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EDITORIAL NOTE

Reflections on Continuing a Newsletter

Mention archivists and we often are given back a reflection of mousy buns with sensible shoes. Sensible shoes aside students in archival management programs are entering an increasingly dynamic profession whose relevance is growing as the information age booms. The Society of American Archivists has been the place where professionals learn from and share with each other since 1936, in the past year *Chapters and Loose Papers* (CLP) was designed to be that same kind of place for students in archival management programs throughout the country. The mission of SAA is “to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 5,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value.” The goal of the editorial board this year is to expand CLP and offer more opportunities for students to gain publishing experience, and to learn from other student chapters of SAA, in addition to exposing them to activities other student chapters are participating in. In this light the editorial board would like to extend a hearty welcome to all student members of SAA and hope that in the future all members will use this newsletter as a forum for exploration of the profession.



Chapter Happenings across the Nation

Bridging Students at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Katie Blank

The fall semester started with the bang for the SAA student chapter at UW-Milwaukee. We had the most attendees ever from our school at the SAA conference in Chicago! It was great for us to meet students from other schools and to meet each other. There are actually more Distance Education students in the School of Information Studies (SOIS) at UWM than onsite students, so it was nice to meet face-to-face with our classmates and virtual members.

Our meeting in September was another opportunity to bring together all our students. The whole meeting was available live through a chat. We thank Shelly Solberg for frantically typing what was happening onsite so that those online could participate.

For Archives Month we did our annual fall kringle fundraiser. All the proceeds from this fundraiser go towards student conference fees. Besides SAA, some of our members attended the AMIA conference in Rochester, NY, and the Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums Conference in Oklahoma City.

On November 7th the new Records Manager at the UWM Archives, Brad Houston, is meeting with us for a Brown Bag Lunch. He is giving a brief presentation and then fielding questions from students. This event will also be made available live through video and chat for all our distance education students.

We end the semester by participating in the Archives and Ethics Conference held on November 30th. Three distinguished guests, Verne Harris, Menzi Behrnd-Klodt, and David Wallace will be joining us. We are very excited to help with this conference! Please see the conference site: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SOIS/cipr/archives_conf.html

What is the University of Denver SAA student chapter doing in 2007-2008?

Robin Dean

Our two-year-old chapter is thriving with many new members. We plan to do a number of tours of archival facilities, including a behind-the-scenes tour of the Colorado Historical Society, which will take place in November. We also plan to visit the Colorado State University Archives and the Fort Collins Museum and Local History Archive to learn how archives of different sizes and missions function. Then, in the spring we hope to once again tour the American Heritage Center in Laramie, Wyoming. The AHC gave us a fantastic tour this past spring, and we want new members to have a chance to experience the scope of the AHC's operations and innovations.

SAA-DU is sponsoring the official SAA workshop "Understanding Photographs: Introduction to Archival Principles and Practices" on October 25th and 26th on the University of Denver campus. The workshop will be led by experts Marcy Flynn and Laura Downey Staneff. SAA-DU is fortunate enough to sponsor one free student slot in the workshop; the lucky winner will be chosen by a drawing.

We are also spearheading the creation and maintenance of the first DU-MLIS student wiki, a tool designed to help students share information and stanch the loss of knowledge that happens every two years as students graduate. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni will post information about all aspects of life in the MLIS program including professional organizations, student groups, classes, and job-hunting resources. We hope to have our first wiki pages live by the next newsletter so we can share them with our colleagues.

Finally, one of our very own SAA-DU members was honored as the 5,000th person to sign up for membership with SAA! Sam Schiller helped SAA celebrate this important milestone. Congrats SAA and congrats, Sam!

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Chapter Happenings across the Nation

Student Archivists at Maryland

Rebekah Fairbanks

The Student Archivists at Maryland (SAM) SAA Student Chapter continues to have a strong and active membership. The group kicked off the year with a welcome Barbeque and then got a bit more serious with some fun educational events. In September, we had the chance to meet with Dr. Randall Jimerson while he was in town. He spoke to us on "Archival Leadership and Advocacy." Dr. Jimerson reminded us of the importance of developing strong leaders in the profession and of understanding why we do the things we do.

