assist Johnson with his research on *Boardwalk Empire* at the Atlantic City Library, she is helping

One of the best opportunities that this has brought us is that people realize our archives has historical resources that they can use.

the author with research on his next book. And she has enjoyed the opportunity to draw attention to archival collections through two documentaries about the boardwalk.

"I didn't expect to be involved at this level or on camera," says Perez. "I think one of the best opportunities that this has brought us is that people realize our archives have historical resources that they can use. People know that they can find information or a picture of a family member."

The 45-minute documentary "Boss of the Boardwalk" aired in August before the series launched, and Perez is seen on camera interspersed. It was directed by Good and produced by Michael Clark, also a *Press* reporter. "Boardwalk Empire" premiered in September and drew 4.8 million viewers for its first airing, more than any other HBO premiere in six years!

"Heather provided us with a unique perspective for our project," Good says. "The other historians and residents we spoke with grew up in Atlantic City, where Heather did not—and that fresh outlook to the topic, coupled with her passion for old-time Atlantic City, proved an asset as we researched and completed our documentary."

Since winding up her work with the filmmakers, Perez has kept busy coordinating photo exhibits at Caesars Atlantic City Hotel and Casino, which hosted the Atlantic City premiere of "Boardwalk Empire."

"This is a tremendous compliment for Heather to be one of the historians . . . interviewed for these documentaries," says Don Latham, public information officer at the Atlantic City Free Public Library.

That's a wrap! ♦



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A Scottish Adventure in Archives

ELLEN ENGSETH, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Interested in exploring archives outside of the United States? Consider creating an opportunity to do so. I recently planned and led a study abroad class, "In the Scottish Archive," which explored archives, historical estates, libraries, and museums near or in Edinburgh, Scotland. Archives students walked away with international academic advancement—and even a greeting from the "Keeper of the Records."



A class picture taken outside of Hopetoun House, Edinburgh, where a volunteer librarian shared the history of the private library and family papers. *Photo courtesy of Sam Friedman.*

At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Information Studies (SOIS), "In the Scottish Archive" is a graduate-level study abroad course that focuses on the theory and practices of Scottish archivists and other information professionals. The course enables students to compare and contrast U.K. and U.S. archives theory and practice, learn differing national context for archives, and network outside of a usual circle of colleagues.

Daily, behind-the-scenes visits to Scottish repositories afforded the chance to observe, learn from, and engage with 12 institutions and more than 30 hospitable Scottish colleagues. Readings, lectures, discussions, and writing offered context for our onsite learning, and were particularly valuable as we toured so many places in a relatively short timeframe.

Dalkeith House Uncovered

Our course was based at Dalkeith House, a historic country estate and former home of the Duke of Buccleuch. Located in Dalkeith, a town six miles outside of Edinburgh, the 300-year-old house is the site of some local and international importance, making it a great fit to consider history and recordmaking and keeping in Scotland.

The Dalkeith resident director encouraged us to "read the house" to understand what was important to Anne Scott, then Duchess of Buccleuch, as she directed its building circa 1700. For example, the heavy use of imported marble and the dominant statue of the Duke of Wellington in the grand hallway are results of Scott's self-statement of wealth and connection to the London court. A fire-proof Charter Room, built with all stone and heavy metal shutters, provided for centuries the house's archive and museum in which the family kept safe its important titles and deeds, and displayed symbols of military prowess. Today, it serves as a living room.

Over the years, the estate has played host to historically significant moments. In 1842, Queen Victoria ran her government from a second-floor drawing room. Polish Resistance Army soldiers resided at the house during World War II, and we examined evidence of their residency in the form of graffiti and drawings left on walls.

Archives in Scotland

Highlights of the trip included meeting George MacKenzie, the national archivist who holds the title, "Keeper of the Records," and exploring the work of the National Archives of Scotland. We spent a day at Edinburgh University Library where a



Exploring documents from Hopetoun House family library and archives. *Photo courtesy of Ellen Engseth.*

team that includes the only Gaelic-speaking archivist in Scotland is working on a bilingual description project for the papers of an important folklorist. They kindly connected us with some local archives students, allowing students to meet up with a Scottish peer to hear directly about professional training in Scotland.

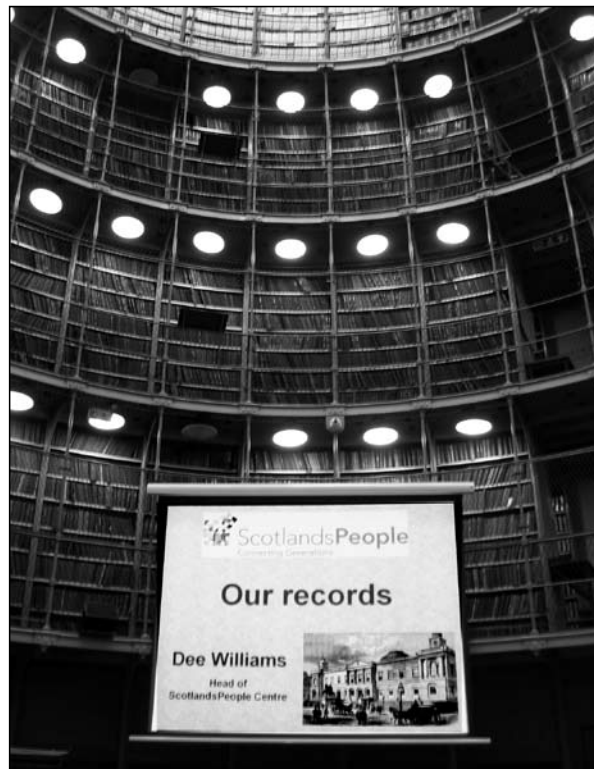
Other visits included the National Library of Scotland, where we enjoyed a private viewing of the (original) last letter written by Mary Queen of Scots, and to the volunteer-run private Hopetoun House family library. At the Royal Bank of Scotland Archives we met archivists tackling born digital corporate records who also demonstrated the archival management system CALM, which is widely used in the United Kingdom. Helen Taylor of the Heriot-Watt University Library, who was trained in the United States, helped us to compare and contrast working in both countries.

Where to Begin

I chose Scotland for logistical and archival reasons—I am familiar with the country and Dalkeith House, and it is largely English speaking. I was sure that Edinburgh, due to its status both as historic and current capital, would provide a good “laboratory” for our class through its many varied repositories within a small geographic area.

A key step in developing a similar travel program is to identify partners and consider the support you will undoubtedly need. This course developed from a conversation with Amy Cooper Cary, director of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee’s School of Information Studies’ (SOIS) Archival Studies Program. SOIS supplied the course’s academic home, with Special Librarian Katie Blank, Dean Johannes Britz, and Cooper Cary guiding and supporting the course. Our campus international office supplied student, travel, and financial services as well as visa, insurance, and legal support—key areas to cover when leading others to a foreign country.

