

Archives Alive! Activating Archives for Engagement and Equity

Presentation Resources Handout

Western Museums Association Annual Meeting 2022 *Forward*: Portland, Oregon

ACCESSIBILITY + ENGAGEMENT

Building a National Finding Aid Network (NAFAN)

A two and a half year research and demonstration project (September 2020 to February 2023), rooted in the goal of providing inclusive, comprehensive, and persistent access to descriptions of archival collections or "finding aids." We believe we can more sustainably manage and provide access to these materials by developing a large-scale, national finding aid network that is community-driven, -sustained, and -governed.

<https://confluence.ucop.edu/display/NAFAN/>

California Revealed

California Revealed is a California State Library initiative that helps public libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other heritage groups digitize, preserve, and provide online access to materials documenting the state's history, art, and cultures. We also provide free access and preservation services for existing digital collections, including technical advice and guidance, for partner organizations with in-house digitization programs.

<https://californiarevealed.org/>

California Digital Library (CDL): Calisphere and OAC (Online Archive of California)

Calisphere provides free access to unique and historically important artifacts for research, teaching, and general exploration. Discover photographs, documents, letters, artwork, diaries, oral histories, films, advertisements, musical recordings, and more. The collections on Calisphere have been digitized and contributed by all ten campuses of the University of California and other important libraries, archives, and museums throughout the state.

The OAC provides free public access to primary sources—including manuscripts, photographs, artwork, scientific data and more—through collection guides and 250,000 digitized images and documents. Analogous to catalog records for books, collection guides (also known as finding aids) are the descriptive records used to find, understand, and locate archival resources and unique materials. They help users learn more about the scope of a collection so they know if it is likely to meet their research needs. The content on the OAC is contributed by archives, special collections, libraries, historical societies, and museums at all ten UC campuses and across California that house the original materials.

<https://cdlib.org/services/pad/calisphere/>

<https://cdlib.org/services/pad/oac/>

Collections Trust Rethinking Cataloging

<https://collectionstrust.org.uk/blog/rethinking-cataloguing-2/>

Society of American Archivist (SAA)

<https://www2.archivists.org/aboutsaa>

SAA Museum Archives Section: <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/museum-archives-section>

SAR (School for Advance Research) Guidelines for Collaboration

Guidelines were developed over a three-year period of collaboration between Native and non-Native museum professionals, cultural leaders, and artists. The Guidelines are intended as a resource for museums and communities planning and carrying out collaborative work. These documents do not present a set of rules; instead, they offer principles and considerations for building successful collaborations.

<https://guidelinesforcollaboration.info/>

<https://sarweb.org/blog-guidelines-for-collaboration-museums-and-communities-seeking-equitable-change/>

EQUITY + INCLUSIVITY

The Black Scholar, Spring 2022, Volume 52, Issue 2, Black Archival Practice

Founded in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1969 by Robert Chrisman and Nathan Hare, THE BLACK SCHOLAR (TBS) is the first journal of Black studies and research.

<https://www.theblackscholar.org/call-for-papers/black-archival-practice/>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rtbs20/current>

Decolonizing Archival Methodology

Combating hegemony and moving towards a collaborative archival environment: by Taylor R. Genovese
DOI: 10.20507/AlterNative.2016.12.1.3

Badè Museum and Archaeological Research Facility, UC Berkeley, Unsilencing the Archives Series

The 2021-2022 monthly lecture series features scholars working on decolonizing the history of archaeology in Mandate Palestine and elsewhere in the Middle East.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?app=desktop&list=PLD8G3aDlGh36Uvzo-r3sgPn5M4MMf0GAW>

Shift Collective: Needs Assessment to Identify Hidden Collections Documenting America's Diverse Culture and History

National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) sought to gain a comprehensive understanding of the landscape of collections in small and diverse archives, and to identify their discovery, access, and use issues with goal "to enhance the capacity of small and diverse organizations with historical records collections."

<https://www.shiftcollective.us/casestudies3/2021nhprcreport>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f077037c9ef6a2f026bdd70/t/6068f6de78b53070e6d3d913/1617491685095/Shift-NHPRC+survey+report-2021.pdf>

Lyrasis Now: Current Challenges for Small and Diverse Organizations

Needs Assessment to document needs of small and diverse archival organizations and repositories with intent to outline barriers to long-term sustainability, growth, and public access. (NHPRC)

<https://lyrasisnow.org/current-challenges-for-small-and-diverse-organizations/>

Museopunks Episode 41: Digitization is not neutral

Over the past decade, museums have increasingly shared high-resolution open access images of their collections. Yet there are significant legal and ethical complexities related to digital cultural heritage, particularly when blanket decisions about open access are made without involving communities of origin. In this episode, the Punks are joined by Mathilde Pavis and Andrea Wallace to discuss their Response to the 2018 Sarr-Savoy Report, which addresses intellectual property rights and open access relevant to the digitization and restitution of African Cultural Heritage and associated materials, and come to the conclusion that we need to be discussing digital cultural heritage with far more nuance.

<https://www.aam-us.org/2019/12/19/museopunks-episode-41-digitization-is-not-neutral/>

Addressing Systemic Challenges in the Connecticut Digital Archive. A CTDA in Context White Paper

CTDA in Context is a program of the Connecticut Digital Archive started in the summer of 2020 to identify and break down socialized power structures and inspire institutional and systemic change in Connecticut's cultural heritage community.