In October for Archives Month, we turned our focus towards digital themes in archives with our annual "Americana" fundraising and educational event. Speakers represented a variety of digitization perspectives ranging from local to national, private to public/government sponsored. We heard from representatives of Footnote, Library of Congress, and the Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage Project. This was a topic and event that interested many different students and was attended by students from many concentrations within the school as well as faculty and local archives professionals.

What better way to wrap up archives month than to hear from the Archivist of the United States? Allen Weinstein met with us this month and spoke about the digitization initiatives and partnerships at the National Archives. In a conversational setting, students were able to get to know the archivist and ask questions about the directions that NARA is taking.

With new students coming in to strengthen our numbers, SAM plans to continue to provide great educational opportunities. We are beginning to organize a series of set lectures that will cover professional topics not covered in traditional archives classes. We also are continuing to organize tours, talks, and social events to meet our members' needs and interests.

Notes from Bloomington

Lisa Hooper

This year marks another turn of the page for the student chapter at Indiana University. We say a grateful thanks and best wishes to the 2006-2007 committee, Donald Force (president), Lisa Hooper (vice president), Kate Moore (secretary), Eleanor Moss (treasurer), and Emily Symonds (webmaster). Donald Force has moved on to bigger and better things and is currently in the Ph.D. program at the University of British Columbia where he is studying with Luciana Duranti. Kate Moore has survived the transition into the archival workforce, and Emily Symonds is completing her last year in the SLIS program at Indiana University. Lisa Hooper has continued on with the chapter, taking on the role of president. New committee members include Kate Costin (vice president), Sarah Patterson (secretary), Rachel Biars (treasurer), and Yan He (webmaster).

The outreach programs begun under Donald's watch have continued with presentations in local high schools and senior living centers. This fall we have expanded our outreach program to the history department here at IUB, giving presentations on how to make the best of the library and archival resources on campus to undergraduate history classes. This year we have several smaller, monthly events surrounded two very large events. On November 5 we are hosting our second annual symposium. This year the theme is "Social Memory and Oral History: Remembering Our Past for Our Future." Panelists for this event are Barbara Truesdell (assistant director of the Center for the Study of History and Memory), John McDowell (professor of folklore and ethnomusicology at Indiana University), and Jody Perkins (dual folklore and MLS student). Full details for the symposium are posted on our website. For the spring term we are hosting the Graduate Student Conference in Archives, Rare Books, and Special Collections on February 9th. This day-long conference will include a morning student paper session, an afternoon workshop by IU Archives photo archivist Brad Cook, and tours of a couple campus repositories. More information, including the call for papers, may be found on our website (www.indiana.edu/~saarchiv) under the heading Graduate Symposium.

Chapter Happenings across the Nation

Louisiana State University

Gerald Chaudron

The Louisiana State University student chapter sponsored the Academy of Certified Archivists examination held for the first time in Baton Rouge, at the Louisiana State Archives on August 29th, with candidates being drawn from LSU archives students and recent graduates, and the wider archival community.

Chapter president, Gerald Chaudron, attended the SAA conference in Chicago after winning the Society's Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award.

The chapter has 12 new members from the Fall intake of archives-track students at the LSU School of Library and Information Science, the largest new intake the School has had in its history.



Gerald Chaudron and Dr. Elizabeth Dow in Chicago

Chapter notes from San Jose State University's SAASC

Ann Armstrong

Due to the strong distance learning component involved in our program, with students on campuses located in both southern and northern California, we seek every possible opportunity to meet in person, instead of merely online. One of the best methods of engaging students is through an active tour schedule, which was amped up for Archives Month. Next week students will meet with Jean Deken, Archivist, and Laura O'Hara, Associate Archivist, for a tour of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). Its Archives & History Office was established in 1989 to develop policies and procedures for the evaluation and preservation of the Laboratory's documentary heritage. Among its activities, SLAC is involved in preserving the first American website and other electronic records. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.slac.stanford.edu/history/>.