Ever important are the interest and expertise of “in-country” contacts. I formed the idea for this class with the hope of such onsite hosts, and my best dreams were realized. To develop the site visits I surveyed and identified a list of places I wished to visit based on diversity of type, staffing levels, patron-base, and missions. After considering logistical issues, such as open days and location, I contacted the sites and asked if they would be amenable to a visit from us. Being shy is not an option when planning such as trip; the educational experience of my students relied on assertiveness as well as careful and thorough planning. I received polite responses from all,



A presentation by Dee Williams on the online provision of records at the ScotlandsPeople Centre. Photo courtesy of Katie Blank.

with most being interested and able to host us. Our experience abroad speaks volumes to the collegiality and generosity often noted in our profession.

Lessons Learned

Creating “In the Scottish Archive” required a good deal of time and thought. Don’t underestimate your preparation. We contacted local repositories as early as eight months in advance and reserved lodging and some transportation many months ahead. Expect the experience to be intense, and thus tiring due to the quick pace of learning combined with jetlag, navigating unknown territory, and hopes to experience as much as possible in a limited span.

If interested in meeting and visiting locals, don’t show up empty handed—token gifts from home are well received. We wrote formal letters of appreciation afterwards as well.

Best wishes to our new colleagues and friends in Scotland, and best wishes to those of you interested in travelling abroad to explore archives! ❖

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Founding Fathers' Papers Headed for Internet

At the National Archives, we often note that we have 10 billion pieces of paper in our holdings, containing the history of our nation from its beginnings in the Revolutionary period up to present.

Now, we know that we don't have *all* the documents that tell the story of our democracy.

That's why we are active in ensuring that historical documents not in our holdings are also preserved and made easily available to everyone.

We do this through our grant-making arm, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Since NHPRC began making grants in 1964, it has given \$200 million to 4,800 projects in all 50 states and special jurisdictions.

They include such projects as digitizing the records at the University of Florida related to the exploration of the Everglades; making available the Walter Cronkite Papers, the Vietnam Veterans Archives, and World War I and World War II Soldiers' Collections at the Center for American History at the University of Texas; publishing the papers of Abraham Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King, Jr.; and developing an electronic records archives for the State of Hawaii. (You can learn more at www.archives.gov/nhprc.)

Perhaps the most prominent and the most ambitious of the projects we have funded is the publication of the papers of our Founding Fathers.

This undertaking has involved tracking down, preserving, transcribing, and providing access to the papers of six Founding Fathers: John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and George Washington. The scope is enormous. It includes their writings from childhood through the Revolutionary period and until their deaths. And it includes letters written to them as well.

Many of the papers are held in private hands, with historical associations, or in state or local libraries or archives. Some are held by the National Archives and the Library of Congress.

The task of pulling together all their papers, which includes letters to each other as well as the Federalist Papers, began in the 1950s at several universities and historical societies.

Now, the entire undertaking is about two-thirds complete and is moving into a new phase. In the last regular appropriations legislation for the National Archives, Congress directed us to find ways to make the Founding Fathers' Papers more readily available to historians, scholars, and the public. The lawmakers also

set aside funds in the NHPRC's budget specifically for this project.

To that end, the NHPRC recently entered into a cooperative agreement with the University of Virginia (UVA) Press and its Rotunda imprint to put the published documents online.

Working from the print editions of the founders' papers that have been published so far, the UVA Press will develop a fully searchable database of the papers for free access by the general public through a website hosted by the National Archives.

A prototype website will be launched by September 2011 that will include 154 volumes drawn from four print editions, including document transcriptions and editors' annotations and introductory essays, with approximately 70,000 documents and almost 125,000 explanatory notes. By 2013, all of the existing documents and notes in the 242 printed volumes of the founders will be online.

This project is a prime example of the major impact that the NHPRC has on the enrichment of the history of our country, for it has provided funding for the papers projects for all six founders.

The *Papers of John Adams*, for example, were heavily mined by historian David McCullough in writing his 2002 Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *John Adams*, which later became an Emmy-winning series on PBS.

Historian Joseph Ellis used some of the papers of the founders for his 2001 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*. Ron Chernow used the *Papers of Alexander Hamilton* in writing his landmark biography, *Alexander Hamilton*, and he researched the *Papers of George Washington* for his recently published biography of our first president.

For these authors and countless others, the founders' papers have provided a much richer and fuller record of the intellectual debates among the founders as they led and inspired efforts to win our independence and structure the government for a young democracy. There are many more histories that have benefitted from the papers of these Founding Fathers and other publishing projects on the Founding era supported by the NHPRC, and many more will benefit in the future from the results of this project.

At a time when the Constitution and the intents of the Founding Fathers are often debated, this project will produce an invaluable resource for those interested in how our nation was created. ❖



NARA's FOIA Ombudsman Office Marks First Year

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the agency created by Congress to oversee compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and serve as an ombudsman for FOIA requesters, recently marked its first year of existence. OGIS issued a report on its website documenting the agency's performance over the past year.

OGIS is part of the National Archives and Records Administration and is responsible for reviewing policies and procedures of administrative agencies under FOIA; reviewing compliance with FOIA by administrative agencies; and recommending policy changes to Congress and the president to improve the administration of FOIA. OGIS is responsible for offering mediation services to resolve disputes among persons making FOIA requests and administrative agencies, and may

Although public institutions, libraries, and archives hold an estimated 46 million recordings, the study finds that major areas of America's recorded sound heritage have already deteriorated or remain inaccessible to the public.

issue advisory opinions if mediation has not resolved the dispute.

In fiscal year 2010, the office handled nearly 400 cases from 40 states, the District of Columbia, and seven countries—83% of cases have been resolved with 17% still pending. The caseload is expected to increase over the coming year as both requesters and federal agencies become more aware of OGIS. All federal agencies are now required to have a chief FOIA officer, which should also increase the number of cases referred to OGIS. The categories of cases handled by OGIS were fairly diverse:

- Denial: 25%
- Delay: 21%
- Ombudsman Issues: 19%
- Privacy Act: 15%
- Information: 14%
- Fees: 6%
- Misc.: 1%

OGIS issued a "best practices" briefing paper to assist requesters in making a FOIA request. On the government side, OGIS worked with federal agencies to institute training for their employees who handle FOIA requests to improve responsiveness. OGIS is also assisting agencies applying in the use of Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR) to FOIA cases.

continued on page 30



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Public “Crawls” to Oregon’s Archives

An innovative idea to raise public awareness of archives.

DIANA BANNING, City of Portland, Oregon, and ANNE PRAHL, Oregon Jewish Museum

Pack a van with archivists returning from a grim discussion about the future of heritage institutions and dwindling budgets and you’d think the discussion would be all gloom-and-doom. Not so for this group of Oregon archivists. Talk was lively and hopeful. We envisioned bringing new people into the archives to see us in a new light. And so the idea for a First Annual Oregon Archives Crawl was born.

Transforming a pub crawl into an archives marketing tool? The seed of our idea was the annual party that McMenamins (a brew pub) throws to fulfill its public education requirements—necessitated by the historic buildings that house many of the company’s pubs. If McMenamins can educate the public about history and drink beer at the same time, so could we. We quickly brainstormed a list of archives to invite. That list grew as we e-mailed or called every heritage organization we could think of.

Area archivists rallied to the cause. Our goals: it had to be fun; include beverages, food, and every local institution we could muster; and we wanted to bring in people who had never visited an archives before.