<https://medium.com/connecticut-digital-archive-connect/addressing-systemic-challenges-in-the-connecticut-digital-archive-8c09ce44252c>

White paper:

http://ctdaincontext.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CTDA-in-Context_10.22.2021.pdf

Ethically Teaching Primary Sources that Reflect Histories of Violence, Hate, and Oppression

The Rare

Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries' Instruction and Outreach Committee's Outreach Toolkit Subcommittee offers the following suggestions to help move the community toward a common set of goals for thinking about how to ethically teach primary sources that reflect difficult and violent histories. The suggestions are student-centered and include a reflection component for special collections and archival instructors.

<https://tpscollective.org/guidelines-toolkit/ethically-teaching-primary-sources-that-reflect-histories-of-violence-hate-and-oppression/>

<https://csuci.libcal.com/event/8930215?hs=a>

<https://csuci.libcal.com/event/8944922?hs=a>

<https://guidelinesforcollaboration.info/>

Towards Addressing Harm in Archives

Lambda Archives of San Diego (LASD) is proactively collecting, preserving, and sharing LGBTQ history through an intentional anti-racist, anti-oppressive lens to address harm in archives.

<https://calarchivists.org/resources/Documents/Newsletter/2022Spring.pdf>

The **Homosaurus** is an international linked data vocabulary of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) terms. This vocabulary is intended to function as a companion to broad subject term vocabularies, such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings. Libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions are encouraged to use the Homosaurus to support LGBTQ research by enhancing the discoverability of their LGBTQ resources.

<https://homosaurus.org/>

Anti-Racist Description Resources

Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia (A4BLiP) is a loose association of archivists, librarians, and allied professionals in the Philadelphia and Delaware Valley area responding to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement. One of its working groups, the Anti-Racist Description Working Group, is addressing anti-oppressive archival description.

https://archivesforblacklives.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/ardr_final.pdf

Recollection Wisconsin's Digital Readiness Toolkit

A complete guide to creating and tending a digital collection. The Toolkit follows the structure of the Digital Readiness Levels, a framework developed and tested by members of the Wisconsin cultural heritage community and designed to help small, rural, or under-resourced public history organizations plan and implement digital projects in order to increase access to their unique collections.

<https://recollectionwisconsin.org/digital-readiness-toolkit>

Remembering the Howard University Librarian Who Decolonized the Way Books Were Catalogued

Dorothy Porter challenged the racial bias in the Dewey Decimal System, putting black scholars alongside white colleagues.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/remembering-howard-university-librarian-who-decolonized-way-books-were-catalogued-180970890/>

UC Irvine: Community-Centered Archives Practice: Transforming Education, Archives, and Community History (C-CAP)

C-CAP TEACH will cultivate commitment among higher education institutions to community-centered archives approaches, simultaneously solidifying the ability and responsibility of academic libraries to engage critically and contribute to social justice-focused scholarship, training, pedagogy, and partnerships in their communities.

<https://sites.uci.edu/ccap/>

<https://ocseaa.lib.uci.edu/partnerships>

T-Kay Sangwand- Decolonizing archival practice/human rights archiving

Decolonizing archival practice and diversifying the historical record through post-custodial human rights archiving

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MXUD8z1pWE>

MORE FROM US

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PHOEBE A. HEARST MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UC BERKELEY

The Carver's Art of the Indians of Northwestern California

Partnering with California Revealed, the Hearst Museum sought a low staff impact digitization project to both digitally preserve and to offer free access to otherwise inaccessible California collections. Film and VHS/Beta video with condition issues due to media instabilities were chosen. The Carver's Art video by Dr. Ira Jacknis was produced to accompany an exhibition at the Hearst Museum in 1995 and includes historical 19th century collections and photographs, as well as the work of and interviews with carvers George Blake (Hupa/Yurok) and Frank Gist (Yurok).

<https://californiarevealed.org/islandora/object/cavpp%3A21421>

Creation of an Archive

Physical and digital archival project in response to the discovery of inaccessible research and collections supporting documentation. Physically culled and centralized in 2015 as a result of a five-year permanent collection inventory and relocation project, the museum continues efforts to organize and create digital finding aids. Initially, finding aids were posted on the museum's website then by using non-specialist tools such as Records Express available through the Online Archive of California (OAC), the museum is able to engage a wider audience.

<https://hearstmuseum.berkeley.edu/collection/africa/>

<https://oac.cdlib.org/institutions/UC+Berkeley::Phoebe+A.+Hearst+Museum+of+Anthropology>

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UC SAN FRANCISCO

Pioneering Child Studies: Digitizing and Providing Access to Collection of Women Physicians who Spearheaded Behavioral and Developmental Pediatrics.

Digitization project to create a digital collection on [Calisphere](#) containing materials from five collections held at UC San Francisco documenting life and work of five women physicians and social workers, Drs. [Hulda Evelyn Thelander](#), [Helen Fahl Gofman](#), [Selma Fraiberg](#), [Leona Mayer Bayer](#), and [Ms. Carol Hardgrove](#), who were pioneers in the developmental-behavioral pediatrics research, patient care, and public-health policy. These materials will enable researchers and general public to understand evolution of social policy and cultural norms as they relate to special education, people with disabilities, and equitable access to health care.

<https://broughttolight.ucsf.edu/2022/01/13/new-nhprc-grant-will-bring-to-light-stories-of-women-physicians/>

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THE GLOBAL MUSEUM, SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Removing Collector Names from Museum Legacy Collections: A Case Study and Discussion Panel with the Global Museum at San Francisco State University

Museum legacy collections often comprise archaeological objects and human remains purchased from the antiquities market. From a 21st century museum and archaeological perspective, these collections require a level of care and research that necessitates examining their legacy, meaning, and use.

Acknowledging these inherited histories and reevaluating these legacies often means museums must address the loss of object context, the problematic practices of colonial collecting, and the traumatic histories of racial bias and racist narratives often presented to the public.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4231qx08wY>