Later in the week, a second event has been arranged with Nancy Goldman, Head Librarian, at the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archives (BAM/PFA). It will include a tour and demonstration of some of their online resources, including the CineFiles film document image database containing approximately 40 000 items. Please see <http://www.bampfa.berkeley.edu/pfalibrary/> for details.

A tour is being finalized for November of the Holocaust Center of Northern California, (<http://www.hcnc.org/archives/index.html>) which houses the second largest Holocaust collection after the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

We are organizing a panel discussion in December to inform students of the variety of work and institutions available to aspiring archivists. Two speakers are confirmed: Dr. Anne Saldinger of the Oral History Project at the Holocaust Center of Northern California, and James Mockoski, Film Archivist with American Zoetrope.

SJSU SAASC
October 19, 2007

Chapter Happenings across the Nation

The Student Chapter of the American Archivists

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Amanda Ross

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) boasts an active and vibrant Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists (SCOSAA). To supplement the excellent in-class study and enriching work opportunities, SCOSAA promotes exciting educational programs, experiential learning opportunities, and social networking.

Recognizing the common and overlapping interests of SILS students involved with SCOSAA and AMLISS (Art and Museum Library and Information Science Students), the two groups worked together to plan and co-host a series of special events. In addition to staff-led talks, graduate students were tapped to present certain projects, allowing for the professional development of the speakers as well as the audience!

The cooperative model allows for resource sharing, prevents date conflicts and results in increased attendance. Programs include:

- Southern Folklife Collection, with sound and image librarian Steve Weiss
- Manuscripts and Oral History, with graduate students Noah Huffman and Angela McClendon
- Ackland Art Museum, with educator for university audiences Carolyn Allmendinger
- Special Collections Sampler, with staff and graduate students
- North Carolina Collection, with Neil Fulghum and Linda Jacobson
- Special Collections Conservation, with specialist Jan Paris

Upcoming

- Visual Images and Art Objects in Special Collections, with Rare Book Collection staff and graduate students

SCOSAA has supported professional enhancement opportunities for students. One SCOSAA officer traveled to this summer's SAA Conference to represent our chapter at the poster session. This fall, SILS professor Cal Lee sponsored a workshop on presenting at next year's SAA meeting. And, in honor of Archives Week, SCOSAA officer Rita Johnston has collaborated with [NC ECHO](#) metadata coordinator Kathy Wisser to hold a session on Encoded Archival Context (EAC). Interested persons will have the opportunity to contribute to the exciting work at the North Carolina Biographical and Historical Information Online ([NCBHIO](#)) project.

Sharing in UNC's commitment to "service to the state," Chapel Hill's SCOSAA has developed a service project with local residence centers for low-income seniors. Through the organizational efforts of SCOSAA officer Johanna Russ, UNC SILS students have been paired with senior residents at Covenant Place in Chapel Hill and St. Joseph's Place in Durham. Students will help residents organize residents' personal photographs, movies, and papers, and perhaps even collect oral histories!

And what is graduate school without socializing? SCOSAA adds much-needed entertainment to students' social calendar by hosting movie nights at officers' homes and sponsoring field trips to nearby cultural institutions. For movie nights, SCOSAA has highlighted local food delights by offering a pizza dinner and gourmet popsicles while attendees enjoyed the intrigues of *The Librarian*, *The Librarian II*, and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Chapter Happenings across the Nation

Wright State University

Daniel Shlegel, Jr.

The Wright State University chapter of SAA has been busy planning field trips for the winter quarter and recruiting new members. The Wright State Public History program has grown and many new faces are showing up at classes.

The difficulty in finding a meeting time with a large number of students and with people working full time jobs, jobs that run longer than a typical 9-5 shift, or classes at all times of the day, we decided to get creative and hold meetings on Sunday evenings. We have worked hard to recruit new members and have even tempted them with brownies and cookies at meetings.

We have scheduled two field trips for our winter break and are already looking forward to a trip over spring break. We are going to visit the Cincinnati Museum Center in early December and then the Henry Clay house and Pleasant Hill Shaker Village.

For our spring break trip, we have decided to visit Chicago, Nashville, or Detroit.