As positive responses resulted from participating institutions, we began to see our format. Four facilities were chosen as “crawl-to sites” because their central location and proximity to each other: the Oregon Historical Society; Portland State University’s Special Collections and Archives; the Multnomah County Library, Central Branch; and the City of Portland Archives and Records Center. Two of the venues also had space for the 20 other archives to mount table displays. These included archives outside of the metro area, smaller collections, heritage organizations, and groups who support heritage work. Some institutions brought examples from their collections, others, hands-on activities, and all, the willingness to engage and bring archives to the people.

Archives crawlers received a “passport” with a map to the four crawl sites (and also a list of all of participating archives). As they made their way from site to site, some listened to oral histories, watched film footage, and heard (non-academic) speakers describe how they’ve used archives. Each site put a stamp in visitors’ passports. A full passport of all four stamps entitled the holder to enter a drawing at the after party for a variety of donated prizes.



The Oregon Archives Crawl on Oct. 2, 2010, united people who had never visited an archives before at four institutions. The event celebrated American Archives Month.

After five hours of crawling, visitors arrived at the after party at the Oregon Historical Society ready to socialize. McMenamins, always a great supporter of archives, partnered with us by booking a local high school band and providing beer and wine. Portland State University donated food, drinks, and the very capable help of library development director, who solicited the prize donations.

The end result? A fantastic party attended by hundreds of people. Each venue received at least 250 visitors, with one organization reporting more than 600

people coming through the door. An informal poll showed that approximately 35% to 40% of the attendees had never visited an archives before. Overall, we felt that we accomplished our goals of mixing fun, outreach, and education—and we’ll begin planning the Second Annual Oregon Archives Crawl soon. ❖

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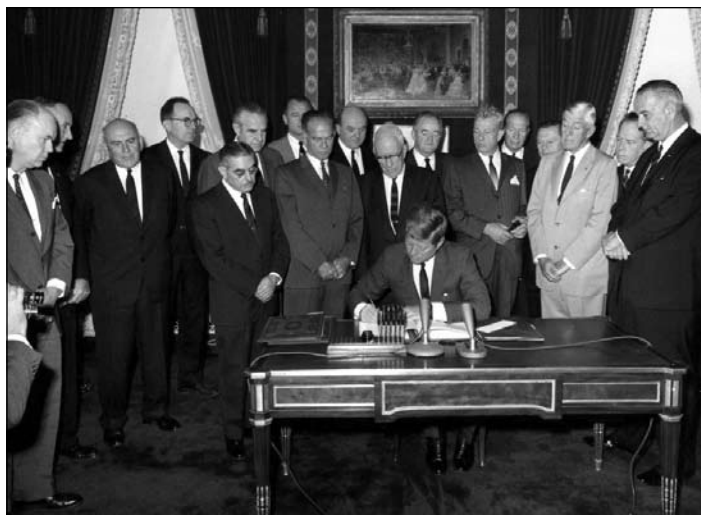


Coca-Cola Now on iTunes

The Coca-Cola Company launched a free downloadable application on iTunes that is an interactive historical timeline of Coca-Cola. Did you know that Coca-Cola advertising helped create the modern image of Santa Claus? The Heritage Timeline includes information and images about first advertisements, the evolution of the contour bottle, early bottling line footage, and much more. Visit <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/coca-cola-heritage-timeline/id394638098?mt=8>.

Kennedy White House Recordings Released

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum declassified and made available for research presidential recordings of two meetings between President Kennedy and Senators Mike Mansfield, Everett Dirksen, and Henry "Scoop" Jackson. The subject of these meetings was the upcoming Senate debate and vote on the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.



In the White House Treaty Room: President Kennedy signs the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty on October 7, 1963. William Hopkins, Sen. Mike Mansfield, John J. McCloy, Adrian S. Fisher, Sen. John Pastore, W. Averell Harriman, Sen. George Smathers, Sen. J.W. Fulbright, Sec. of State Dean Rusk, Sen. George Aiken, President Kennedy, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, Sen. Everett Dirksen, William C. Foster, Sen. Howard W. Cannon, Sen. Leverett Saltonstall, Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, and Vice President Johnson. Photograph by Robert Knudsen, White House.

Free Preservation Consortium Fundraising Videos

The North Carolina Preservation Consortium has made videos of the speakers from its 2009 conference, "Fundraising for Collections Preservation and Conservation," available online for free. Speakers included Diane Vogt-O'Connor, Library of Congress; Kristen Overbeck Laise, Heritage Preservation; Nancy Odegard, Arizona State Museum; and Susan Mathisen, S.A.M. Fundraising Solutions. Locate information on grants, donors, and public outreach for archives, museum, and library preservation and conservation at <http://prescan.wordpress.com/2010/07/08/ncpc-2009-conference-videos>.

Grant Enables Slavery Collection to Grow

Dickinson College and Millersville University were awarded \$34,000 to digitize slavery and abolition materials throughout the 19th century. The collection includes first-person narratives, legal proceedings and decisions, anti-slavery tracts, religious sermons, and early secondary works. Visit <http://deila.dickinson.edu/slaveryandabolition>.

National Archives Announces DocsTeach

The National Archives launched www.DocsTeach.org, an online tool for teaching with documents that combines primary source content with interactive capabilities of the Internet. Educators can explore thousands of documents in a variety of media from the holding of the National Archives. The site's seven tools are designed to teach specific historical thinking skills—weighing evidence, interpreting data, focusing on details, and more. Each employs interactive components including puzzles, scales, maps, and flow charts that both teachers and students can tailor to their needs.

Federal Web 2.0 Use Study

A Report on Federal Web 2.0 Use and Record Value explores how federal agencies are using Web 2.0 tools to create and share information. Tools examined include internal and external blogs, wikis, social networking, and other collaborative Web-based technologies. The study concludes that records created should continue to be appraised based upon business, evidential, informational, and contextual values. Visit www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/resources/web2.0-use.pdf.

Atlanta Restores Education Facility

The Board of Trustees of the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Robert W. Woodruff Library celebrated its newly renovated 21st-century learning environment with 300 guests. Remarks were given by Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, the presidents of the AUC Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and representatives from the Woodruff Foundation, the Bank of America, and the Coca-Cola Foundation.



Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library cuts the ribbon for a 21st-century learning environment.

New Year, New Books

What's in store for readers in 2011? Two editors provide a peek at their books, which are forthcoming by SAA in January.

Many Happy Returns: Advocacy and the Development of Archives

Edited by Larry Hackman

420 pp., Soft Cover

List: \$56; SAA Member Price: \$39.95

In the proposal for the forthcoming book by SAA, *Many Happy Returns: Advocacy for Archives and Archivists*, Editor Larry Hackman stressed the dearth of writing about advocacy in the archival literature, especially on advocacy applied to strengthen individual archives. Such advocacy is the focus of *Many Happy Returns* which emphasizes what archivists can do to influence decision makers inside the archives' parent organization, both through advocacy by archivists themselves and through advocacy by internal supporters and by external advocates on behalf of the archives. Hackman views advocacy as "an investment we make when we intentionally and strategically educate and engage individuals and organizations so they in turn will support our archival work." Advocacy can produce "many happy returns" for archives and archivists on their advocacy investments.

