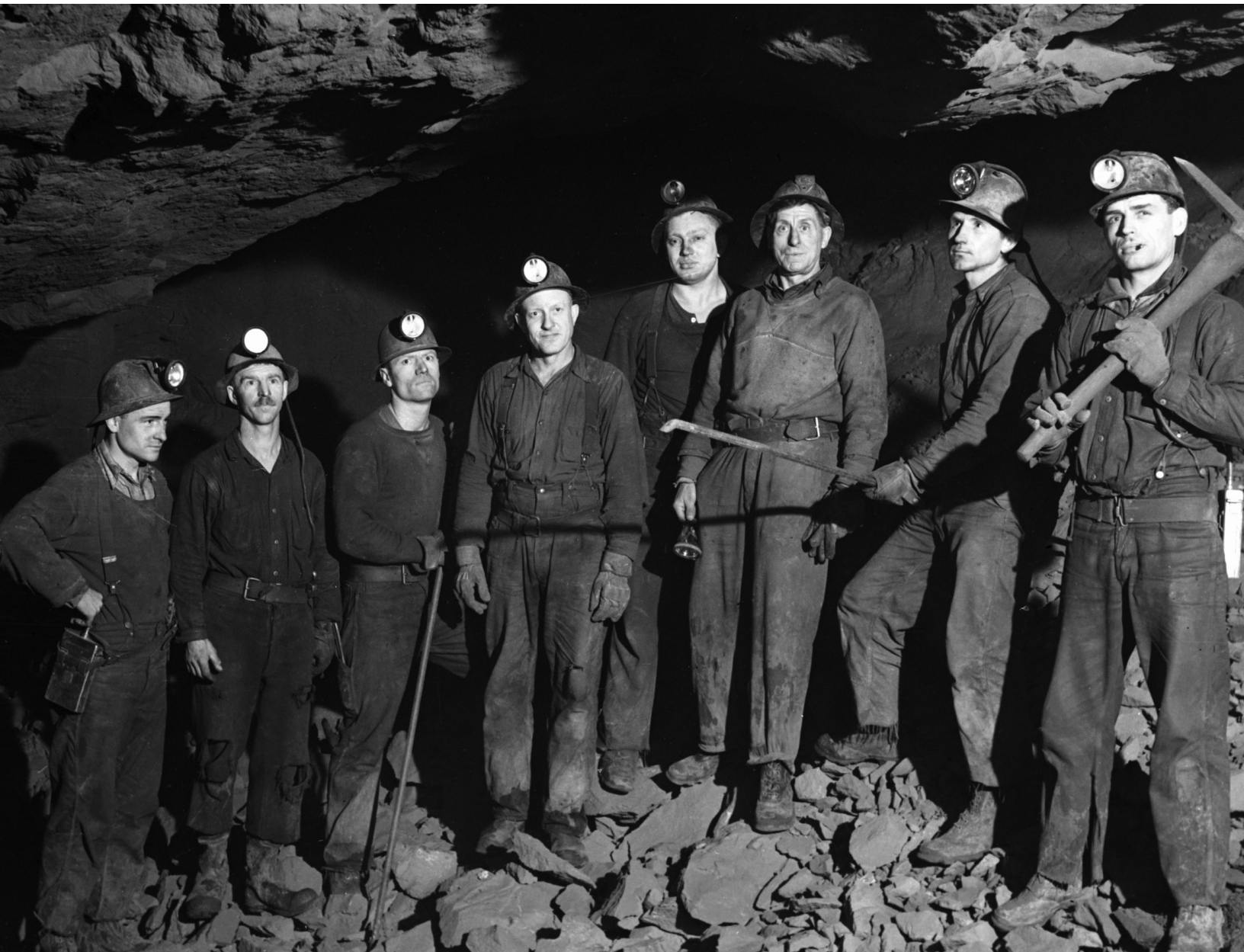


ARCHIVAL

OUTLOOK

July/August 2019

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3 Creating an Archives for Black Podcasts

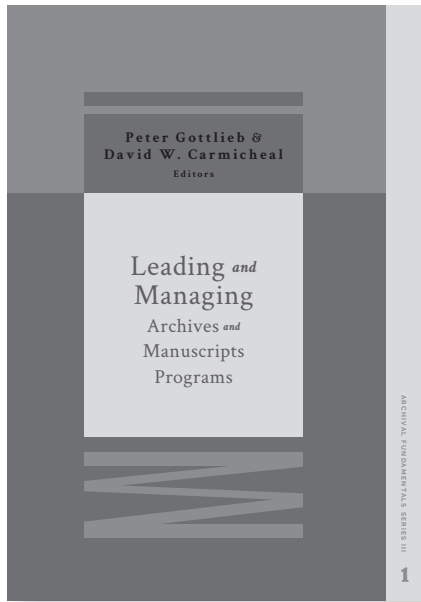
11 Bias and Inclusivity in Metadata

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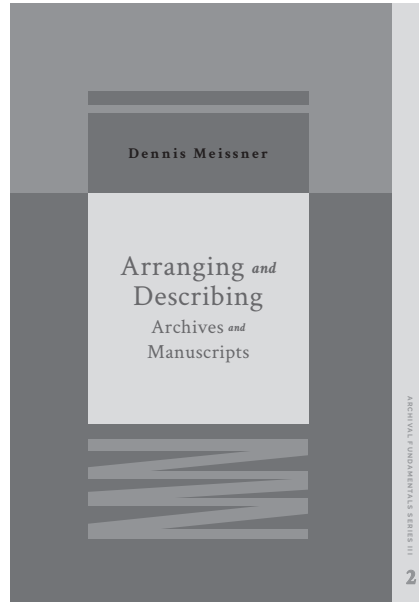
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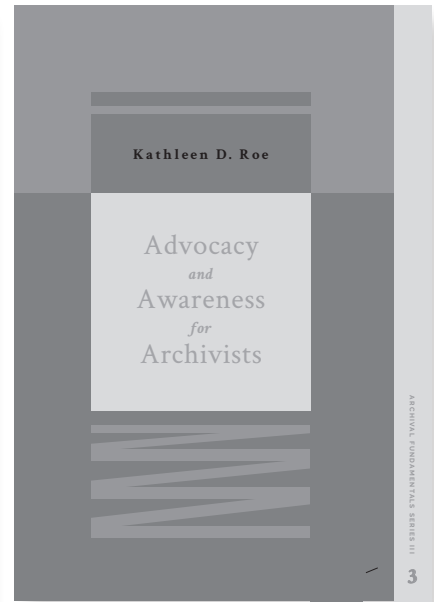
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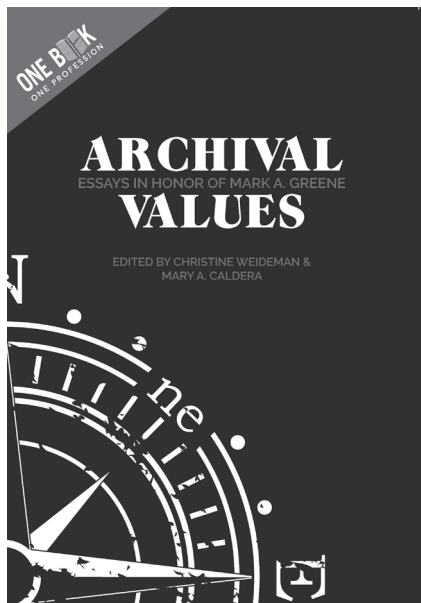
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4



Joined Hands, Joined Archives

Many collections from women religious communities are at risk of being lost to history. Archivists at Santa Clara University are working to save them.

Nadia Nasr

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Telling Our Story

The City of Portland Archives partners with the Multnomah County Library to provide increased access to Portland's African American history.

Mary B. Hansen

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In Cold Blood

It happened in the kitchen with a lead pipe—a new acquisition reveals additional evidence from an unsolved murder case.

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COVER PHOTO

In the heart of the mountain. Miners work the Holden Mine, circa 1940, when the remote Holden Village was a company town. Now a global destination retreat inaccessible by road, Holden Village offers a wide range of educational and recreational programming. Turn to page 6 to read about its unique archives run by volunteers. *Courtesy of Larry Penberthy.*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Meredith Evans
president@archivists.org

Tangible Outcomes from SAA's Strategic Plan

If you have not yet looked at SAA's Strategic Plan for 2020–2022, you should! The strategic goals provide direction for the work that members request. In the Strategic Plan, the Council has identified tangible outcomes that committees, sections, Council members, and staff will work on to support these goals and objectives. Read the full document at <https://www2.archivists.org/governance/strategic-plan/2020-2022>.

The tangible outcomes of each of the four goals are new guides, toolkits, and publications; expanded opportunities for mentoring and leadership; and a platform with advanced features that will enable robust, virtual discussion. As we move forward with the Strategic Plan, we will also look internally to see where we can refine and improve our organizational and governance structures.

With an ongoing commitment to advocacy efforts and a culture of inclusion and participation, SAA will continue to encourage mentorship and develop leaders in our organization and profession. Recent tangibles include the first Archives Managers Unconference on August 1 during ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2019 in Austin, featuring lightning talks on a variety of subjects and a “think tank” session to talk about archivists’ needs in this area. And the newly published *Leading and Managing*

Archives and Manuscripts Programs, edited by Peter Gottlieb and David W. Carmicheal—volume 1 in the Archival Fundamentals Series III—uses personal experiences to share plentiful examples of successful leadership practices from the archives field.

Incoming vice president/president-elect Rachel Vagts, the Council, and myself are dedicated to supporting the development of archivists in their day-to-day work, in career and leadership growth, and in advocacy efforts. Through the newly formed Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA) and data gathered from the forthcoming A*CENSUS II, we can strengthen SAA to better aid archivists and the profession. We must find ways to expand our reach, to share with the world what we do and why it's important. We need to find ways to address discrepancies across the profession including representation, professional status, and salaries. We need data that tells us who we are, where we are, and what we are getting paid so that we can clearly articulate our value and better negotiate our roles and remuneration.