A goal for this year is to bring our advisors and professors more involved in the meetings and outings. A new director of the program has started, she is the Head of the Special Collections and Archives, so she already knew most of the students, but she is very excited to bring a sense of community to the program and the WSU student chapter of SAA is excited to be involved.

SAA@UCLA

Walter Butler

The student chapter at UCLA is proud to welcome its new first year officers and is looking forward to an exciting year of archival activity.

The Student Chapter at UCLA has decided to organize activities to strengthen its outreach goals. It was realized that many students within and outside of the department did not have knowledge of the various archives at UCLA. To confront this issue, the chapter collaborated with the University Archives and began to organize walking tours of the archives at UCLA. Given the amount of archives on campus, the walking tours have been designed to occur every quarter and will visit different archives each tour. The first walking tour visited the University Archives, the Department of Special Collections, and the Oral History Program. For the Winter Quarter, the chapter is organizing two more walking tours. It is hoped that these walking tours will enable the student chapter to become an active force at UCLA in making the archival collections more accessible for graduate and undergraduate students.

Another emerging goal for the chapter is to begin collecting materials from UCLA student groups for the University Archives. This project is slotted to begin during the Winter Quarter. The goal is to help make archives a more visible and dynamic part of student life at UCLA. (Wish us luck!)

Chapter Happenings across the Nation

Simmons College SCoSAA

Andrea Medina-Smith

The role of SCoSAA at Simmons College is to build the community of students in the archival management program and share the archival perspective with the rest of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. During the fall 2007 semester SCoSAA concentrated on exploring archives around the Boston area. The first fieldtrip we took was to the Longfellow National Historic Site (<http://nps.gov/long>) where Henry Wadsworth Longfellow lived and was also the headquarters of General George Washington during the early years of the American War for Independence.

The second fieldtrip was to Mt. Auburn Cemetery, in Watertown, Massachusetts. The cemetery was founded in 1831 as one of the first landscaped public spaces in the United States. Today, it is still an active cemetery with headstones dating back to the 19th century mingled in with new residents. In the next semester, SCoSAA hopes to visit more archives in our area and is looking into archival consulting for local non-profits. More to come in the next issue!

If your chapter was not represented in this issue, please contact the editorial board for submission information for the upcoming issue. Not all the contact information for the Chapters has been updated.

Also, if your school does not have a chapter, but have students who work on archival projects, please share with us as well! We are very interested in hearing more from the "loose papers".

E-mail: wbutler@ucla.edu

Thank you!!

Literature Reviews



[Dreaming in Code: Two Dozen Programmers, Three Years, 4,732 Bugs, and One Quest for Transcendent Software](#) (or “A book about why software is hard”) by Scott Rosenberg

Jeanne Kramer-Smyth, University of Maryland

Rosenberg reports on the creation of an open source software tool named [Chandler](#). He got permission to report on the project much as an [embedded journalist](#) does for a military unit. He went to meetings. He interviewed team members. He documented the ups and downs and real-world challenges of building a complex software tool based on a [vision](#).

The book is well written - and it might just scare you. If there is that much chaos in the creation of these software systems (and such frequent failure in the process), what does that mean for the archivist charged with the preservation of the data locked up inside these systems?

So many attempts at preservation of archival electronic records are in such an early stage that there is no way to know what is misunderstood. Some further down the path have discovered that their map to the data does not bear any resemblance to the actual records they find themselves in charge of describing and arranging. I know that in some cases everything is fine. The records being accessioned are well documented and thoroughly understood.

My fear is that in many cases we won't know that we don't have all the pieces we need to decipher the data until many years down the road. While I may sound alarmist, I don't think I am overstating the situation. For the archivist tasked with ensuring that future generations can make use of the electronic records in their care - the challenges will be great. This sort of thing is hard even when you have the people who wrote the code sitting next to you available to answer questions and a working program with which to experiment. It just makes my head hurt to imagine piecing together the meaning of data in custom built databases long after the working software and programmers are well beyond reach.

[Dreaming in Code](#) is really a great read. The people are interesting. The issues are interesting. The author does a good job of explaining the inner workings of the software world by following one real world example and grounding it in the landscape of the history of software creation. And he manages to include great analogies to explain things to those looking in curiously from outside of the software world.