The book aims to serve an audience of all archivists, assuming that all archivists have an interest, including a self-interest, in effective advocacy for resources to support their work and to strengthen the archives that employs them.

Many Happy Returns begins with Hackman's own long section on advocacy for archives. He proposes basic advocacy principles and then describes approaches and techniques to apply them. He views influence as the resource that archives lack most, a resource that can play a central role in strengthening the overall organizational infrastructure, broadly defined, of an archives. For him, advocacy is an essential role of archivists and a basic, ongoing part of the life of any archives—not an add on, not a "nice to do."

Hackman's introductory section is followed by 13 case studies by archivists who describe the role of advocacy in the

development of a wide variety of archives. In most cases, the authors directly identify advocacy lessons they have learned that they believe are worth sharing. Among the case studies is Roland Baumann's, which describes the techniques and tools he used at the Oberlin College Archives to build a preservation endowment fund. Bruce Dearstyne identifies and discusses six interrelated advocacy strategies involved in successful campaigns to secure new laws, staffing, and funding for local government records and archives programs statewide in New York. Ellen Crain and Donna McCrea explain how broad public

awareness and support were built over the years for the Butte-Silverbow Archives in Montana and how these were then applied in a successful advocacy campaign for adoption of a \$7.5 million bond issue to upgrade the Archives building.

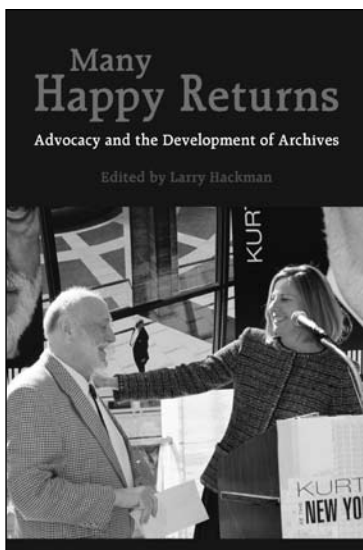
Barbara Haws reflects on her advocacy over 25 years as archivist of the New York Philharmonic, especially in how she sought key support from within the orchestra family itself. Elizabeth Adkins and Karen Benedict draw on their personal advocacy experiences with particular corporate archives as

well as on advocacy examples and advice provided to them by many other business archivists. Lewis Bellardo offers his observations on effective advocacy drawn from program initiatives at the Kentucky State Archives, the Georgia Historical Society, and the National Archives.

Francis X. Blouin, Gregory Sanford, Christine Ward, and Judy Hohmann are among the other authors of case studies, all of which are examined individually and as a group by Edie Hedlin for what they illustrate about advocacy for the archival community. Hedlin compiles seven broad categories for the more than 20 lessons she identifies in the case studies.

Many Happy Returns also includes personal perspectives on several advocacy-related issues, including advocacy education by Richard J. Cox, advocacy and social networking tools by Kate Theimer, and advocacy at the federal level by Lee White. Hackman concludes with parting thoughts on advocacy and the archives profession and Janet Bunde suggests additional readings on advocacy. Hackman hopes that the book will inspire and instruct—and provoke discussion within the profession about the appropriate role of archivists in advocacy for archives.

Advocacy is an investment we make when we intentionally and strategically educate and engage individuals and organizations so they in turn will support our archival work.



Controlling the Past: Documenting Society and Institutions—Essays in Honor of Helen Willa Samuels

Edited by Terry Cook

460 pp., Soft Cover

List: \$56; SAA Member Price: \$39.95

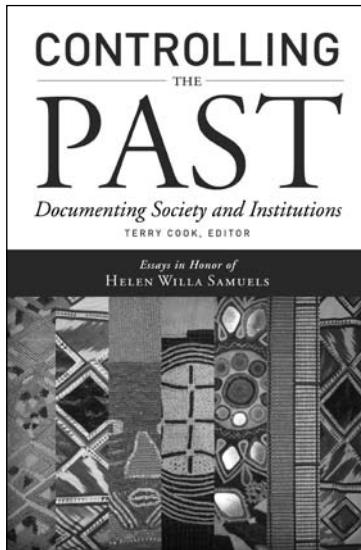
As archivists document modern society and its institutions, they control the past. They shape to a major degree what society can know about itself. They choose and preserve (or ignore and destroy) recorded evidence of past precedents and societal ideas that are essential to inform the present and guide the future. Helen Samuels, in her famous 1986 article "Who Controls the Past," was the first archivist (many have followed since) to evoke George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Samuels quoted from Orwell as follows:

"Who controls the past, controls the future; who controls the present, controls the past. . . . Past events . . . survive only in written records and in human memories. The past is whatever the records and the memories agree upon. And since the Party is in full control of all records, and in equally full control of the minds of its members, it follows that the past is whatever the Party chooses to make it."

Samuels made the archivist's control of the past more conscious, more active, and more inclusive. She pushed her profession to consider anew the most central archival function that determines the very nature of the archive that remains. And for her, a collaborative archive formed transparently, and incorporating many voices from all sectors of society, stands as the best defense against Big Brother, or indeed against any other form of monolithic ideology or social tyranny.

Controlling the Past: Documenting Society and Institutions—Essays in Honor of Helen Willa Samuels continues this questioning, while honoring Samuels as the archival thinker who truly revolutionized how the archival work of documenting society and its institutions needed to be reconceptualized.

The book is not a disparate group of unrelated essays on the authors' favorite topics gathered together to honor an esteemed colleague. Rather, the essays were especially commissioned to address a unified theme: how, in documenting modern societies and their institutions, the archivist's control of the past may be transformed in ways more appropriate for our 21st century world.



Two major sections divide the title, followed by two special retrospective reflections. The first section, "Documenting Society," contains nine essays that in multiple ways explore the rich contexts in which the appraisal of potential archival sources takes place. Contributors include Tom Nesmith, Gregory Sanford, Joan M. Schwartz, Nancy Bartlett, Richard J. Cox, Bruce H. Bruemmer, Robert Horton, Rick Barry, Richard N. Katz, and Paul B. Gandel.

The second section changes the focus about documentation. If the first section addresses issues related to understanding, managing, and then appraising all documentation to choose the tiny percentage that will survive as archives, the second looks at documenting that surviving documentation itself and at who is doing the documenting. This includes exploring the nature of the archivist, and her or his role both in appraising records, documenting society and its institutions, and in describing records—and through all this researching that value-added

The 19 essays address how, in documenting modern societies and their institutions, the archivist's control of the past may be transformed in ways more appropriate for our 21st-century world.

context to enrich understanding of archives and of the past. David Bearman, Elizabeth Yakel, Brien Brothman, Francis X. Blouin, James M. O'Toole, Verne Harris, and Randall C. Jimerson contributed essays to this section.

While the entire book demonstrates the powerful and continuing influence of Samuels' ideas, there are two special reflections beyond those in the individual articles and introductory remarks. Beth Kaplan reflects on Samuels' principal published works, in the order in which she wrote them, to trace the nature and changes in Samuels' ideas over a quarter century. Kaplan shows with considerable nuance the interconnections, evolution, and meanings of Samuels' work. Across the chapters, the authors come to similar conclusions about one or another of Samuels' publications, or one or another of her ideas, but Kaplan weaves these together into a coherent and attractive cloth.