To continue meeting the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives, we need to start with open communication and exchange—not just in a bimonthly president's column, but through social media, podcasts, newsletters,

Four Goals of SAA's Strategic Plan

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives

Society values the vital role of archives and archivists.

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

Archivists have access to the professional community and resources they need to be successful and effective in their careers.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

Professional knowledge expands to keep pace with an increasingly diverse archival record.

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

SAA delivers outstanding service, fosters a culture of inclusiveness and participation, and is proactive and responsive to members' needs.

and blog posts. Review the Strategic Plan and stay up-to-date on actions from the Council's quarterly meetings. Talk with your group's Council liaison about ideas or questions you may have, and learn how to take action and get involved. And keep an eye out for more news on tangible outcomes from SAA members Terry Baxter, Lae'l Watkins, Bergis Jules, and Melvin Collier, forthcoming on the *Off the Record* blog (<https://offtherecord.archivists.org>).

Regardless of where you are in your career, we have ways for you to get involved. ■

ARCHIVAL OUTLOOK



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American
Archivists**

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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An Archives for Black Podcasts

Miranda Mims and Steven G. Fullwood, cofounders of the Nomadic Archivists Project



The Black Podcast Archive (BPA), a program of the Nomadic Archivists Project (NAP), was born of a desire to preserve digital ephemera. Hundreds of podcasts speak to the variety of the black experience. What is being produced is a powerful collection of new voices and perspectives—and it’s growing.

In defining the scope of BPA, we decided to collect podcasts that spoke to politics, history, human rights, and humor, and that were created specifically by people of African descent. It was important to us to archive as many podcasts as possible, but in the end the relationships we established and conversations we began on building and preserving our community’s histories became the most meaningful aspect of the project.



- *Black Minimalists* (<https://blackminimalists.net/>)
- *C-Dubb Show* (<https://tunein.com/podcasts/Politics/The-C-Dubb-Show-p1046006/>)
- *Hoodgrown Aesthetic* (<https://www.hoodgrownaesthetic.com/home>)
- *Secure the Seat* (<http://www.mindaharts.com/secure-the-seat>)
- *SafeWord Society* (<https://www.safewordsociety.com/>)

Kristen McCallum, creator of *SafeWordSociety*, one of the first contributors to BPA, understands the importance of the value of preserving her work. “It’s an honor to donate to this project, with the hopes that anyone who comes across it will feel empowered by the candor [of] our unapologetic existence and truly appreciate the work I’ve dedicated so much of my time and care to,” she said.

Crowdsourcing Material

In July 2018, NAP began promoting the podcast project via its website. Initially, we expected this platform to facilitate conversations with podcasters interested in speaking with us about the project. However, it quickly became apparent that the website was not the space to work with podcast creators or even a space for receiving submissions. In fact, only a small portion of the podcasts we received were offered unsolicited. We pursued the majority.

SafeWordSociety is heralded for archiving the authentic narratives of QTPOC+ as a social justice initiative for public broadcasting and social networks. “At its core, it’s a collective testimony of our beautifully complicated journeys and a living blueprint for those coming up with and after us. I’m proud to have created a resource that highlights the resilience of my communities, to shift lives and conversations further than I can even imagine,” McCallum added.



Crowdsourcing and various social media platforms were extremely beneficial for identifying material. After compiling a robust list, we ran into problems. Depending on the platform, some podcasters were difficult to contact, especially if those creators produced few episodes or if the content had been living independently on platforms for years. There was also confusion about the archival process, particularly as it related to permissions, copyright, and access.

Other podcasters who answered our archival call include

- *Black Law Podcast* (<https://soundcloud.com/blacklawpodcast>)
- *drumBOOTY* (<https://drumbooty.podbean.com>)
- *Mindful Rebel Podcast* (<https://www.shawnjmoore.com/aboutpodcast>)
- *Black Man With a Gun Show* (<https://urbanshooter.libsyn.com>)



Gathering a Collective Testimony

The podcasters who did contribute to the archival project were primarily black women between the ages of 20 and 40. Their podcasts focused on advocacy, wellness, and politics:

“Since 2007, I was just a brother in the basement, broadcasting over the Internet on a humble set up,” said Rev. Kenn Blanchard, host of the popular *Black Man With A Gun Show*, who



Continued on page 22 >>



Sisters of the Holy Family in San Jose, California, circa 1941. Courtesy of SHF.

JOINED HANDS, JOINED ARCHIVES

COLLABORATING TO BUILD A FUTURE FOR CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES

Nadia Nasr, Santa Clara University Library

“What do you do when the records of a shrinking community—a community that historically has provided services to every level of society—are in jeopardy?” asked Malachy McCarthy in the November/December 2018 issue of *Archival Outlook* (page 12). “Such is the case for the records of many religious communities that are coming to completion, closure, or merging with other religious communities,” McCarthy reported in his coverage of the *Envisioning the Future of Catholic Religious Archives* conference hosted by Boston College in July 2018.

Many congregations have already formed or are considering forming joint archives and heritage centers. These include the Jesuit Archives and Research Center in St. Louis, Missouri; the Mercy Heritage Center

in Belmont, North Carolina; the National Archives of the Marianist Province of the United States in San Antonio, Texas; and McCarthy’s Claretian Missionary Archives in Chicago, to name a few.

Most at risk, however, are outlier congregations like the Sisters of the Holy Family (SHF) in Fremont, California. SHF was founded in San Francisco in 1872 by Sister Delores Armer, with the support of Joseph Sadoc Alemany, San Francisco’s first

Archbishop, and Father John J. Prendergast, to advocate for poor and needy families in post-Gold Rush California. Over time they expanded their missions to include

the development and management of home and child care services; catechism instruction; and social services for the underprivileged, minority, and native communities in California, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Hawai’i, and Alaska. Today, SHF is preparing for permanent closure and planning for the long-term care of its congregation members. Where its well-organized and comprehensively

Most at risk are outlier congregations that don’t have another province of their order, community with the same heritage, or institution they’ve founded with which to merge their collections.

described archives are concerned, SHF does not have another province of its own order, a community with the same heritage, or an institution such as a hospital or school that it has founded with which to merge its institutional archives.

Increasing Women-centric Collections

Since early 2016, Santa Clara University's Archives and Special Collections (A&SC) has been reaching out to women religious congregations in the Bay Area. Our goal has been to explore collaborative opportunities to preserve and increase the visibility of congregational archives in the West. This is part of a larger initiative and new collecting focus centered on documenting the vital contributions that women have made to the Catholic Church. We also seek to balance our male-centric archival collections: Jesuits have long taught at and administered Santa Clara University since its founding in 1851; women didn't officially matriculate as students until 1961; and although women religious serve on faculty, their work is largely absent from our archival records.

We took our first steps toward balancing our collections when we received the



Sisters read to children at the Holy Family Day Home. *Courtesy of SHF.*

professional papers of Sandra M. Schneiders, I.H.M., S.T.D., in 2015 (her motherhouse, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Monroe, Michigan, maintains the materials pertaining to Schneiders's early life and formation). Encouraged by this donation from a notable theologian and woman

religious, and conscious of declining membership within religious communities, we began conversations with women religious congregations in the Bay Area. In late 2017, after hearing about A&SC's new collecting focus, SHF proposed donating

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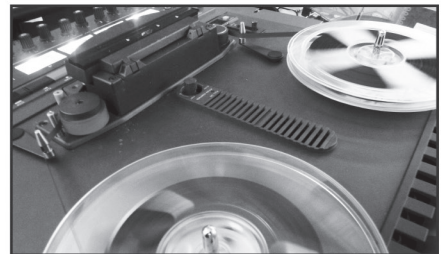
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IT TAKES A VILLAGE

A Week in the Holden Village's Remote Archives

Anna Trammell, Pacific Lutheran University

Nestled in the Northern Cascade Mountains, Holden Village is one of the most remote continuously inhabited places in the contiguous United States. A wilderness retreat center associated with the Lutheran Church, the Village is run year round by volunteers, and guests travel from all over the world to enjoy the natural beauty, recreation, and community offered by this unique location.

Even in the wilderness, archivists are needed. I recently spent a week there, assisting with the preservation and accessibility of the Village's archives.

From Company Town to Global Retreat Destination

Named after prospector James Henry Holden, who discovered an outcropping of ore in the area in 1896, Holden Mine was established by the Howe Sound Mining Company in 1928 and became Washington's largest copper, gold, and zinc mine. Around 600 miners and their families lived in the remote "company town," which operated until 1957. Through the persistence of former student Wes Prieb, the Howe Sound Mining Company donated the property to the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle in 1960. It was incorporated as a nonprofit organization and opened to guests two years later. Today, the Village hosts visitors and volunteers from all around the world and offers a wide range of educational and recreational programming.

The Pacific Lutheran University Archives and Special Collections houses approximately 30 cubic feet of records relating to the history and operations of Holden Village. Additional materials are maintained onsite where they are managed by Larry Howard, a Holden Village staff member who visits from Seattle four times per year to work in the archives and museum. Recognizing the challenges for researchers

presented by the dispersed records, I reached out to Larry who invited me to join him in the Village for a week in March to volunteer in the archives.

Cars and Boats and Buses, Oh My!

As I made travel arrangements, I began to realize that this would be no ordinary week in the office. No roads lead to Holden Village, so visitors have the option of traveling by boat or hiking on paths connected to the Pacific Coast Trail. My journey to the Village involved a scenic sunrise drive through the Cascade Mountains from Tacoma to Fields Point Landing within the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. From there, I boarded the *Lady of the Lake* and embarked on a two-hour boat ride up Lake Chelan, a 50-mile pristine, glacier-fed lake lined with forests and 9,000-foot mountain peaks. When the boat docked, visitors and staff formed an assembly line to unload boxes of food and supplies for the Village. My final leg of the trip was a bumpy bus ride winding through hairpin turns. When I finally arrived, the entire Holden community gathered to welcome the new and returning "villagers."

