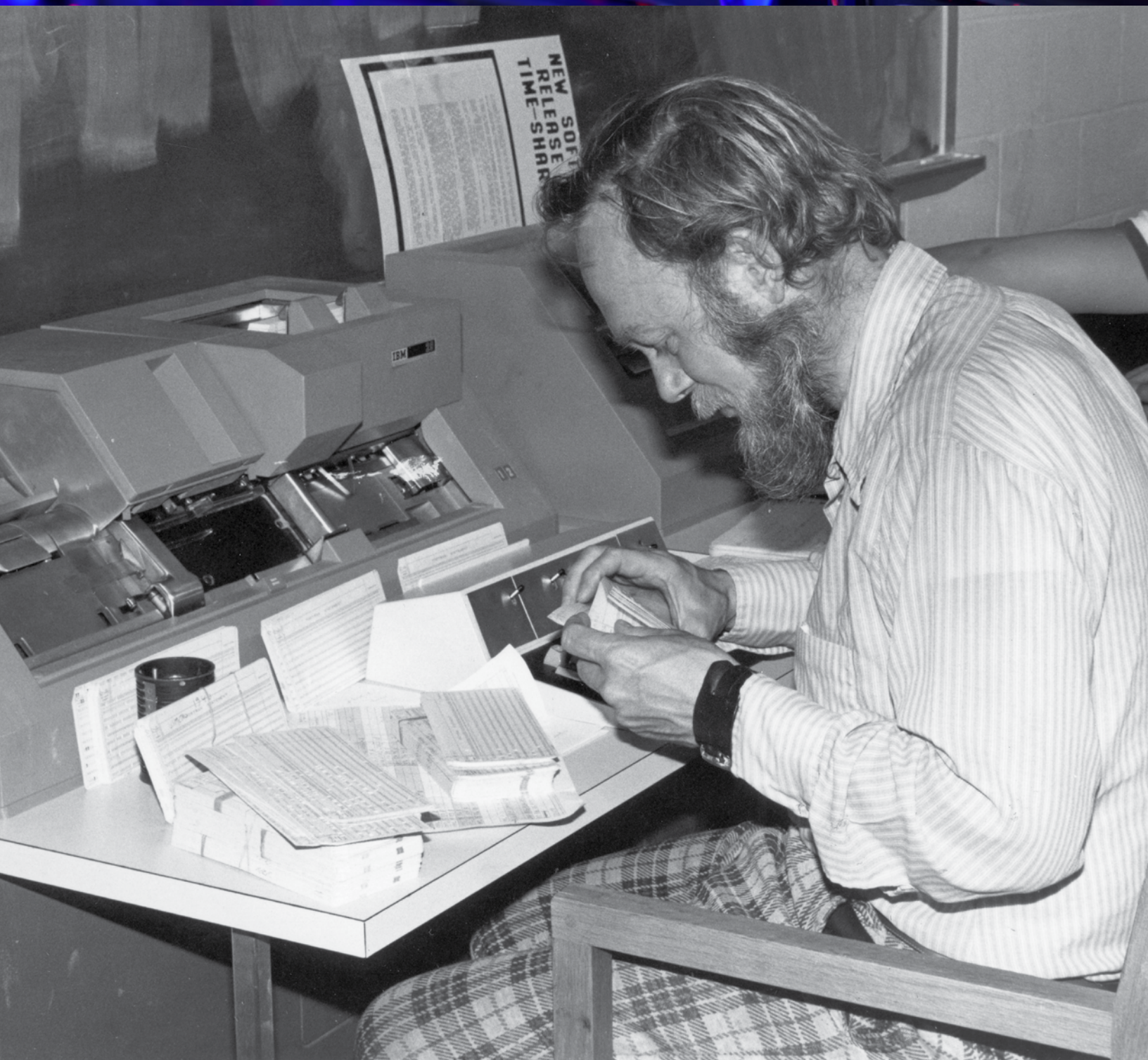


KEEPING ARCHIVES RELEVANT IN THE DIGITAL AGE

MARAC VIRTUAL MEETING | APRIL 26-28, 2023



WELCOME TO MARAC'S SECOND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



THE VIRTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRAM COMMITTEES WELCOME YOU TO THE VIRTUAL 2023

SPRING MARAC! To keep Zoom fatigue at bay and focus on a slate of incredible speakers, the conference will span three days. Spotlighted throughout the conference is the theme "Keeping Archives Relevant in the Digital Age." In addition, there will be opportunities to attend vendor talks and experience our asynchronous poster sessions and tours!