And speaking of weavings, Samuels closes the volume with a reflective, often witty, yet serious afterword drawing together the various strands of her life and archival ideas. Helen tells her own story, from the inside, from her personal experiences, not anticipating or disputing the authors' assertions in this book, but reflecting on the most important influences in her life and the formation of her ideas.

To anyone influenced by her ideas and seeking their genesis and context, Samuels' story will resonate strongly. Her autobiographical reflection will also appeal more generally to all archivists, those starting out and those well into their careers: both will be inspired by her vision (and experience) as a "learning archivist" and by what that signifies for the archivist who today confronts immense problems in learning how to document society and its institutions in the digital era. ♦

My First Annual Meeting

One Student's Perspective on Stepping into the World of Archives

ANNA KEPHART, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

When I arrived at my first Society of American Archivists' Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in August, I was intimidated, excited, and apprehensive. I was looking forward to the conference for months, especially as it was taking place almost in my backyard, and because my summer mentors at the Library of Congress strongly encouraged me to attend. Still, I was nervous that I would be out of place and overwhelmed as a newcomer to the field—particularly one who wouldn't even be starting library school until the week after the conference ended.

As I walked into the bright-and-early 7 a.m. New Member/First Timer Breakfast, a group of attendees at a table with an empty seat beckoned me to join them. I sat down and chatted with another new member who I soon discovered worked in the Congressional district represented by the politician whose papers I had spent the summer processing. A few minutes later, I waved across the room to a fellow graduate from my small, Midwestern liberal arts school. Resuming connections with old acquaintances allowed me to feel at home, and my fears melted away.

When the breakfast ended and I moved toward my first session on disaster recovery, I was struck by the congenial atmosphere in the meeting rooms. After attending the ALA conference in D.C. earlier in the summer, I expected SAA's Annual Meeting to be similarly huge and overwhelming. The intimate tone suited my interests and needs much more closely. Although it was still very early in the day, attendees seemed enthusiastic, and at times, it almost felt more like they were at a family reunion than at a staid professional forum.

Networking

This mood continued and everyone I met treated me like a peer. The prevailing attitude seemed much more cooperative

It reassured me that although the archives field can be very focused on the past, it seemed remarkably oriented toward the future.

than competitive, and I was happy to see that most attendees appreciated the opportunity to learn more about what other members accomplished and discovered over the past year.

So many people took time out of their weekend to offer me professional advice and guidance, even though I had very little to offer in return. I met a number of fellow library students, some of whom even attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I would begin my MSLS orientation less than a week later. It was wonderful to meet so many similar-minded people who were at the same stage in their careers as me.

Takeaways

The sessions I attended were all excellent, especially the program on balancing public services and technical services in an age of basic processing. In fact, I was so intrigued by the panel's observations that less than a week later, I brought up some of the points that were discussed at an interview for a graduate assistantship in processing. It turned out that my interviewer (and current supervisor) had attended the very same session! The plenary sessions were timely and thought-provoking, particularly the speech by the Archivist of the United States. Another highlight: hearing incoming SAA President Helen Tibbo speak, as she teaches in the archival concentration here at the University of North Carolina.

Throughout the Annual Meeting, I felt grateful to meet so many archivists who seemed to enjoy their careers so wholeheartedly. Approaching the start of graduate school, particularly coming straight from undergrad, was a terrifying leap, met with questions. What if I had made the wrong decision, and pursued the wrong path? This experience in D.C. was an incredibly affirming event. It reassured me that although the archives field can be very focused on the past, it seemed remarkably oriented toward the future.

Budding Archivist

The weekend served as a springboard for further professional development. Since August, the books I purchased in the SAA Bookstore, the back issues of *American Archivist* and *Archival Outlook* I picked up, the SAA website, the contacts I made, and a host of other resources have helped me continue to learn more about the field and further my career as a budding archivist. I hope to build on the experiences I had at the Annual Meeting, and to develop the relationships I made there. Even at this early stage in my career, I am excited to join and become active in my local student chapter here in Chapel Hill. I look forward to being involved with SAA for the rest of my career. I'll see you all in 2011! ❖

Wanted: Archival Outlook Content

Has your repository successfully implemented a new practice? Did you take part in an interesting project? Or perhaps you'd like to get the word out about a program you participated in. We'd like to hear from you! Send your content ideas to Jenny Schooley, jschooley@archivists.org.



Plan NOW to participate — reserve the dates!

Submit your proposal for a session or pre-conference workshop by October 1, 2010.

See www.archivists.org/conference for details.

Around SAA . . .

Josephine Forman Scholarship Added to SAA Awards Program

The newly established Josephine Forman Scholarship provides financial support to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival science, encourages students to pursue a career as an archivist, and promotes the diversification of the American archives profession. The scholarship is given to applicants who demonstrate excellent potential for scholastic and personal achievement and who manifest a commitment both to the archives profession and to advancing diversity concerns within it.

The General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) of the United Methodist Church, in cooperation with SAA, will award one scholarship of \$10,000 annually to an applicant pursuing graduate education in archival science. Awardees also may be invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the General Commission on Archives and History, and/or the Quadrennial Historical Convocation, with funding provided by GCAH.

The scholarship is named for Josephine Forman, archivist for 18 years of the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church and author of *We Finish to Begin: A History of Travis Park United Methodist Church, 1846–1991*.

The applicant must:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Be of American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander descent.
- Be currently enrolled in a graduate program or a multi-course program in archival administration, or have applied to such a program for the next academic year.
- Have completed no more than half of the credit requirements toward her/his graduate degree at the time of the award (i.e., June 1).
- Be enrolled in a graduate program and begin school no later than September 1 or the fall semester/quarter immediately following the award.

For more application requirements and qualifications, visit www.archivists.org/recognition. **Applications deadline: February 28, 2011**

IN THE LOOP



Stay In the Loop by Advertising!

Connect with your target market! *In the Loop*, SAA's biweekly e-newsletter, provides members with updates on association activities—from the Annual Meeting, workshops, and publications, to governance, advocacy, and career news items. Distributed every-other-Tuesday to 5,800-plus archivists, it is the tool that members rely on for the latest news and information from SAA. Advertising placement is available for interactive banner ads. For rates and availability, contact Jenny Schooley, jschooley@archivists.org.

Suggest Revisions to EAD by February 28, 2011

Charged to undertake a revision of the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard, SAA's Technical Subcommittee for Encoded Archival Description (TS-EAD) issued a call for proposed changes to the current version, EAD 2002. The subcommittee's goal is to ensure the greatest possible input from EAD users around the world. The deadline for proposed changes is **February 28, 2011**. For details, visit <http://bit.ly/aKVgm5>.

Archivists from China Visit SAA

On October 1, SAA hosted two archivists from China—Qifen Zhang (Cady), department chief of the Guangzhou Municipal Archives Bureau, and Wenmin Chen (Anita), division chief of the Guangzhou Municipal Office of Local Records Compiling Commission and the Guangzhou Local History Museum. They were referred to SAA through the 21st Century Institute, an Oak Brook, Ill.-based nonprofit that promotes exchange programs between China and the United States in various areas, such as culture, education, human resources management, and public administration. The visitors were interested in an overview of SAA and how it operates, standards and best practices, a Code of Ethics for archivists, and professional issues and advocacy.