I spent the week as a part of the Holden community, pausing work in the archives to join the other villagers for communal meals in the dining hall and an evening bonfire or game night. I also took time to enjoy the spectacular natural beauty of the area and catch up on reading without the distractions of technology (Holden Village has no cell service or Wi-Fi).

The Volunteer Arranger

The archives workspace is in the attic of an unheated building. With about 60 inches of snow remaining from the annual 270 inches the area receives, Larry and I gathered around a space heater or I ferried boxes across a snow-covered path to work on them in my cabin room.

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Validating an Archivist's Achievements, Knowledge, and Skills for 30 Years



The 2019 Certified Archivist exam will be held **Friday, August 2**. Please check the ACA website for updates and the 2019 exam application. The 2019 exam locations include:

Austin, TX (in conjunction with
*ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2019*)

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Houston, TX

Jefferson City, MO

Philadelphia, PA

Pittsburgh, PA

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Washington, DC

Worcester, MA

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For more information about the Certified Archivist examination and to submit the 2019 application, go to our website (www.certifiedarchivists.org/get-certified) or contact the ACA office.



Telling Our Story

Partnering to Provide Better Access to Portland's African American History

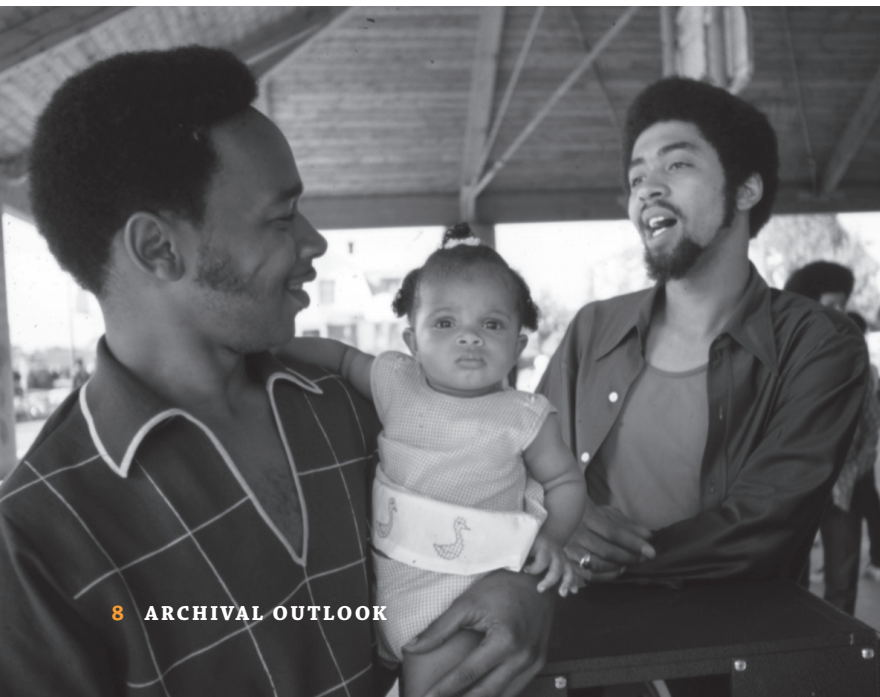
Mary B. Hansen, CA
City of Portland Archives and Records Center

It was standing room only for the exciting kick-off of the exhibit *Our Story: Portland through an African American Lens*. In the tightly packed room of the Multnomah County Library's North Portland branch, which houses the Black Resources Collection, the program started with *Vanport the Musical*, based on the African American experience in Portland during World War II; screenings of videos made for the digital collection by local filmmaker and artist Elijah Hasan; and story time with former NBA Trail Blazer Brian Grant. The 2018 event was a celebration worthy of the two years of work by the *Our Story* project committee and the participating African American community.

Collaborating with the Community

The Multnomah County Library first approached local historical organizations and archival institutions, including the City of Portland Archives and Records Center, in 2016 with an idea to create a digital collection of photos, documents, oral histories, and videos focused on African American history in Portland. As the idea evolved, committee members shifted from working in isolation to asking the community what they wanted and needed from the library.

From top to bottom: Group of children with bikes in alley, 1963, A2010-003.4388. Two women in playground area at Unthank Park, 1971, A2010-003.6025. Two men visit during a concert in Unthank Park, 1971, A2010-003.5980. *Courtesy of Portland Archives.*



The library held “listening sessions” with local African American scholars, historians, and community activists, which helped refine and provide direction for the project. Two primary pieces of feedback the community gave were what type of history to highlight and how to make it useful for the community. The participants suggested themes of education and community, placed in context of the larger story of African Americans and racism in this country. They wanted the project to focus on resistance and action—not just stories of discrimination.

Community members also wanted to know how *Our Story* would be different than other history projects. Would the library put sustainable resources behind the project, or was it a one-off event? Would the library build real relationships with the African American community or just mine for stories to meet a diversity goal? These concerns have informed the project’s sustainability, which is dependent on the library’s leadership and funding. From the perspective of one committee member, the library is staying true to those commitments.

Scanning for Access

Throughout discussions, the project’s focus has been on making archival records related to African Americans in Portland available digitally and in a central location. The Portland Archives and Records Center already has digital accessibility as a priority. Our online database serves as a catalog of our records and features some digital materials. When members of the public and city employees request an image or document be made available online, we scan these materials, adding them to our digital collections. But this

project was different. It was a concerted effort to elevate specific records to engage and support underserved communities.

This collaborative project with the library is part of our sustained efforts to increase diversity and equity in the archival record through access and has increased the quantity and reach of our records. In 2015 we created a research guide to highlight city records related to African Americans. The guide identifies where researchers can find interactions between the city government and the African American community, including City Council minutes, Housing Authority records, and Parks and Recreation reports. For collections featured in the guide, we made additional materials available online, but there are many more relevant collections that are largely unknown, and therefore not requested nor scanned.

No Longer Buried in Bureaucracy

The partnership with the library provided an opportunity to dive into collections largely unknown or not specifically identified as African American history. One of those collections is the Albina Neighborhood Improvement Project (ANIP). ANIP was funded in part by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as an example of a Partnership for Renewal program, in which public and private agencies together with neighborhood citizens meet “the problems of physical and social decay in a declining neighborhood. The overall goal is the improvement of the neighborhood, the creation of a favorable physical and social environment offering opportunities for better living.” This description, from a 1966–67 ANIP newsletter, may not lead researchers to connect this program

Continued on page 22 >>

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In Cold Blood

Finding New Evidence in an Unsolved Murder

Christopher Livingston, California State University, Bakersfield

Here's the crime scene: A dead man in bed, clubbed in the head, a gold pocket watch beside him. Who killed him and why?

Eighty years later, the mystery still hasn't been solved. The deceased man was Methias Warren—father of former US Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren (*Brown v. Board of Education*) and 30th Governor of California—who was found bludgeoned to death in his home in Bakersfield, California, on May 14, 1938.

Methias, a seventy-three-year-old real estate businessman, had been sitting in a chair, facing the stove. The killer had confronted Warren, and, at some point, struck him on the right

side of his head with a three-foot length of pipe picked up in the yard. At this point, it's not clear what happened. Methias may have stumbled toward his bedroom where he collapsed on his bed. Or perhaps the assailant carried or dragged him there and covered him up. There were many pieces of evidence at the crime scene, such as Methias' gold pocket watch. Did this rule out a burglary? Did Methias know his assailant?

The records posit a number of theories regarding the identity of the killer and the motive, but the case remains officially unsolved. New evidence from an acquisition at the Historical Research Center at California State University, Bakersfield, while not offering a definitive solution, shows how important it is to know your collections. Who knows what they might reveal?

Top to Bottom: A pile of pipes from which the murder weapon may have been selected. Methias Warren's home in Bakersfield. Inside Methias's home at the scene of the crime. *Courtesy of the Historical Research Center at California State University, Bakersfield.*

Forgoing "More Product, Less Process"

The Historical Research Center received an offer in 2018 from the Kern County Superior Court to accession the county's court records. This was a daunting task as the bulk of the records were large books

averaging 18.5" x 13" inches and weighing between five and fifteen pounds. It took a team of professional movers to transfer the collection, and what was once a mostly empty storage area in the archives was transformed into a sea of records in various sizes and formats.

A general inventory of the records specifying "Court Minutes," "Execution Dockets," "Register of Actions," etc., was included with the transfer.

Our initial inclination was to implement "More Product, Less Process," but soon after word of the acquisition got out, we received a flood of research questions that we couldn't answer. So we began to get more intimately familiar with our new collection.

The first challenge we encountered was that, during the move, the movers didn't maintain the order of the record books. This setback delayed us in making the collection ready for research. The next challenge was to figure out the purpose each record type served. For example, the felony "Court Minutes" books provide general documentation about a given case such as names of jurors and witnesses, evidence introduced during trial, and the final verdict. But while the court minutes provide information about the cases, sentencing information was entered in another court record book.

The Mystery Deepens

The Historical Research Center Archives is a modest operation. I am the lone arranger and have a staff of two student assistants. We have a strong relationship with the history department, which allows us to partner with ten to twelve students on a variety of archival projects. These students are assigned to different tasks from processing to research,

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Bias and Inclusivity in Metadata

Brian M. Watson, Graduate Student, Indiana University Bloomington

Metadata—as any archivist, librarian, or information professional knows—is critically important. If you can understand and control metadata, you can control the knowledge of any discipline, even those you do not know anything about, according to Robert D. Montoya, assistant professor of information and library science at Indiana University Bloomington (IUB).