The conference opens with a lunchtime plenary talk on Wednesday by Franklin Vagnone, titled "Drowning in Love: A Museum Anarchist's Guide to Collections Care." Vagnone will discuss museum and cultural site trends and how these trends can help inform ways that we can better utilize our collections.

After three years of reimagining reference services, hosting and attending numerous Zoom meetings, and working to make more collections accessible online, now is the time to take a deeper look at how fellow archivists have innovated in their "new normal" pivots. Sessions throughout the conference focus on gains made in making archives more

discoverable and engaging, as well as acknowledging the gaps in our knowledge and ethical labor practices.

The Thursday MARAC Business Meeting will take place from noon to 1 p.m. All conference times are Eastern Standard Time. Some content may be recorded, including any audience participation.

We hope this virtual conference will bring you all the wonderful and thought-provoking information you have come to expect from a MARAC conference, just from the comfort of your office chair, your home, or wherever you may be.

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Deb Schiff, *The College of New Jersey*

John Zarrillo, *Georgetown University*

CO-CHAIRS, PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Kerri Anne Burke, *Citigroup*

Tara Maharjan, *New Jersey State Archives*

FRONT COVER: Student on computer in Tillet Hall, 1975. Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

LEFT: Staff or student with early computer, early 1980s. Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

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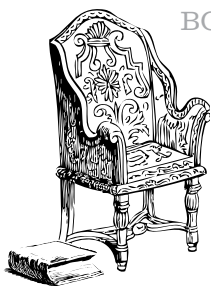
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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE & CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

- 12–1 p.m. Plenary Lunch Talk
- 1:10–1:35 p.m. Vendor Talk
- 1:40–2 p.m. Live Tour Host Q&A session

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

- 10–11:20 a.m. Session Block 1
- 11:30–11:55 a.m. Vendor Talk
- 12–1 p.m. MARAC Business Meeting
- 1:10–1:35 p.m. Vendor Talk
- 1:40–3 p.m. Session Block 2
- 3:10–3:35 p.m. Vendor Talk
- 3:40–5 p.m. Session Block 3

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

- 9–10:20 a.m. Session Block 4
- 10:30–10:55 a.m. Vendor Talk
- 11 a.m.–12:20 p.m. Session Block 5
- 12:30–1 p.m. Vendor Talk

**FOR ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION:
WWW.MARAC.INFO/SPRING-2023-CONFERENCE.**

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SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

PLENARY

12–1 P.M.

DROWNING IN LOVE: A MUSEUM ANARCHIST'S GUIDE TO COLLECTIONS CARE



Frankie Vagnone, *Public Historian*

In this visual presentation, Frankie Vagnone will discuss museum and cultural site trends and how these trends can help inform ways that we can better utilize our collections. A generational shift has been taking place that is changing the way we think about death, long-term care, categories & fluidity, and the role of non-profits in the larger community. "I love pretty things," Vagnone states, "but these things need to speak to more than just the eyes."

Frankie Vagnone is a Public Historian who leads the highly respected international cultural consulting firm Twisted Preservation. In addition, he is President of the Newport Restoration Foundation (Newport, Rhode Island). Prior to his current practice, Frankie was CEO of Old Salem Museums & Gardens and The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts-North Carolina (a 100-acre national historic landmark district and living history site), Executive Director of the Historic House Trust of the City of New York (managed 23 historic sites in the five boroughs of New York City), and The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks (a collection of history sites and heritage tourism programs).

Along with numerous published articles, he is the co-author of the best-selling museum-related book, *The Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (2016, with Deborah Ryan), and recently authored a case study in the edited volume *Sound Heritage: Making Music Matter in Historic House Museums* (2021, with John Yeagley). Frankie's blog Twisted Preservation is read in over 90 countries, and his professional practice concentrates on marginalized narratives and cultural institution innovations.