Visiting at the SAA office in October were: Qifen Zhang (Cady), department chief of the Guangzhou Municipal Archives Bureau, and Wenmin Chen (Anita), division chief of the Guangzhou Municipal Office of Local Records Compiling Commission and the Guangzhou Local History Museum.

Clarification: SUNY-Albany Student Wins 2010 Ham Scholarship

The Sep./Oct. 2010 *Archival Outlook* inadvertently omitted the institutional affiliation of this year's recipient of the F. Gerald Ham Scholarship. Venus Van Ness is a student in the combined MSIS/MA program at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Albany.

Call for Volunteers to Serve on SAA Appointed Groups

GREGOR TRINKAUS-RANDALL, SAA Vice President/President-Elect

I invite you to volunteer to serve SAA as a committee or task force member. This is one way that you can contribute significantly to the success and growth of the Society as well as benefit professionally yourself.

One of the principal duties of SAA's vice president/president-elect is to appoint people who will serve during his or her term as president. Generally this means filling about one-third of the appointed positions, as most volunteers serve a three-year term. Aiding me in this process is an Appointments Committee that I select. I'm pleased and proud that Jim Cartwright (University of Hawaii), Jennifer Graham (Wisconsin Historical Society), and Karen Jefferson (Atlanta University Center) have agreed to serve as the 2011-2012 Appointments Committee. Karen chairs the committee.

The committee solicits nominations and volunteers from the membership-at-large (via an online volunteer form at www.archivists.org/membership/volunteer and from current leaders. As in the past, we follow SAA Council's long-standing directive to make appointments that reflect the diversity of our membership by gender, race and ethnicity, region, and type of repository.

To ensure that as many members as possible can participate as volunteers, SAA follows two traditions:

- Individuals may be elected or appointed to only one position at a time.
- Individuals are not appointed to a second term unless there is a critical requirement to continue some aspect of the work beyond the appointment period.

If you have any questions about the appointments process or where you can find an opportunity to work within SAA, please contact me at appointments@archivists.org. We look forward to receiving your application!

Appointments Available for 2011–2012

(Numbers in parentheses indicate number of positions available.)

- ALA/SAA/AAM Joint Committee on Archives, Libraries, and Museums (CALM) (4)
- Awards Committee (Co-chair) (1)
- C.F.W. Coker Award Subcommittee (1)
- Distinguished Service Award Subcommittee (1)
- Hamer-Kegan Award Subcommittee (1)
- Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award Subcommittee (1)
- J. Franklin Jameson Advocacy Award Subcommittee (1)
- Waldo Gifford Leland Award Subcommittee (1)
- Theodore Calvin Pease Award Subcommittee (1)
- Donald Peterson Student Scholarship Award Subcommittee (1)
- Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award Subcommittee (1)
- Fellows' Ernst Posner Award Subcommittee (1 Fellow)
- Spotlight Award Subcommittee (1)
- Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct (2)
- Diversity Committee (3)
- Host Committee—San Diego 2012 (10-12)
- Membership Committee (1)
- Mosaic Scholarship Selection Committee (2)
- Program Committee—San Diego 2011 (10)
- Standards Committee (3)
- SAA Foundation / National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives Review Committee (5)

To volunteer, complete the form at www.archivists.org/membership/volunteer by January 14, 2011.

Now Available in the SAA Bookstore ...

Archives: Principles and Practices

Laura Millar

Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc. (2010)

Soft Cover, 280 pp.

Product Code: BOOKRES-0567

List: \$70; SAA Member Price: \$65

Whether you have hands-on or managerial involvement with an archival collection, you need up-to-date, practical guidance written specifically for 21st-century archivists. Divided into four parts, this handbook addresses the contextual, strategic, operational, and practical issues associated with creating an archival program. Visit www.archivists.org/bookstore.



Currents of Archival Thinking

Terry Eastwood & Heather MacNeil, Eds.

Libraries Unlimited (2009)

Soft Cover, 254 pp.

Product Code: BOOKRES-0566

List: \$50; SAA Member Price: \$40

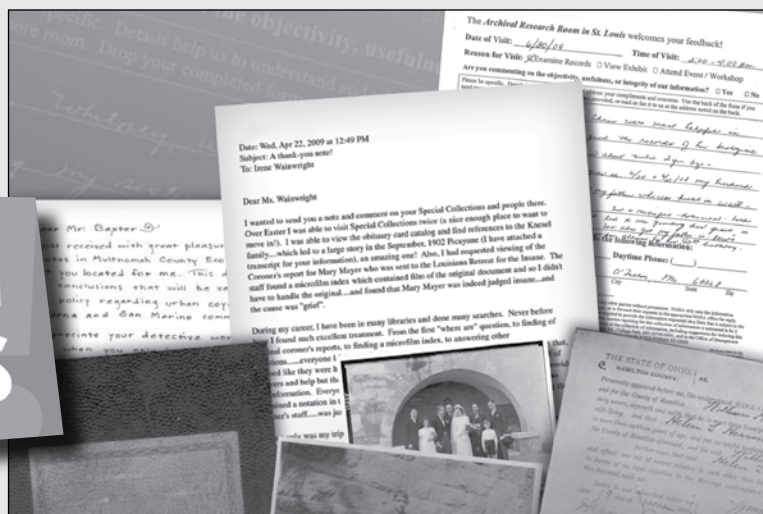
The book explores key topics in the theory and practice of archival studies within three frameworks: the foundational concepts of the discipline, main components of the archival mission, and metaphors that shape how we think about archives and archival institutions. Each essay examines a given topic from both a historical and contemporary perspective, with contributors drawn from Europe, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Visit www.archivists.org/bookstore. ❖



SAA Launches

I FOUND IT IN THE ARCHIVES

*I Found It In
The Archives!*
is SAA's new
public aware-
ness campaign
that encourages
archives users
to tell their stories
of discovery. The
campaign's suc-
cess depends on
your participation!



Public awareness is the goal. Since 2006, American Archives Month affords archivists the opportunity to make the public aware that materials of value to them are being preserved, cataloged, cared for, and made accessible by archivists. As SAA approaches its 75th Anniversary in 2011, we are drawing on this mission by promoting *I Found It In The Archives!*

Join the effort. We ask all SAA members to participate in *I Found It In The Archives!*, which will run from October 2010 to August 2011. The initiative reaches out to individuals who have found their records, families, heritage, and treasures through our collections. Ask your users, your friends, and people you've never met to share their stories of discovery. Set up a contest, select the best entries, and allow others in the online world to vote for their favorites.

I appreciate your detective work

Get creative. Your winner will join others in what will be a national competition in 2012. Measure your success in terms of entries, of course, but also by the number of times you promote this contest with e-mail messages, Facebook or blog posts, tweets, or YouTube videos. As others pass along your posts, you expand the opportunity for awareness. As local media carry stories of your contest—and post information online—you add to the awareness effect. How many people visit your website as a result of your promotion? Each one is an “awareness success,” for each person who clicks on your repository’s website is being exposed to “who we are and what we do.”