Metadata can be lethal: “We kill people based on metadata,” said the former head of the Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, retired US Air Force General Michael Hayden.¹

If metadata and cataloging are the “power to name,” then it is worth asking: Who is doing that naming?

And yet, metadata can also be liberating—it’s a tool that can be used to take apart the master’s house with the master’s tools.² If metadata and cataloging are the “power to name,” then it is worth asking: Who is doing that naming?³ That query is what Julie Hardesty, metadata analyst and assistant librarian at IUB, has been asking. The answer to that question, I would say, also answers the question of how to build the tools to dismantle the house.

A Ubiquitous Problem

In front of a nearly-packed room in IUB’s Herman B Wells Library and broadcast online, Hardesty began by saying that anyone presenting on these topics “need[s] to be aware of our biases . . . I know some of my own as a white woman from the Midwest but I am still trying to learn.” Arguing that bias in metadata is a massive international problem, she demonstrated it by pointing out issues at home, in IUB’s own catalog system (IUCAT), which assigns the problematic “ethnographic,” “Indian,” and “Historical” Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) to archival photographs of Native Americans. She strengthened her argument with a case on gender, pointing out how the classification of poets works in IUCAT and in many other digital archives and special collections: it privileges individuals who are “white AND male AND straight AND European AND Christian AND middle-class AND able-bodied AND Anglo.”⁴

She concludes that the more marginalized a subject is, the more obscure and restrictive the subject headings on their work are. This is a problem that cuts both ways, Hardesty argues. Not only does it place a majority in charge of naming a minority, it also reinforces that status by limiting the subject’s access to their own material, removing it from the center.

Controlled Vocabularies and Classification Schemata

The center, however, cannot hold—and in this case, that is a very good thing indeed. In her research, Hardesty has discovered a variety of projects focused on these problems, which fall broadly into two categories: (1) controlled vocabularies intended for use in archives or library catalogs in addition to established schemes; and (2) alternative classification systems that focus on how items are categorized for placement on the shelf or browsing. During her talk, Hardesty went into further detail on remediatory controlled vocabulary projects, including the Indigenous Xwi7xwa Library (University of British Columbia), Atria (Institute on Gender Equality and Women’s History, Netherlands), Mashantucket Pequot Thesaurus of American Indian Terminology (University of Washington/Pequot Research Center), Homosaurus (www.homosaurus.org), and the National Indian Law Library in Boulder, Colorado. Some of these are online, some are linked data, some are controlled vocabulary, and some also include classification schemes, but none of them are, as of yet, all of the above.

Continued on page 21 >>

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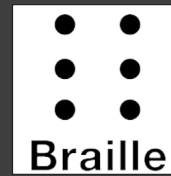
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Engaging Users with Disabilities for Accessible Spaces



Lydia Tang, Michigan State University

A key component in striving for universal accessibility for people with disabilities is to critically examine an archives' physical space. Engaging with a local or campus disability resource center and gathering a small focus group to walk through the space can be an invaluable tool for assessing physical accessibility.

This is what I did on a microscale at Michigan State University (MSU), where I conducted an informal accessibility survey of the physical spaces in the university's library in collaboration with individuals who are legally blind, use a wheelchair, or have other disabilities. This wasn't an official study—there wasn't a large participant pool or broad representation of various abilities and these participants do not represent the entire disability community. However, the rich anecdotal feedback these individuals provided informs the library's continual progress toward universal accessibility. The walk-through revealed issues such as high countertops and hard-to-open doors for someone using a wheelchair and also helped us to recognize existing accessibility features, such as the elevator's announcement of destination floors.

What to Consider in Creating Supportive Spaces

It can be nearly impossible to design a building—let alone retrofit a building built pre-ADA—to become completely accessible for the broad range of possible disabilities, but accessibility

should always be a priority to strive toward. The accessibility of a building, even when outside the control of a particular archives or special collections, directly affects your potential user base if it's an uncomfortable and unsupportive environment.

In conducting a building accessibility survey, create a checklist of common factors that can help in designing accessible spaces. These are good questions to consider:

- Is there accessible parking with a ramp that's close to an entrance?
- Do doors have automatic openers? Are they operable for someone with a mobility, strength, or dexterity disability?
- Are there Braille or tactile signs? If so, are they positioned in a uniform location so people know where to touch?
- Are there elevators? Do they have audio announcements?
- Are the floor plans accessible to someone who has a visual disability? Would they be able to find an emergency exit or bathroom?
- Is information addressing your physical and digital accessibility posted on your website?
- Is there a contact person or committee who can address accessibility issues?

Relating specifically to archives and special collections, consider these questions:

- Is staff trained to be sensitive and flexible for people with disabilities, including having awareness of invisible disabilities? Are they willing to assist users in registering, handling materials, and physically lifting boxes as needed? Are they familiar with service animal policies?
- Are there adjustable tables and chairs?
- Are there tools for magnification?
- Are there ways to accommodate someone with a sensory disability, such as adjusting the lighting or providing an alternative supervised location for accessing materials?
- Does your reading room layout and exhibit area have walkways wide enough to accommodate someone using a wheelchair?

Improving Accessibility in Reading Rooms

Housed in the basement of a library built in 1955, MSU Special Collections was long due for a space update. After several months of planning, we opened a new reading room, exhibit area, and instruction room on the ground floor in 2017. Here are a few ways we took into account accessibility considerations during renovation.

The reading room, located in the basement, was hidden between stacks of the circulating collection and behind a heavy, imposing door. The door was challenging for staff to maneuver with book carts, and proved



Above: The newly renovated Instruction Seminar Room. **Right:** A volunteer shows how doorways in the MSU Special Collections were not wheelchair accessible prior to renovation.

nearly impossible for someone using a wheelchair to open. Once inside the reading room, it was apparent that the space was never designed for someone using a wheelchair. Crowded aisles and non-adjustable chairs and desks, combined with other factors, made using the space especially challenging.

In renovating, the reading room was moved to the ground floor and its floor space significantly increased, making it easier to implement accessibility features. The room includes adjustable chairs and two 30" x 72" electronic height-adjustable tables. The tables are located at the back of the room, which may not be ideal for users with mobility disabilities, but will ensure that researchers who wish to stand do not block the visibility of users behind them. Vinyl "swooshes" on the glass doors, in addition to its aesthetic qualities, discourage staff and visitors from accidentally walking into them.

Other accessibility features include magnifying glasses, a tablet and tablet stand, and a computer with a built-in screen reader and screen magnification capabilities for accessing digital materials. Although this is a base-level set up for accessibility, we hope to expand on our offerings and partner as needed with the library's Assistive Technology Center, which is conveniently next to the reading room.

Accessibility in Instruction and Exhibit Areas

Prior to renovation, instruction sessions were held in the reading room, which was disruptive and crowded for other researchers. Now there is a dedicated space for instruction, which can also serve as an alternative reading room for researchers with sensory disabilities. Originally, the door to the room was located off the exhibit area to encourage traffic through the exhibits. After a few months, the door was moved to open to the main hallway, providing an unobstructed entry and enabling easier access to storage cubbies.

The new exhibition area complies with ADA standards, and curators are encouraged to angle materials for better visibility. To engage senses other than sight and promote our recorded sound collections, we purchased a sound dome and provide transcripts for all featured audio. We are also exploring creating a 3D tactile QR code frame, which links to accessible digital exhibit content.

Other improvements include:

- automatic door openers for technical services and the main level bathrooms,
- a reflection room,
- a gender-neutral bathroom, and



- a 360-degree Able Eyes virtual tour of the ground floor of the library.

Although accessibility is an evolving process, we are proud of the steps we've taken for improvement, and have infrastructure in place to continue advancing this initiative. MSU is fortunate to have a full-time accessibility coordinator and a Library Accessibility Working Group comprised of library representatives advocating for and working toward accessibility. As renovation continues, accessibility will always be a priority so that we welcome visitors of all abilities.

For more information, check out the SAA Guidelines for Accessible Archives for People with Disabilities (<https://www2.archivists.org/standards/guidelines-for-accessible-archives-for-people-with-disabilities>), the Guide to the ADA Standards (<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards>), and the ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities (<https://www.adachecklist.org/checklist.html>). ■



FROM THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

David S. Ferriero

National Archives and Records Administration
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OGIS: The FOIA Ombudsman

This September will mark the tenth anniversary of a part of the National Archives and Records Administration that performs a valuable service for federal agencies and the public. The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) opened its doors in September 2009 and has since been known as the FOIA Ombudsman.

FOIA—the Freedom of Information Act—was passed in 1966 to give the public the right to access the records of federal agencies. The importance of access to information was noted in the earliest days of our government. James Madison explained: “A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives.”

The volume of records produced by a FOIA request can range from a single document to tens of thousands of pages. Since passage of the Act, agencies and requesters frequently fell into adversarial roles. In order to better resolve disputes, Congress created OGIS with the passage of the OPEN Government Act of 2007.

For the last ten years, OGIS has pursued its twofold mission: to help resolve disputes between requesters and agencies through mediation rather than litigation and to review agencies’ FOIA policies, procedures, and compliance and identify how to improve them. Today, OGIS is fully woven into the FOIA process as it provides dispute resolution services and improves compliance

with the statute—all while advocating for a fair process that works for all stakeholders.

OGIS’s home within the National Archives and Records Administration is a fitting alignment. OGIS’s work strongly supports two of NARA’s four strategic goals: “Connect with Customers” and “Make Access Happen.” And its placement within NARA supports OGIS’s role as an independent, neutral party.

In 2014, NARA chartered the FOIA Advisory Committee, a deliberative body that fosters dialogue between the federal government and the requester community, solicits public comments, and develops recommendations for improving FOIA administration. Committee members, whom I appoint, represent a wide variety of stakeholders with experience in the administration of FOIA—both inside and outside of government. Since 2016, the Committee has made eight recommendations and proposed forty-three best practices for improving the FOIA process.