LIVE TOUR HOST Q&A SESSION

1:40–2 P.M.

Join select virtual tour hosts for an informal discussion and Q&A about the collections or projects highlighted in the tours. The hosts will also talk about the process of creating a virtual tour.



The **Collections Management Policy Toolkit** is a free online tool that guides users step-by-step through the process of creating a customized Collections Management Policy for their organization or collection. The CMPToolkit was developed by the **Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts** with generous support from the **Institute of Museum and Library Services**.

Check it out at cmptoolkit.org or scan below to create your free account today!



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CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 10–11:20 A.M.

S1: RE-EXAMINING INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

SPEAKERS: Matt Testa, *Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University*
 Anne-Marie Angelo, *Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University*
 Caitlin Rizzo, *Institute for Advanced Study*
 Deborah Smith, *Jones Memorial Library*

This session will feature a discussion of how new research on difficult topics can fit into broader efforts to recontextualize institutional history. The speakers will also discuss how archives and cultural heritage institutions can partner with historians and other professionals to reconcile difficult histories and forge a more positive future. At the Peabody Institute, questions about George Peabody's personal and financial connections to slavery led to a research project on the founder and his associates. The Jones Memorial Library in Lynchburg was segregated until the 1960s; working with limited resources and staff, the library seeks to acknowledge and move forward from a complex legacy of exclusion. The Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center is challenging The Institute for Advanced Study to reconsider its foundation as a product of a greater effort to build social networks.

S2: MAKING ARCHIVES MORE ACCESSIBLE: INTEGRATING DIGITAL COLLECTIONS AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES AT THE DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPEAKERS: Bill Robinson, *Delaware Historical Society*
 Rebecca Fay, *Delaware Historical Society*
 Kristin Geiger-Rayca, *Delaware Historical Society*
 Leigh Rifenburg, *Delaware Historical Society*

In this session, colleagues at the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) will discuss the development and implementation of their first digital collections platform, the integration

of these collections into ongoing and emerging education initiatives, and continuing audience engagement and impact. The panelists will discuss the successes and challenges of integrating two developing projects—the implementation of a digital asset management system and Liberty in Our Grasp—to make archives more accessible and visible. In addition, they will discuss audience engagement and impact, cross-departmental collaboration within DHS, and the partnerships with vendors, corporate sponsors, non-profits, and teachers that made the projects possible.

S3: MACGYVERING THE ARCHIVES

SPEAKERS: Scott Keefer, *Daughters of Charity*
 Laura Christiansen, *Thomas Balch Library*
 Melissa Davis, *George C. Marshall Foundation*
 Anne Jenkins, *Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine*
 Amy Poe, *The Military Women's Memorial*
 Tara Wink, *University of Maryland*

In theory, theory and practice are the same thing; in practice, they are not. There are standards in the archives field, but we all know that sometimes the standards are not practical for everyone. It does not make us lesser archivists to not meet every single standard and in fact, it makes us better archivists because we must be more creative to overcome our challenges. There is nothing stopping us from accomplishing goals—even major goals—without large budgets or staff. In this session, see how six organizations manage to ensure their collections are preserved and made available without high-end tools and procedures.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 1:40–3 P.M.

**S4: BEYOND ACADEMIA: DESIGNING ARCHIVES
OUTREACH FOR NON-TRADITIONAL USERS**

SPEAKERS: David Grinnell, *University of Pittsburgh*
William Daw, *University of Pittsburgh*
Leah Mickens, *University of Pittsburgh*
Dial Thomas, *University of Pittsburgh*
David Williams, *William Paterson University*

August Wilson, one of America's greatest playwrights, celebrated the lives and culture of African Americans in the 20th century through his ten plays titled the American Century Cycle. The University of Pittsburgh Library System acquired the August Wilson Archive in 2020 and as a result of a generous grant, is launching extensive community engagement efforts. Through data visualization and descriptive diagrams, archivists will provide new access points that allow users to explore the Wilson Archive in visual and engaging ways. Speakers in this session will discuss information design principles and practices; incorporating research in graphic design, typography, visualization, and usability; and methods of improving engagement at every point of service.