Build a greater understanding of who archivists are and what archivists do. The *I Found It In The Archives!* Kit provides a step-by-step guide for participating in the 2010-2011 initiative. Visit www.archivists.org/initiatives/i-found-it-in-the-archives.

*With their help, I was able to
fill a void in my life*

SAA Ballot Set for March Election

Fourteen candidates vying for three different offices are slated for SAA's 2011 election. Jackie Dooley (OCLC Research) and Fynnette Eaton (Eaton Consulting) will square off in the vice president/president-elect race. The candidate elected vice president will serve a one-year term beginning in August 2011 and will then become SAA's 68th president in 2012-2013.

There are three available seats on the Council. Those elected will serve three-year terms beginning in August and running through the SAA Annual Meeting in August 2014.

The three candidates elected to the 2012 Nominating Committee will serve one-year terms beginning immediately.

All candidates have been asked to respond to a question regarding their potential position. Candidates' responses to the questions along with their biographical information will be posted to the SAA website in January. This year those questions are:

Vice President / President-Elect: Describe how SAA's draft "Core Values of Archivists" fits with your vision for the Society and how you would implement that vision.

Council: SAA has developed three strategic initiatives: technology, diversity, and public awareness/advocacy. If elected to Council, how will you work with SAA groups and members to move these forward?

Nominating Committee: As SAA celebrates its 75th Anniversary, what does it mean to be a SAA leader in the 21st century?

These questions were developed by SAA's 2011 Nominating Committee: Chair María R. Estorino (University of Miami Libraries), Mark Shelstad (The University of Texas at San Antonio), Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty (University of Chicago), and Council members Tom Hyry (UCLA), and Rosalye Settles (U.S. Department of the Treasury).

Any eligible member of SAA can be placed on the ballot by submitting a petition signed by 50 individual members. Petitions must be received at SAA Headquarters in Chicago by **February 10, 2011**. Voters may also write in candidates on the ballot.

Casting Your Vote

Candidates' statements and other election information will be posted in January at www.archivists.org. SAA members can then cast their votes online from March 11 through April 11. This is the third year that SAA is partnering with VoteNet Solutions, a leading provider of secure online voting software for nonprofit associations. For voting members who do not have Internet access, a paper ballot will be provided upon request. ❖

Slate of Candidates for 2011

The Nominating Committee has slated the following SAA members as candidates for office in the 2011 election:



Jackie Dooley, OCLC Research



Fynnette Eaton, Eaton Consulting

Vice President/President-Elect

- Jackie Dooley
OCLC Research
- Fynnette Eaton
Eaton Consulting

Council

- Jeannette Bastian
Simmons College
- Terry Baxter
Multnomah County (Oregon) Records Program
- David George-Shongo
The Seneca Nation of Indians
- Beth Kaplan
University of Minnesota
- Bill Landis
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Naomi Nelson
Emory University

Nominating Committee

- Marisa Bourgoïn
Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Art
- Adriana Cuervo
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Petrina Jackson
University of Virginia
- Rebekah Kim
GLBT Historical Society
- Mark Myers
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives
- Kelcy Shepherd
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Someone You Should Know: Betsy Pittman

Putting a name to a face is often helpful, and now SAA members can do just that. "Someone You Should Know" spotlights one member in each issue of Archival Outlook to help SAA members get to know each other.

"All that research and discovery!"—words straight from Betsy Pittman who knew she found a career in archives after starting the history and library science program at the University of Maryland.

Since finding her niche, one project in particular has really given Pittman a sense of accomplishment in the profession—a partnership between the African National Congress (ANC) and the University of Connecticut that resulted in the records of the ANC being made available for research and illustrated the struggle for human rights in South Africa.

"Although the opportunity to travel to South Africa was wonderful, the long-term benefits in terms of experience gained from the project are more memorable," Pittman says.

A hands-on project indeed, it also included training South Africans to work as archivists. Read on to learn more about Pittman, now university archivist at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut, and her involvement with SAA.

SAA: What is Thomas J. Dodd Research Center's focus?

BP: The Dodd Center has strong collections documenting activist movements for social, cultural, and political change; children's literature; human rights; American and English writers associated with the Black Mountain, Beat, and New York Schools of poetry; and the papers of the state's congressional delegation. We have a very active public programming component including exhibitions, public programs, sponsored lecture series, as well as an endowed fellowship and several travel grants.

SAA: Which trends in the profession are affecting your work?

BP: We are actively implementing MPLP, which has involved a trickledown effect of changing other related practices and policies. We are also transitioning our collection management from an in-house Access database (which we outgrew five years ago) to Archivists' Toolkit. The decisions to make these two changes, alone, have resulted in numerous adjustments that will continue to affect how the staff operates (behind the scenes) for years to come. It is my great hope that more time and effort expended now will result in more efficiency and fewer resource-intensive demands in the future.

SAA: Describe an interesting project you have worked on.

BP: I had the great privilege of participating in a collaborative project that resulted in the records of the African National

Congress being made available for research. In 1999, the University of Connecticut (UConn) and ANC signed a historic agreement that formed a partnership to archive and share with scholars materials from ANC's struggle for human rights in South Africa to chronicle the struggle through an oral history, and to link UConn and the University of Fort Hare on the Eastern Cape of South Africa, focusing on comparative human rights.

I was involved in the initial inventorying of the collection, contributed to the planning for training in South Africa, ongoing support, and technical advice (e.g., processing, finding aids). Although the opportunity to travel to South Africa was wonderful, the long-term benefits in terms of experience gained from the project are more memorable. The agreement means that UConn is a major repository for ANC materials in North America; the University of Fort Hare exchanges faculty, staff, and students. UConn conducts an annual conference on comparative human rights to take place in alternate years in South Africa and the United States, as well as produces a journal twice a year on comparative human rights.

SAA: How and when did you get involved with SAA?

BP: I joined the organization in 1985 as a graduate student when the SAA Annual Meeting was held in Washington, D.C. Students were invited to assist with the local arrangements so I was able to meet members as they registered and speakers as they set up.

SAA: How has SAA helped you personally or your institution?

BP: Personally, I have benefited from invaluable training and workshops, not to mention the array of expertise and experience offered by colleagues around the world. The recognition through the Distinguished Service Award of the Dodd Research Center's collective professional contributions by SAA in 2008 has stood us in good stead at the university as well.

SAA: What do you think is a major issue facing the archives profession?

BP: Among many concerns, I would include the sheer volume of records being produced and their associated technical implications—both of which are exhausting resources and archivists at an astounding pace. ❖





JENNIFER BETTS, was appointed university archivist for Brown University. She received her MLS from SUNY-Albany and previously served as the project manager for the Rhode Island Archival and Manuscripts Collections Online project, a statewide EAD consortium.



BRENDA GUNN, associate director for research and collections at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin, was named the first Janey Slaughter Briscoe Archivist. In addition, Gunn was elected vice president/president elect of the Academy of Certified Archivists.



NANCY MCGOVERN, research assistant professor for the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, was named October's Digital Preservation Pioneer by the Library of Congress, which recognizes individuals and organizations that embark on cutting-edge programs.