The volume of FOIA activity has grown considerably—in fiscal year 2018, the federal government received more than 863,000 requests, and OGIS handled nearly 5,000 requests for assistance from FOIA requesters and agencies.

But OGIS’s goal is not only to resolve disputes but to improve processes and

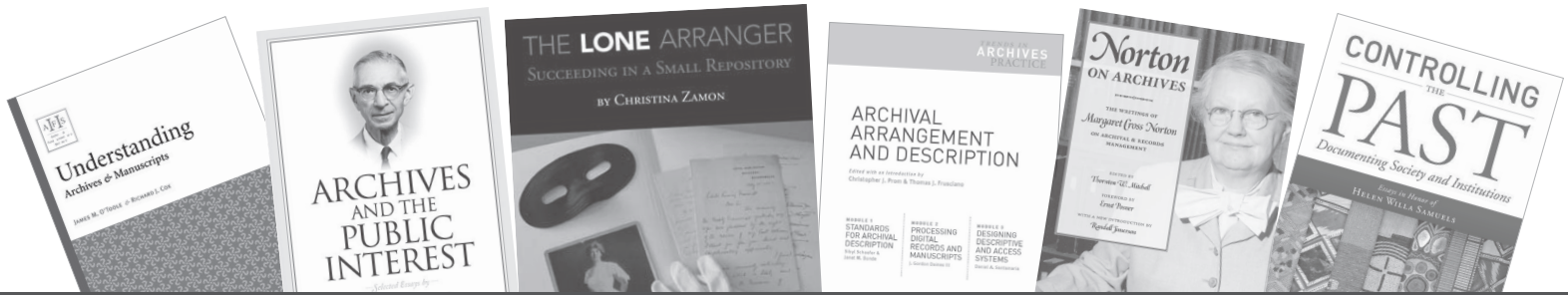
communication so that disputes do not arise. Although FOIA processors in agencies cannot control the number of requests being filed or the number staff processing requests, they can have a dialogue with requesters to help set expectations and improve requests.

OGIS’s goal is not only to resolve disputes but to improve processes and communication so that disputes do not arise.

Its function as a facilitator in dispute resolution allows OGIS to observe interactions between requesters and agencies and note common questions and issues that arise in the FOIA process. Last year OGIS created a new educational vehicle, the *FOIA Ombuds Observer*, to address common concerns. The first issue of the *FOIA Ombuds Observer*, designed to serve as a companion to the Immigration Forum OGIS

sponsored in the William G. McGowan Theater in August 2018, brings together in one document a roadmap for requesters to access a variety of immigration records at multiple federal agencies. Advisory Opinions are another new tool to address the common disputes, complaints, and trends that are likely to lead to litigation.

Going forward, OGIS will continue to explore new avenues for improving the FOIA process. Every day, OGIS connects with a diverse group of customers—both requesters and agency FOIA professionals—to assist them through the FOIA process, whether through informal and formal education about the process, or guiding and coaching to resolve and even prevent disputes. ■



SAA BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLEAGUES

Becky Haglund Tousey, CA

My involvement in the International Council on Archives (ICA) dates back to 2004 when my role as a corporate archivist for a global food company expanded to include the company's overseas archival repositories. For the past three years I have been SAA's and the Academy of Certified Archivists' representative on ICA's Section of Professional Associations (SPA), which facilitates communication and knowledge sharing among member associations and between ICA and association members. This year SPA found a very tangible way to share professional knowledge and it came in the form of SAA books.

Since 2016, ICA has committed significant resources to its Africa Programme aimed at building the capabilities of archives in African countries that are sorely under resourced. When a country's national archives is valued and supported, then the archives profession as a whole in that country benefits—particularly in Africa.

Such is the case with Cameroon in Central Africa. Last November, ICA held its annual conference in Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon. One result of that meeting was to materially raise the visibility and perceived value of the national archives—and the archives profession—among government leaders in that country. Archivists in Cameroon had previously joined librarians and museum and other allied professionals in one professional association. With the approach of the ICA annual meeting, archivists decided to form the Association of Cameroon Archivists (ACA).

During the ICA conference, the SPA Steering Committee met with several young representatives of the Cameroon association. We were impressed with and inspired by their enthusiasm for the profession and eagerness to build their new professional network. We asked, "What can SPA do for you?" They explained that they have a shortage of professional literature and would especially like books on archival topics in English. Cameroon is a bilingual French/

English country, but French is predominant and many of the young archivists are trying to improve their English skills.

Here was something tangible that SPA could do to show support and demonstrate solidarity! SAA has a catalog of the best archival publications anywhere. How could SPA get some of SAA's books in the hands of these eager archivists? SPA Chair Vilde Ronge, who is also vice chair of the Norwegian Association of Records Managers and Archivists, proposed an idea: The Norwegian Association would purchase SAA books and send them as a gift to the

Cameroon association. SAA enthusiastically supported this idea and offered nine selected SAA titles at the discounted member rate and added a couple of additional complimentary titles.

The process of getting the eleven books from the United States to Cameroon took longer than anticipated due to customs delays and additional fee requirements, but the end result was well worth it. "I wish to express my

gratitude on behalf of the Association of Cameroon Archivists for this donation and I promise this will be used for developing our members' knowledge," wrote Marc Florent Essomba, president of the association, upon receipt of the archives books in April. "Hoping that this grant of books is just the beginning of a larger and interesting cooperation," he added.

SPA's mission of facilitating communication and knowledge sharing among member associations has indeed led to "interesting cooperation." In recent years, SPA has compiled a directory of professional archives and records management associations throughout the world, sponsored a film festival highlighting videos that communicate the value of records and archives, and also developed a toolkit for facilitating a workshop on elevator pitches.

Most recently, SPA has learned that SAA books make great gifts! ■



Members of the Association of Cameroon Archivists hold SAA books gifted by the Norwegian Association of Records Managers and Archivists.

Archival Futures is a new series, published jointly by the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association, that critically engages issues related to archives as—and for—the public good. Topics could include archives and anthropology, archives and citizenship, archives and journalism, archives and critical race theory, archives and feminism, archives and the right to be forgotten, archives and social media, and archives and civic data, to name a few. This series combines provocative discussion with practical insight, examining professional values and current innovations in archival and library practice.

Have an idea for a book? We are seeking proposals for volumes of 20,000 to 50,000 words that demonstrate innovative thinking, cut across cultural and professional boundaries, and stimulate discussion about archives as institutions and sustaining forces in modern society. These extended essays will broadly address areas at the intersection of archives, society, and technology. Submit a proposal at <https://www2.archivists.org/publications/archival-futures>.

For more information about the series, or to discuss a potential proposal, please contact the series editors.

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Taking the Temperature of Your Collections

Stephen B. Knuth, TandD US

It is essential for archivists to continually stay abreast of methods used to preserve the contents of archives and libraries. Archivists are tasked with the important role of slowing deterioration as much as possible, and archival practices must adapt to the present to better preserve the past.

To reduce the risk of water, mold, and insect damage, creating storage environments that consider temperature, humidity, and light exposure is critically important. According to the National Archives and Record Administration, temperatures below 75 degrees and relative humidity (rH) between 15 and 65 percent are the ideal guidelines for ensuring that most documents and photographs will hold up over time. Outside of these parameters, archives become more susceptible to chemical decay, insect activity, mold growth, and brittleness.

Finding the Best Tools for the Job

Although these parameters rarely change, the methods used to achieve the ideal storage environment have been evolving. The most effective way to ensure that archives stay within the recommended guidelines is to monitor these critical environmental parameters with a data logger in real-time. Spot checking does not produce accurate readings of environmental parameters; it only provides a rough estimate. For best practices, measure accumulated exposure of all parameters. Data loggers help to better measure for more accurate data.

In addition to monitoring temperature and humidity, archivists should also consider a storage environment's illuminance and UV light, which can cause rapid deterioration. Capturing UV light can be cumbersome and inaccurate without proper preservation tools. Four-in-one data loggers will measure and record all of these important parameters simultaneously and provide information on accumulated exposure. This relieves the archivist from having to make separate calculations to obtain figures such as lux-hours.

Although there are manual tools that can measure illuminance, UV, temperature and humidity, an automatic, network-connected option protects against data loss and alerts the archivist if the environment shifts out of its ideal parameters. Automatic loggers also work within the archivist's schedule—the archivist specifies the intervals, and there's no need to physically inspect each data logger. Network-connected loggers can typically connect to a wired LAN connection or via Wi-Fi to the cloud.

Archives are the backbone of how we perceive the world. While technology is shifting to incorporate digital archives, physical archives still serve a critical role, and their safety should never go into question. By periodically “taking the temperature” of your collections and incorporating best practices, archivists can gain peace of mind knowing that materials are being preserved to the highest standard. ■

A Newcomer's Guide to Participating in SAA

AN INTERVIEW
WITH
Chris Burns



From volunteering on a task force to editing a section newsletter to mentoring a new professional, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in SAA. Often one opportunity opens the door to another, but it can be daunting to know where to begin.

SAA Editorial and Production Coordinator Abigail Christian spoke with Chris Burns, curator of manuscripts and university archivist at the University of Vermont Silver Special Collections Library, about his path of service in SAA, how it's shaped his work, and tips he has for newcomers. In the past fifteen years, Chris has served on six SAA committees, chairing or cochairing three of them—the Manuscript Repositories Section Steering Committee, Awards Committee, and the Committee on Public Awareness. In addition, he's given presentations at the Research Forum and Annual Meetings, cowritten for *Archival Outlook*, was the Newsletter Editor for the Congressional Papers Roundtable, and is a new cohost of *Archives in Context*, SAA's podcast on archives and the people behind them.

AC: What have you found challenging about being involved?