***** This is a shortened edit from Jeanne Kramer-Smyth's blog "Spellbound". Please visit her blog to read more about Rosenberg's work :***

<http://www.spellboundblog.com/2007/05/24/book-review-dreaming-in-code-a-book-about-why-software-is-hard/>



Literature Reviews



Don't Be a Tool, Archivist:
A Review of *Cloud Atlas*, by David Mitchell

Andrew J. Lau, University of California, Los Angeles.

The Archivist makes an appearance in David Mitchell's third novel, *Cloud Atlas*. This searing work of post-modern fiction is at once ambitious in the way it traverses genre fictions between chapters as it is immediately accessible as a book to be read on a lazy Sunday afternoon (with a cool breeze whispering through the crack in your window, and you, with a mug of Gen Mai Cha in hand). For you, archivist with a little "a," the story of "The Orison of Sonmi~451" in *Cloud Atlas* may be of particular interest.

Mitchell's story takes place in a near-futuristic Korea, all neon lights and corruption. Korea has become overrun by a political system of corporate control and hegemony that has caused the nation to spiral wildly into a state of dystopia. Sonmi~451 is a fabricant, a soap-eating clone engineered solely for the purpose of serving in a fast-food restaurant. Her story places her across the table from the Archivist who is interviewing her after a failed uprising that she was instrumental in staging. The story of her rebellion against the "corpocracy" is told as the Archivist questions various points from when she became aware of her status as a product of human engineering (an event called "ascension"), to how she came to be involved with a resistance group, and ultimately, how she became their messianic icon and martyr. Sonmi~451 faces her execution at the hands of the society that had created her specifically to be enslaved, and the Archivist aims to preserve her story as a record of the events of the uprising.

"The Orison of Sonmi~451" centers on the fabricant and her story, but also raises, perhaps too tangentially to be immediately detectable, the role of archivists and the positions and locations from which we operate. In light of the dysoptian Korea of *Cloud Atlas* as an example at its extreme, are we merely tools for the organizations we work for? And if we are, what are the repercussions for our hands writing histories? For whom are we writing those histories? Mitchell may not have written his chapter expressly as a sly admonition for the contingent of archivists among his readership, but his implicit recommendation that we be reflexive of how we conduct ourselves professionally and the larger implications of our work has reverberated through the spaces of our archives for years. Even if we as archivists should feel the need to internalize the prescriptions of the organizations that we work for as a matter of duty for professional practice, we can in the very least be cognizant of the consequences of our actions.

Have you read a good or bad book recently with an archival theme or character? Submit your review of it for the next issue of C&LP!



Archival Technology



SAA 2007 Session 106 Constructing Sustainability: Real-World Implementations of Preservation Standards for Born-Digital Design Documentation (Sponsored by the Architectural Records Roundtable)
 Jeanne Kramer-Smyth, University of Maryland

SAA 2007 Session 106 [Constructing Sustainability: Real-World Implementations of Preservation Standards for Born-Digital Design Documentation](#) was sponsored by the Architectural Records Roundtable. Each panelist gave a 5 minute brief about the way in which they are working toward preserving digital design community records. David Read, the session chair and Information Resources Manager of [DiMella Shaffer](#), introduction each of the panelists and helped guide the Q&A portion of the session.

[Phil Bernstein](#), Architect and Technologist from [Autodesk](#), kicked off the 5 minute summaries with a quick history of design technology highlighting the shift from paper drawings to the use of [Building Information Modeling](#) (BIM). BIM relies on a database that generates 'reports' that are in fact 'drawings'.

[Carissa Kowalski Dougherty](#) from the [Department of Architecture and Design](#) of the [Art Institute of Chicago](#) talked about the [Digital Archive for Architecture \(DAArch\)](#) project. They considered how Architecture and Design firms are using software tools to produce and design - but examined these questions from a museum and curatorial perspective.