Colorado State University Libraries Assistant Professor **PATRICIA J. RETTIG** was the recipient of the 2010 Colorado State University Libraries Faculty Award for Excellence, which recognizes a faculty member for outstanding contributions to the libraries, university, and/or to the library profession.



SAA President **HELEN TIBBO**, professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was appointed Alumni Distinguished Professor, a prestigious title for exceptional faculty with distinguished records.



University of Michigan School of Information Associate Professor **PAUL CONWAY** received a two-year National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support his research on validating quality in large-scale digitization. ❖

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Study Shows Dire State of Sound Recording Preservation and Access

Digital technology alone will not ensure the preservation and survival of the nation's sound history. That is one of the findings in the study, "The State of Recorded Sound Preservation in the United States: A National Legacy at Risk in the Digital Age," released by the Library of Congress National Recording Preservation Board (NRPB).

The study outlines the issues that threaten the long-term survival of America's sound-recording history and identifies the public and private policy issues that strongly bear on whether the nation's most culturally and historically important sound recordings will be preserved for future generations.

The study was mandated by the U.S. Congress under the "National Recording Preservation Act of 2000" (P.L. 106-474). Information for this study was gathered through interviews, public hearings, and written submissions. NRPB previously commissioned five ancillary studies in support of this final report, which will lay the groundwork for the National Recording Preservation Plan, to be developed and published later this year.

Although public institutions, libraries, and archives hold an estimated 46 million recordings, the study finds that major areas of America's recorded sound heritage have already deteriorated or remain inaccessible to the public. An estimated 14% of pre-1965 commercially released recordings are currently available from rights-holders. Of music released in the United States in the 1930s, only about 10% of it can now be readily accessed by the public.

Authored by Rob Bamberger and Sam Brylawski under the auspices of NRPB, the study points out the lack of conformity between federal and state laws, which has adversely affected the survival of pre-1972 sound recording. The advent of digital technologies and distribution platforms has made inseparable the issues surrounding both the preservation of sound recordings and access to them. The authors conclude that analog recordings made over 100 years ago are likelier to survive than digital recordings made today.

Pelosi Appoints Wasniewski as New House Historian

Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced the appointment of Dr. Matthew Wasniewski as the new historian of the House of Representatives. Wasniewski, who currently serves as the historian in the House Clerks Office of History and Preservation, received the unanimous recommendation of the House Historian Search Committee appointed by Pelosi with the input of House Republican Leader John Boehner who concurred on the appointment.

The appointment follows the retirement of Dr. Robert Remini as historian earlier this year after serving for five years. Pelosi decided at that time to have a panel of distinguished historians conduct an impartial and professional search for the replacement, rather than rely simply on a Speaker appointment, as House rules permit.

The Search Committee also recommended the consolidation of the existing Office of the Historian with the Office of History and Preservation, which is located in the office of the House Clerk, Lorraine Miller. Pelosi had asked the committee to consider the consolidation of the two offices in order to reduce duplication, improve efficiency, and cut costs. ❖

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CALL FOR STUDENT PAPER AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

The 2011 Student Program Subcommittee is accepting proposals for two special sessions dedicated to student scholarship during SAA's Annual Meeting in Chicago, August 22-27, 2011. Work from both master's and doctoral students will be considered. Proposals that address the program theme are especially encouraged.

Program Theme

SAA celebrates its 75th Anniversary in 2011, an occasion that offers a wonderful opportunity to take a good look around—at SAA and its role as a professional organization, at the archives profession and its intersections with other professions and domains, and at ourselves as professionals in an evolving global information environment. The theme for the 2011 Annual Meeting is “ARCHIVES 360°.”

Graduate Student Paper Session

The work of three current archives students will be selected for presentation during a traditional open session format. Each speaker will be allotted 15 minutes to present a paper. Thirty minutes will be reserved for audience questions and discussion. Proposals may relate to the student's research interests as well as research pertinent to the profession. Incorporating the Annual Meeting theme into proposals is highly encouraged. Participant selection will be based on the quality of proposals submitted. Presenters and topics will be listed in the Preliminary Program.

Graduate Student Poster Session

The 11th annual Graduate Student Poster Session will showcase the work of both individual students and SAA Student Chapters.

Individual posters may describe applied or theoretical research that is completed or underway; discuss interesting collections with which students have worked; or report on archives and records projects in which students have participated (e.g., development of finding aids, public outreach, database construction, etc.). Incorporating the Annual Meeting theme into proposals is highly encouraged. Submissions should focus on research or activity conducted within the previous academic year (Fall 2010-Summer 2011).

Student Chapter posters may describe chapter activities, events, and/or other involvement with the archives and records professions. Incorporating the Annual Meeting theme into the poster proposals is highly encouraged. A single representative should coordinate the submission of each Student Chapter proposal.

Submission Instructions and Deadlines

To submit a proposal, please complete the proposal form (www.archivists.org/conference/2011/chicago/archives-360-call-for-student-paper-and-poster-presentations) and e-mail it as an attachment to studentsessions@archivists.org no later than January 21, 2011.

SAA encourages broad participation in its Annual Meeting. Presenters are limited to participating in one

session. Presenters include speakers, session chairs, and commentators. Please alert the 2011 Student Program Subcommittee if you have agreed to participate in another accepted proposal.

If you have any questions, please contact Subcommittee Chair Brenda Gunn at bgunn@austin.utexas.edu.



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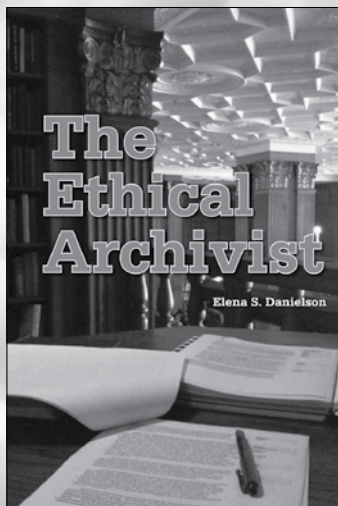
YOUR HOLIDAY READS

The Ethical Archivist

Elena S. Danielson

Illustrates how daily decisions made by archivists connect to larger issues of social responsibility and the need to construct a balanced and accurate historic record.

Society of American Archivists (2010)
440 pp., Soft Cover /
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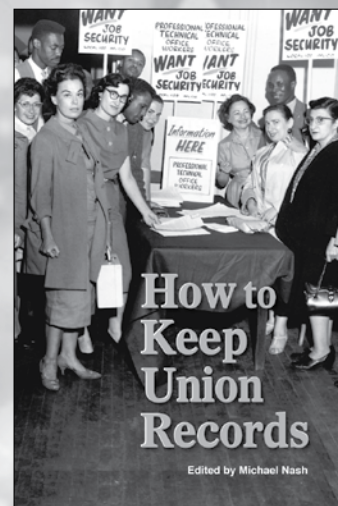


How to Keep Union Records

Edited by Michael Nash

Addresses building relationships with the unions, developing collecting policies that support current labor history scholarship, adapting appraisal theory to the unique challenges of labor union archives, and arranging and describing collections.

Society of American Archivists (2010)
236 pp., Soft Cover / Product Code: **BOOKSAA-0571**
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