CB: The biggest challenge is finding the time. In addition to the various roles I have held in SAA, I have had a full-time job, been active service-wise at the University of Vermont and in other organizations, done some consulting work, and completed a master's degree in history. I also attempt to balance all of that with family life. Everyone I have served with has faced similar challenges and that can make it difficult to sustain momentum on anything a group is working on. Most committees I've worked on have pulled off what they intended, but there are almost always hiccups along the way.

AC: What are you most proud of accomplishing as a volunteer?

CB: I am very proud of two projects that I helped to design and implement. The Manuscript Repositories *Jump In!* initiative encouraged individuals and institutions to take their first steps toward dealing with born-digital materials. As a committee, we decided to try this without any assurances that anyone would participate. We structured the project in a way that took into account our capacity as an all-volunteer committee and we were very careful to not overcommit ourselves. That initiative proved to be quite successful.

The second has been the development of a storytelling event, *A Finding Aid to My Soul*, which premiered at *ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2018* and will return to the 2019 conference in Austin, this time hosted by former Moth storyteller Micaela Blei and paired with a

storytelling workshop on August 3 that anybody can sign up for. We developed this idea in the Committee on Public Awareness as a way to give archivists a different platform for talking about their work. Again, it was a leap of faith. We had no assurances anyone would participate. The 2018 storytellers told tales that were funny, touching, thoughtful, powerful, a little scary, and at times quite personal (listen to a few of those stories at <https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/2019/01/28/episode-4-a-finding-aid-to-my-soul/>). The common thread between these two projects has been that they have been participatory endeavors, designed to give a variety of voices an opportunity to communicate about their work.

Try to find one or two tasks to see through to completion in a given year.

AC: How has your volunteer work benefited the work you do at your institution?

CB: I've learned so much from working with others from different backgrounds and from all over the country. I've learned not only what projects people are working on that I might use as a model, but also the different approaches that people take to getting things done. I have worked at the same institution for eighteen years—in a relatively small institution with relatively little staff turnover—so my involvement with SAA has allowed me to interact with a much broader range of archivists, comparing notes with them and learning various approaches to getting things done.

AC: What advice would you give those wondering about how to get involved with SAA?

CB: It can seem intimidating to get involved and voice your opinion when you are new to the profession or first joining a committee, but don't let that hold you back. I've seen a number of new professionals get involved and make meaningful contributions right away. The formation of SNAP a few years ago was a great starting point for people new to the profession, but every committee I served on has had a need for a diverse set of perspectives to be at the table. My strategy as a committee member is to try to find one or two tasks to see through to completion in a given year. My strategy as a committee leader is to help make sure that the members of the committee get plugged into one or two tasks that they feel like they can take the lead or co-lead on. ■

TAKING IN AUSTIN LIKE A PRO

CoSA and SAA Host Committee Members

We're so excited to have our fellow archival professionals in Austin this summer for *ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2019*, July 31–August 6! We hope you find plenty of opportunities to explore the city and connect with your colleagues between conference sessions. Read our Host Committee's favorite Austin activities, food, and pro-tips. Then follow the Host Committee blog at <https://archives2019austin.wordpress.com> for more tips on experiencing Austin to the fullest—from seeing unique collections to dancing in historic music venues to tasting delicious bites from food trucks!

CATHERINE BELL, archivist for the Infrastructure Division at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Time in Austin: 5 years total (I left and came back after graduate school)

Go-to meal: Being a vegetarian, there are lots of options. One of my favorite meals is 24 Diner's Betsy's Veggie Burger with the truffle mac and cheese!

Favorite activity: I enjoy walking the boardwalk on the south side of Lady Bird Lake. You'll see fantastic views of downtown as well as some great people watching.

Session I'll be attending: Session 309: Future-Proofing Small Archives: Strategies for Transformative Leadership Transitions. I'm also a panelist in Session 906: Archival Value: Tales of Professional Advocacy.

Pro-tip: Renovations in the ABIA airport has brought in great food options. If you've got an early flight, you can still get your breakfast taco fix from local restaurants who have opened locations within the airport.

KRISTY SORENSEN, associate library director and head of Archives and Records Management at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Time in Austin: 19 years

Go-to meal: The restaurant scene in Austin is always growing and changing, but one of my consistent favorites are the mole enchiladas at Curra's Grill. Get them with whole black beans and an avocado margarita on the side.

Favorite activity: Paramount, Austin's historic downtown theater, shows a fun and eclectic series of movies every summer—and the beautiful theater is just as much of a star as the actors on the screen!

Session I'll be attending: I'm excited for Session 804: Means of Production and Selection: Capitalist Frameworks in Archival Contexts. And join me and my fellow facilitators for an interactive discussion in Session 902: Breaking Library Silos for Social Justice Strategy.

Pro-tip: Don't miss a visit to Austin's new Central Library. It features the Cookbook Café (with craft beer, wine, and literary-themed cocktails), award-winning architecture, a rooftop garden with fantastic views, and all kinds of books and comfy chairs if you need a break from the conference scene. The Central Library is one of our repository tour options this year, so RSVP for a tour slot on August 2.

REBECCA ELDER, Rebecca Elder Cultural Heritage Preservation

Time in Austin: 19 years

Go-to meal: My new favorite is Holy Roller. Picture whimsical takes on old fashioned diner food under a glitter portrait of Iggy Pop. I love the Chicken Dip, which is a homemade hot pocket featuring chicken, caramelized onions, and Gruyère.

Favorite activity: The Saturday matinee at the Continental Club with Redd Volkaert has no cover and guarantees you'll either be home before dinner or still able to fit in two or three more shows that night. Redd was Merle Haggard's guitarist and the ultimate country guitar virtuoso. Put on your dancing boots and go two-stepping.

Session I'll be attending: I'm excited for the Preservation Section meeting, which will focus on sustainability.

Pro-tip: If you need a sugar hit, walk to Voodoo Donuts on 6th Street, which features eccentric donuts like the Grape Ape (purple frosting, grape dust, and purple sprinkles), the Butterfinger (chocolate cake with vanilla frosting and crushed Butterfinger bars) and the Memphis Mafia (banana chunks and cinnamon with chocolate and peanut butter drizzle), and many vegan variations. My favorite is the Voodoo Doll—a human-shaped raspberry-filled raised donut that comes with a pretzel stick pin.

STEVE MIELKE, archivist and collections librarian at the Harry Ransom Center

Time in Austin: 20+ years

Go-to meal: Queso at Torchy's Tacos

Favorite activity: A good movie and food at the Alamo Drafthouse or hiking at Bull Creek.

Session I'll be attending: Session 608: More Process, More Public: Enhancing the Value of Archives through Technical Services

Pro-tip: Bring a hat and wear sunscreen!

MOLLY HULTS, archivist at the Austin History Center

Time in Austin: 10+ years

Go-to meal: Tacos! My favorite taco place changes frequently, but right now it's Pueblo Viejo. So many vegetable choices in building your own taco.

Favorite activity: Swimming at Deep Eddy. There's a big tree on one corner of the pool that provides shade and a separate pool for kids.

Session I'll be attending: Session 902: Breaking Library Silos for Social Justice Strategy

Pro-tip: Bring a hat if you plan to walk anywhere. And spend one of your evenings at Blue Monday at Antone's, a few blocks from the conference hotel. ■

Legacy GIVING and the SAA Foundation

After a lifetime of commitment to your career and your profession, what better way to give back and provide a legacy than to remember the Society of American Archivists (SAA Foundation) in your will?

One archivist who made that commitment is **Linda Henry** (1994–2008). Her work experience was broad, extending across positions at the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College, the National Council of Negro Women, the American Psychiatric Association, and the National Archives and Records Administration. Her archival interests were many, reflected in published reviews and articles, such as the 1998

American Archivist article, “Schellenberg in Cyberspace.” Her commitment to the archives profession was strong, including service to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and to SAA as a Council member and Treasurer.

Named an SAA Fellow in 1987, Linda affirmed her lifelong commitment to the profession and SAA when she remembered the SAA Foundation in her will. Linda made her bequest without fanfare and without notifying her archival colleagues. The result is the Linda J. Henry Fund, established by her estate, as an unrestricted fund to further the activities of the Foundation.

To request information on planned giving or to let us know that you’ve remembered the Foundation in your will, please contact SAA Foundation Executive Director Nancy Beaumont at nbeaumont@archivists.org. ■



RECOMMENDED READS

Publications Board Member Colleen M. Rademaker, associate librarian at the Rakow Research Library at the Corning Museum of Glass, shares her go-to SAA book.

“Do you ever feel that your explanations of your work to librarian colleagues are lost in translation? When this happens to me, I look to this elegant and concise volume for help. *Archives in Libraries: What Librarians and Archivists Need to Know to Work Together* bridges the cultural chasm between archivists and librarians by making clear the convergences and divergences in our professional values. Providing readers with reconciling language and an understanding of complementary roles, the authors empower archivists to win over the hearts and minds of librarians.”



Find *Archives in Libraries* at
www.archivists.org/bookstore

IN MEMORIAM



Susan K. Nutter passed away on March 25 in Durham, North Carolina. Nutter was the former vice provost and director of the North Carolina State University Libraries and a dynamic and influential

leader in the academic library world. She spearheaded the development of the award-winning James B. Hunt Jr. Library at NC State, which created a new model blending inclusive architecture, collaborative spaces, and innovative technology that places the library at the very core of student and faculty life. In 2016, Michelle Obama bestowed the National Medal for Museum and Library Services on the NC State University Libraries, which Nutter accepted at the White House on the Libraries’ behalf. Nutter received the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Hugh C. Atkinson Memorial Award (1999) and was named the 2005 Library Journal Librarian of the Year and the 2016 ACRL Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. Under her leadership, the NC State University Libraries received the ACRL Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. Nutter held a BA in American Literature from Colby College (1966) and an MSLS from Simmons College (1968).



SAA Fellow and past president **Elizabeth W. Adkins** received the Information Governance Leader of the Year Award from the Information Governance Initiative during the 2019 Chief Information Governance Officer

Summit, held May 22–23 in Chicago. Adkins is the director of information governance at Grant Thornton LLP. Congrats!