Annemarie van Roessel of the [Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library](#) at Columbia University discussed Columbia's major [Manhattanville](#) project. Manhattanville is a 30 year architectural project for 17 acres targeting intended to be completed in 2030. The Avery is committed to developing capacity for digital archiving by 2009.

Dennis Newman, general manager at [PFS Corporation](#) and member of the PDF standards working group of ISO was the final panelist. He has clients who need to preserve/archive finished drawings - such as the documents being sent along to regulatory agencies for final approval. He discussed the differences between [PDF/A-1](#) and [PDF-E](#).

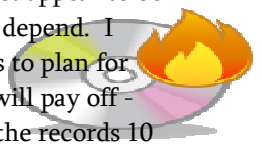


This is a shortened version of Jeanne Kramer-Smith's review of Session 106. To read more about the session, please visit her blog at:
<http://www.spellboundblog.com/2007/09/08/saa2007-preserving-born-digital-records-of-the-design-community-session-106/>

My Thoughts

As seems to be the case with all born digital records, there are no easy answers. While events like 9-11 have had impacts on the types of final products that regulatory agencies and first responders need to evaluate and have easy access to, the speed of innovation and evolution in building design is stunning. It should come as no surprise that architects are more concerned with finding the best tools for their trade than they are with how to preserve the artifacts of their ultimate creations. They will change the tools they use when they find a better tool to manifest their vision.

The most promising option seems to be having archivists get involved in discussions with the software developers, the architects, the builders and government early in the design process. The traditional model of archivists receiving the final products of business processes years after they were completed does not appear to be an answer on which we can depend. I suspect that proactive efforts to plan for preservation from the start will pay off - both for those trying to use the records 10 years from now and for those who want to preserve some subset of the records of the design community for future generations



Special Projects

Outreach Through Film

Emilia Garvey, University of Illinois

What's changed at the University of Illinois Library since 1936? As viewers of the Hollywood Librarian found out at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), not all that much! In conjunction with the documentary, brought to town by the University's Library and Information Science Library, The UIUC SAA showed a film from the University Archives collection which highlighted GSLIS' and the University's history as well as the importance of film preservation. This event provided a logical and entertaining meeting point for librarians, archivists, and conveniently, library school students.

The Hollywood Librarian is a full-length documentary film which focuses on the work and lives of librarians, framed within the context of librarians in movies, many of which are archival in their own right, such as Desk Set and The Music Man. The film premiered at the ALA conference in June 2007, and it showed in libraries and library schools across the country during Banned Books week.

We decided to personalize the experience a little bit, by showing that librarians can make films as well as appear in them. With our members' long-standing interest in audiovisual preservation, we jumped at the opportunity. Our Graduate School has been around since 1893 and has the archival records to prove it. We availed ourselves of the University Archives and located a film entitled "Found in A Book" created in 1936 by the Library School's Course in Administration. It's a great example of bibliographic instruction as it was 71 years ago.

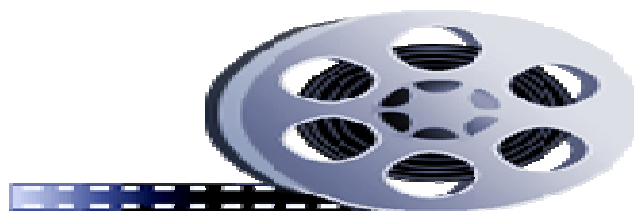
The premise of this silent, but very well done, film: two freshmen roommates are assigned a "theme" paper on puppet-plays. The first student heads to the library, where he learns, in graphic detail, the ins and outs of an encyclopedia's bibliography, the library's paper card catalogs, and that fondly remembered institution: the magazine index. The good student takes his notes on index cards, fills out call slips, and gets some help from the trusty, and very prim, reference librarian. All of this research makes it very easy for him to write his paper, while his roommate, who did not use the library, is back at home, wastebasket filled with crumpled up pages with such literary gems scratched on them as

"Puppet-plays are plays played with puppets." The boy who gets his work done by using the library is able to go out on his Friday night date, while the poor student is trapped amongst an ever-growing pile of papers.