The **Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan** (UM) hosted **Steven Booth**, archivist at the Barack Obama Presidential Library, on April 17–18. Booth presented an engaging lecture on the history of

presidential libraries entitled, “Escorting a Presidency into History: From Roosevelt to Obama.” It was followed by a reception with Michigan archives community members. During the visit, Booth shared observations about his work with audiovisual materials at the Obama Library as well as his career at NARA and role within SAA leadership. He also provided professional advice for early-career archivists, including project archivists and members of UM’s SAA student chapter. Additionally, Booth met with archivists at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. The visit was organized by Bentley project archivists including Alexa Hagen, Hyeeyoung Kim, Nichole Manlove, Sarah McLusky, and Caitlin Moriarty. Nichole Manlove chaired organizing and hosting the event.



Rand Jimerson retires as professor of history and director of the graduate studies program in Archives and Records Management at Western Washington University in August 2019. A Fellow and former president of SAA, Jimerson is author of *Archives Power: Memory, Accountability, and Social Justice* (SAA, 2009), as well as an influential book on sectional identity from

the perspective of ordinary people during the American Civil War, a memoir of civil rights activities in Alabama in the 1960s, and numerous articles, book chapters, and other writings on a variety of archival concerns. He plans to continue as an active SAA member and to continue writing about civil rights, social justice, and archives.



Mott Linn is the new chief librarian of the National Security Research Center at the Los Alamos National Labs, which holds more than 75 years of archival materials. Previously he worked at Clark University, where he was coordinator of Archives and Special Collections and then head of Collections Management. He has held leadership positions in SAA and the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) and has received ACA’s Distinguished Service Award. He earned his doctorate at Simmons College.



Brianna Treleven, an AmeriCorps member in the Ohio History Service Corps, is one of the 2018-19 New Professional Scholarship winners from the Society of Ohio Archivists. Treleven previously worked at The Andy Warhol Museum as an archives project cataloguer for the forthcoming book *A Is for Archive: Warhol’s World from A to Z*. She earned a BFA in photography from Rochester Institute of Technology and an MLIS with a focus on museum studies, archives, and special collections from Kent State University.

EDUCATION

FALL COURSE CALENDAR

<p>SEP 5 <i>Crosswalking Metadata</i> Cleveland, OH Elizabeth Russey Roke</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAS A&D</p>	<p>SEP 25 <i>Encoded Archival Context (EAC-CPF)</i> Princeton, NJ Kathy Wisser</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A&D</p>
<p>SEP 12 <i>Implementing “More Product, Less Process”</i> Conway, AR Dennis E. Meissner</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A&D</p>	<p>SEP 26 <i>Privacy & Confidentiality Issues in Digital Archives</i> Princeton, NJ Jean Dryden</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAS A&D</p>
<p>SEP 13 <i>Copyright Issues for Digital Archives</i> Conway, AR Peter B. Hirtle</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAS A&D</p>	<p>SEP 27 <i>Arranging & Describing Photographs</i> Princeton, NJ Marcy Flynn</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A&D</p>
<p>SEP 17 <i>Digital Forensics: Fundamentals</i> Tucson, AZ Marty Gengenbach & Matthew Farrell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAS</p>	<p>OCT 4 <i>Crosswalking Metadata</i> Fayetteville, AR Elizabeth Russey Roke</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAS A&D</p>
<p>SEP 18/19 <i>Digital Forensics: Advanced</i> Tucson, AZ Marty Gengenbach & Matthew Farrell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAS</p>	<p>OCT 18 <i>Arrangement & Description of Audiovisual Materials</i> Rowley, MA Megan McShea</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A&D</p>
<p>SEP 23/24 <i>Encoded Archival Description 3</i> Princeton, NJ Michael Rush & Kathy Wisser</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A&D</p>	<p>OCT 24 <i>Teaching With Primary Sources: How to Design for Active Learning</i> Salt Lake City, UT Robin Katz</p>

Register at www2.archivists.org Interested in online courses? Check out our webcast catalog at pathlms.com/SAA.

In Cold Blood continued from page 10

and many continue their service as volunteers. The luxury of their help enables us to keep our work moving along consistently.

Working with students one day, we came across a box of district attorney investigation files from the 1930s. A thick envelope of photographs grabbed our attention. The photos—thirty-three in all—depicted a crime scene, an autopsy, and the investigators. We realized that this case was connected to the murder of Methias Warren. In addition to photographs, the files contain a number of witness statements and transcripts of suspect interrogations.

Two reports were of special interest. The first, written on July 10, 1944, describes an incident at a local barber shop. The report noted that C. C. Watson, a real estate businessman, had a conversation with a Mr. Scott in the Alexandria Barber Shop and that “he had understood Ed. Regan (sic) made a confession prior to his death to the killing of Matt Warren.” Ed Regan was Methias Warren’s business partner. The report noted that the said confession was allegedly made to his pastor, Reverend Barrett. When investigator

J. H. Dupes attempted to verify the story, he found that Reverend Barrett was on vacation.

When he finally did contact Reverend Barrett, Dupes asked Barrett if Regan had ever made a confession to killing Methias Warren. Barrett said that he visited with Regan many times during the last two months of his life, but denied that Regan ever confessed to Warren’s murder.

Know Your Collections

These conflicting accounts raise many questions. How did the Regan confession rumor manifest? Was Barrett lying in order to protect Regan or his family? The fact that Warren’s pocket watch was not taken suggests that he may have known the assailant. Was there an argument between Warren and Regan that led to Warren’s murder?

These questions still may never be answered. From this archivist’s viewpoint, this case is remarkable because it highlights the importance of knowing the contents of your collections. Who knows how this knowledge may be used? It may help solve—or come close to solving—a murder! ■

Bias and Inclusivity in Metadata continued from page 11

Hardesty then pivoted to classification schemata, pointing out that even though revision attempts were pioneered by Howard University Librarian Dorothy Porter in the 1930s and ’40s, there are still problematic classifications in many archives and libraries, whether they use Dewey Decimal or Library of Congress. To demonstrate this, she again turned to IUCAT, highlighting three recent publications: Nina O’Leary’s *Native Enough*, Stephanie J. Waterman et al.’s *Beyond Access: Indigenizing Programs for Native American Student Success*, and Robin Starr Minthorn’s *Reclaiming Indigenous Research in Higher Education*. Each of them is classified under LCSH E97 for “History of North America—Indians of North America.” All of these items were published in 2018 but are “placed in the past on the shelf,” in Hardesty’s words.

She offered several alternative cataloging approaches, such as the Brian Deer Classification system (used in Canada) or the Lavender Library LLACE classification system (developed in San Francisco), which is used by Indiana University’s LGBTQ+ Center, independently of IUCAT. This latter classification system, which is completely student-chosen and run, is an “example of what is possible for collection organization when a community historically [minoritized] becomes the center and focus of the organization scheme” (my emphasis).

Five Possible Next Steps

Libraries, archives, and museums have a lot of metadata—but almost no resources or tools to use in reviewing, evaluating, or updating them. Hardesty provides a number of possible solutions:

- 1) Provide controlled vocabularies besides LCSH for digital collections,
- 2) Experiment with information retrieval aids using different controlled vocabularies,
- 3) Implement institutional solutions like those recommended by the Digital Library Federation’s Cultural Assessment Working Group and its Inclusive Metadata Task Force,
- 4) Provide contextual information about controlled vocabulary and classification problems to users, and
- 5) “Center the marginalized” to try providing multiple entryways to resources through catalog portals and metadata.

Each of these ideas offers potential tools of power or pathways forward, and should be seriously explored by all those identified, cataloged, and subjected to headings that do not name them.

To view Hardesty’s full presentation on “Bias and Inclusivity in Metadata: Awareness and Approaches,” given March 20, 2019, go to <http://hdl.handle.net/2022/22880>. View my live-tweeted thread at <https://bit.ly/2UbtqiG>. ■

Notes

- ¹ Farran, Lee. “Ex-NSA Chief: ‘We Kill People Based on Metadata.’” ABC News. ABC News, March 5, 2014. <https://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2014/05/ex-nsa-chief-we-kill-people-based-on-metadata>.
- ² Pomerantz, Jeffrey, *Metadata*, The MIT Press Essential Knowledge Series (Cambridge, Massachusetts; London, England: The MIT Press, 2015), 118. Olson, Hope A., “The Power to Name: Representation in Library Catalogs,” *Signs* 26:3 (2001), 639–68, 661.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Hardesty, slide 16. Hardesty provides a diagram from Hope A. Olson, “Mapping Beyond Dewey’s Boundaries: Constructing Classificatory Space for Marginalized Knowledge Domains,” *Library Trends* 47:2 (1998), 238.

An Archives for Black Podcasts continued from page 3

donated his podcast to the archives. “One of the highest honors I could have received was to be asked to share my passion for communication for posterity.” Rev. Blanchard clearly sees the importance of the communal nature of archives, remarking, “none of us is as strong as all of us.”

Capturing History in Real Time

NAP was extremely fortunate to connect with Derek Mosley, archivist and division manager at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History in Atlanta, Georgia, to house the archives.

“Many times, archives collect stories after they have happened. The work that the Nomadic Archivists Project is doing with the Black Podcast Archive is important because it is capturing history and stories as they are unfolding today,” said Mosley. “They are also creating spaces where anyone can come and hear those stories. Auburn Avenue is so happy to partner and make those stories available.”

The Black Podcast Archive was graciously supported by a 2018–19 Society of American Archivists Foundation grant. Learn more about NAP’s work at <https://www.nomadicarchivistsproject.com/>. ■

Telling Our Story continued from page 9

with African Americans in Portland. However, due to discriminatory housing practices, the Albina neighborhood was the primary area where African Americans could buy and rent housing in Portland. Unlike other federally funded urban renewal programs, ANIP was requested and driven by the neighborhood as an urban renewal conservation project. It’s one example of what participants in the library listening sessions asked for—a focus on historical records that document action and resistance by community members.

There are hundreds of photos and 35mm slides documenting the various projects of the ANIP, from neighborhood clean ups and house repairs to the city’s first tree planting program and creation of a new park. There are also newsletters and reports documenting the community’s work throughout the decade-long project. Some photos in the collection had been scanned in response to the 2015 research guide. *Our Story* was an opportunity to scan a larger number of these materials and make them available not only in our database but also for library users who may not know about the City Archives. The project raised awareness of our archives and its range of community-specific materials.

A more important result of our partnership on this project was elevating stories of African Americans that have been buried in bureaucracy. Our job as archivists is to help anyone—not only scholars and city employees—find records that are useful and meaningful to their lives. Sharing evidence of resistance and activism counters prevailing notions that Portland’s African American communities were blighted with crime and in need of tearing down to rebuild something better. These images show a vibrant community working together to make its members’ lives better, and in turn bettering the entire city. ■



Two adults swing together on a swing at Unthank Park, 1971, A2010-003.6052. Courtesy of Portland Archives.

It Takes a Village continued from 6

A retired Boeing engineer and volunteer in the Boeing Archives, Larry started his work managing the Holden Village Archives and Museum in 2009 when his wife, Nancy Winder, served as Village pastor. Larry spearheaded the effort to secure a safe storage space for the Village’s records and began inventorying their holdings. Since then, he has taken SAA courses and sought advice from other archivists on how to approach his unique situation. Each year, Larry fields approximately 1,200 emails from researchers, potential donors, and Village staff. Some requests he can answer from memory or by looking at the finding aids and inventories he has prepared during his visits. Others have to wait until his next trip to the Village. Larry



Bundled against the cold, Anna Trammell works in the Holden Village Archives.

arrived in March with a list of items he needed to consult or scan for waiting researchers.

Throughout the week we updated descriptions, inventoried new accessions, and processed accruals. We also discussed ways we could work collaboratively in the future to assist researchers or share resources. Through a grant provided this year by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Larry and I will continue to work together to ensure the long-term preservation of and access to Holden Village’s records.

An Integrated Community

I met many people during my stay in the Village. There were the educators from Ohio who were spending a year teaching students of all ages in the two-room schoolhouse. There was the potter whose beautiful mugs and bowls were crafted in the Village studio and sold in the Holden Store. College students and recent graduates prepared food, shoveled snow, and played an important role in the Village’s impressive sustainability efforts. We each had our specific set of skills and experiences to contribute to the community. ■

Joined Hands, Joined Archives continued from page 5

its congregational archives. In early 2018, A&SC formally accepted and is on track to complete the transfer of the collections and open them for research this fall.

Funding and Faith

How are we turning this around so quickly, with only six full-time staff who also juggle an active instruction program, a modestly increasing number of individual researchers, the documentation of an already high volume of accessions, and numerous other ongoing priorities?

Funding and faith. A little bit of our own funding but mostly by means of generous funding that SHF has given to A&SC, a compelling show of faith in A&SC's archival programs and commitment to preserving and making accessible women religious communities' endangered collections.

As part of our agreement with SHF, we are already using a portion of these funds to cover the costs of planning and implementing the transfer of the collections from Fremont to Santa Clara by circuitous detour to Maryland. In January 2019, History Associates, Inc., shipped the SHF collections to a facility in Rockville, Maryland, where they are working on the enhanced arrangement, description, and rehousing of the collections. We anticipate the final transfer of the collections and corresponding descriptive records to A&SC this summer, in time to open the collections for research in the fall. For longer term care of the collections we have put another portion of the funds into an endowment to support future SHF collection transfers, maintenance, and exhibition of the materials.

Using Other Initiatives as Models

Beyond the care of its own collections, SHF has also endowed critical seed funding to support future programming for women religious congregations, particularly in support of archives. It was meaningful to the SHF congregation not only to have secured a home for their collections but also to have contributed to a larger initiative supporting women religious archives.



The St. Elizabeth Day Home. Courtesy of SHF.

Library and archival initiatives from recent decades may serve as models to chart a path forward. In the early 2000s, many libraries and archives formed statewide, collaborative digitization programs. These leveraged the power of partnerships, providing access to high-cost digital collections software and digitization services to institutions with fewer resources. More recently in 2009, the American Society for Theatre Research launched its American Theatre Archive Project (ATAP) to provide archival consulting and financial support to assist local theater companies across the United States with preserving and making accessible records of theatrical process and product. Many state or regional consortia have established centralized finding aid and digital collections databases to promote discovery of collections. Others, like those in the OhioLink consortium, have used interlibrary loan networks to

transport special collections for short-term use by researchers in a partnering special collections unit. While there are numerous examples of strategically efficient collaborative models, each needs short- and long-term funding for initial and continued success.

Dreaming Big

Although we don't yet know exactly what our future collaborations will look like, we envision many things. We envision formally establishing a research center with increased staffing to administer collections while also offering consultation help to congregational archivists. We envision providing grant funding for archival supplies or implementation of plans developed during consulting activities. We envision providing digitization services and hosting digital collections and finding aids, and sharing them with data aggregators. We envision establishing an interlibrary loan network for researchers to use local congregational archives collections in our reading room, and then returning the collections to their home archives.

What we envision is ambitious. We are laying groundwork for the future. In the last year we have expanded our archival collections to include the archives of a New England-based canonical hermitess whose hermitage was funded by the California Province of Jesuits, and the periodicals of the Catholic Women's Network, a Bay Area organization founded by a graduate of SCU's graduate program in pastoral ministries. Altogether these collections, coupled with those of Schneiders and SHF, constitute many facets of women in theology in the Catholic Church. These collections are a legacy that we treasure.

We eagerly await circulation of the white paper cited by McCarthy as one of the outcomes of the *Envisioning the Future of Catholic Religious Archives* conference. In the meantime, as we continue our conversations with women religious congregations, there is one thing that we are clear on: collaboration will be key as we work together to build a future for Catholic Religious Archives in the West. ■



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nancy P. Beaumont

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The Art of Gathering

Priya Parker, author of *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* (Riverhead Books, 2018) and founder of Thrive Labs, “helps activists, elected officials, corporate executives, educators, and philanthropists create transformative gatherings.” I’ve been making my way through her book for several months now, egged on by the notion of a “transformative gathering”—especially for a conference whose theme is “Transformative!”—and heartened that so much of what we’ve discussed and implemented aligns with her wisdom.

But she has also expanded my way of thinking about SAA conferences with her concept of generous authority: “A gathering run on generous authority is run with a strong, confident hand, but it is run selflessly, for the sake of others . . . When I tell you to host with generous authority, I’m not telling you to domineer. I’m saying to find the courage to be authoritative in the service of three goals”—*protect your*

guests, equalize your guests, and connect your guests.

See my column in the March/April issue of *Archival Outlook* (page 24) for many of the steps we’re taking to ensure that those goals are met at ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2019 in Austin.

In addition, we’re plunging into live streaming in an attempt to connect with those who aren’t able to attend the Austin meeting, whether due to travel bans (as for California state employees) or other constraints (usually financial) that affect folks around the country. Our grand experiment this year is to live stream 18 education sessions and the two plenaries so that non-attendees may participate in real time with the conference. Why 18 sessions? Because live streaming is (still) really expensive (at \$5,500 per room per day), and we decided to capture the two sessions across nine time slots that the Program Committee thinks will attract the most attendees. The sessions will not

be interactive virtually; we encourage you to use Twitter to share thoughts and ask questions. (Use #SAA19 plus the session number, such as #101. We’ve asked the session chairs to designate someone in the live-streamed sessions who will follow Twitter and pose questions to the speakers.)

We’ll be packaging the live-stream option with on-demand (after-the-fact) access to the live-streamed videos plus audio recordings and dynamic screen (slide) capture of all education sessions and (for the first time) SAA section meetings. There are many technical details to be worked out, but watch the SAA and conference websites for announcements about the package. It will be available to non-attendee members for around \$99—and to all conference registrants as part of their registration fee.

Never ones to let grass grow under our feet, see below for the Call for Proposals for “Creating Our Future”—the next big gathering of CoSA and SAA at our 2020 Joint Annual Meeting in Chicago. ■

Call for Program Proposals

ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2020: *Creating Our Future*

Joint Annual Meeting of CoSA and SAA | August 2–8, 2020 | Hilton Chicago

Creativity fuels the 21st-century archivist. ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2020: *Creating Our Future* invites us to make visible the ingenuity that is inherent in our work—and to consider how we can leverage our creativity to sustain a future-oriented, vibrant, and intellectually invigorating archival profession.

Let’s imagine together. . . .

- What do we want the future to look like?
- What will it take to create that?
- What can we create together? With our users? Our constituencies? Our communities?
- What will the role of the archivist be? What will the role of archives be?
- What do we want the ultimate result of our work to be?

Submit your proposal at <https://www2.archivists.org/am2019/program/call-for-program-proposals>.

**Submission Deadline:
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#AskAnArchivist Day

October 2



On October 2, archivists around the country will take to Twitter

to respond to questions tweeted with the hashtag #AskAnArchivist. Take this opportunity to engage via your personal and institutional Twitter accounts and respond to questions posed directly to you or more generally to all participants. Before then:

- Promote #AskAnArchivist Day among your users and constituents.
- Encourage the public to use #AskAnArchivist and your institution's Twitter handle.
- Talk to your staff and colleagues to develop a plan for responding to tweets throughout the day.
- If you don't already have one, create an institutional Twitter account!

Why are archives important?

What's the oldest item in your collection?

How can teachers use archives in the classroom?

How can I preserve my family photos?

For more info, go to archivists.org/initiatives/askanarchivist-day.