While this was a great story, one of the things that pleased the audience most was a chance to see the University's main library building as it still is--the same majestic arches at its entrance, the same wide marble staircases, the same expansive reference room, and the very same, very immobile rows upon rows of card catalogs.

This was a great outreach and publicity effort in many ways. First of all, it emphasized, in a very entertaining way, the multi-faceted value of an archival item. The film had evidential value, because it documented the University, the library school, the educational process, and the social activities in the 1930s. Secondly, the click-click-click of the film projector in the auditorium and the pause we had to take to switch reels reminded people of the eccentricities of the film medium, which require special care and preservation. Finally, we did use the event as a promotional tool, to announce a workshop on practical film preservation we have planned for November, thus sparking interest in our group and in the University's archival collection. Many librarians and students have requested that the film to be transferred to DVD for easier, more frequent viewings.

It can be a little tough to make archives and archival education seem relevant in a school so esteemed for its general library curriculum, which has less emphasis on specific archival classes. But it looks like, with "Found in a Book" we hit on a great outreach and archival education tool that didn't require too much work from the library community we work and learn with. In a medium that's made for entertainment, history goes down easy.



Special Projects

Archives in the News

Queering the South Caroliniana Library

Santi Thompson, University of South Carolina

With the immense task of collecting the history and culture of the citizens of South Carolina, the South Caroliniana Library (SCL), a manuscript and book repository at the University of South Carolina, has occasionally overlooked a few voices along the way. In the process of doing research on queer history in South Carolina, I realized that the documentation for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (GLBTQ) was almost non-existent at SCL and many other archives in the state, despite the long legacy of GLBTQ activism and activity.

To help remedy the queer silence, I initiated an oral history project to capture the memories and experiences of activists and community leaders in Columbia, South Carolina's GLBTQ community. Under the guidance of Nicholas Meriwether, SCL Oral Historian, and with the wisdom of Dr. Ed Madden, Associate Professor of English, my oral history project records a myriad of topics that are essential to know in order to understand the GLBTQ community in Columbia, from the early activist efforts to the bar, drag, leather, and other interests that created and fostered a largely hidden community over the past four decades in South Carolina. In addition to the oral history project, the SCL has also committed to expanding its GLBTQ collections by launching a campaign to actively acquire and make available records, manuscripts, visual materials, and other items with queer content.

Once it is available for public use, the collections will serve as a critical tool both to advocate for GLBTQ issues and to educate on the community's history and accomplishments. While there is still much to be done, the GLBTQ collections and oral history project serve as a first step to developing a more diverse and complex dialogue around gender, race, and sexuality in South Carolina – a true retelling of the state's history.

If you are interested in learning more about the ways that the SCL is preserving the memories, records, and voices of South Carolina's GLBTQ communities, please contact me at thomps34@mailbox.sc.edu

Vatican Archives Reveals its Secrets

Robin Fitzpatrick, University of California, Los Angeles

The Chinon parchment, a Latin text documenting the early 14th century trial against the Knights Templar for charges of heresy and blasphemy, was discovered by Barbara Frale in the Vatican Secret Archives five years ago. To the delight of historians and Knights Templar enthusiasts, facsimiles of the document that may have been lost to history due to a cataloging error will now be made available in a limited edition for a purchase price of just over \$8000.00 per copy. Pope Benedict XVI will receive the first copy and the remaining 799 will go to libraries and special collectors worldwide.

Wiley, David. "Vatican archive yields Templar Secrets." *BBC News*, October 15, 2007, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7044741.stm>.

Can new technology save old technology?

Robin Fitzpatrick, University of California, Los Angeles

The November 2007 issue of *National Geographic* magazine reported an effort by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, located in Berkeley, California, to save recordings stored on aging and fragile Dictabelts. Scientists are attempting to optically scan the grooves on the surface of the 3.5 inch-wide plastic loop. The Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory is working with a particularly important recording. Dictabelt #10 contains a two-way radio transmission from one of the motorcycles in President John F. Kennedy's November 22, 1963 motorcade. The scientists' results will be important for the National Archives which holds thousands of Dictabelt recordings.

Mairson, Alan. "Saving Sounds of History." *National Geographic*, November, 2007.