**S5: THE BLACK HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE
COLLECTION AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARIES**

Diversity and Inclusion Session Scholarship Winner

SPEAKERS: Kevin Clair, *Penn State University*
Patrice Green, *Penn State University*
g. johns, *Penn State University*
Bethann Rea, *Penn State University*

The Penn State University Libraries recently published the Black History and Visual Culture digital collection—a curated selection of photographs, poster art, and audiovisual materials documenting Black student life at Penn State as well as Black political and social movements throughout the 20th century. The conception and

development of the collection is highly collaborative, involving contributions from Special Collections Library curators, technical services archivists, and the digital collections development team. Public programming in support of the collection, and use of the collection in outreach and instruction, are key parts of its ongoing stewardship. In this presentation, speakers will discuss the initial development of the collection; selection criteria for digitization and digital stewardship; and future plans.

S6: MAKING A/V MATERIALS DISCOVERABLE

SPEAKERS: Vicki Russo, *Swarthmore College*
Michael Andrec, *Ukrainian History and Education Center*
Laura Melbourne, *War Resisters League*
Stephanie Sussmeier, *Westminster Choir College of Rider University*

Our collections are not relevant if no one knows they exist. This is a problem that particularly affects audiovisual collections, which require significantly more processing to make them discoverable and available. How have institutions tackled this problem, and how can we do better going forward? Speakers in this session will present about working with audiovisual material in their institutions and address how to keep the momentum from special projects going. Archives are losing materials every day as magnetic tape deteriorates, films succumb to sticky-shed syndrome, and hardware to play obsolete media becomes increasingly scarce. How do we advocate for budgeting and staffing for audiovisual digitization to ensure our collections remain accessible? The speakers will also discuss ways of building an audiovisual digitization workflow that is not dependent on special funding.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 3:40–5 P.M.

S7: MID-CAREER ARCHIVIST GROUP

MODERATOR: Karolina Lewandowska,
Commander, Navy Installations Command

The MARAC Mid Career e-list invites mid-career archivists to participate in this vibrant, informal, and safe-space about pertinent mid-career issues and experiences. The group encourages participation from MARAC members at any point in their professional development, believing that we all have much to learn from one another.

S8: WHAT I DIDN'T LEARN IN SCHOOL: PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREER ARCHIVISTS

SPEAKERS: Amanda Menjivar, *George Mason University*
Laura Christiansen, *Thomas Balch Library*
Zachary Hottel, *Shenandoah County Library*
Frank Vitale, *Millersville University*
Emily Welsh, *Washington National Cathedral*

Participate in this lively panel discussion about topics and experiences for which higher education did not adequately prepare us. A panel of archivists across different institutions and backgrounds will discuss their transition to the workforce and share lessons and guidance. Job hunting, project and contract employment, varying recruiting practices, the shortage of entry-level jobs, and the value of work experience against the worth of professional certificates will also be explored. This panel seeks to discuss lessons learned and give solutions to some of these issues that can benefit students and early-career archivists as well as their educators.

S9: THEY'RE IN A BETTER PLACE NOW: NAVIGATING COLLECTION TRANSFERS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS

SPEAKERS: Jasmine Smith, *Alvernia University*
Bethany J. Antos, *Rockefeller Archive Center*
Sandra Glascock, *Maryland Center for History and Culture*

Although transferring a collection of materials from one institution to another can be a big undertaking, rehomeing it may enhance the accessibility and visibility of the materials, provide a better storage environment, or confer other advantages for one or both institutions. This presentation will address both the practical and philosophical sides of inter-institutional collection transfers. In addition to discussing the logistics and documentation of collection transfers, presenters will talk about why a particular collection move was proposed and accepted, and how it affected staff and researchers. This session will not discuss transfers that are part of scheduled records management activities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 | 9–10:20 A.M.

S10: CHALLENGES IN SELECTING A DIGITAL REPOSITORY SYSTEM

SPEAKERS: Alex Japha, *Lehigh University*
Christine Anne George, *New York University*
Elizabeth James, *West Virginia University*
Bethann Rea, *Penn State University Park*

Facilitating access to digitized or born-digital materials requires a functional digital repository platform capable of hosting a variety of different media formats. Numerous repository platforms exist, each with unique features and limitations. Selecting an appropriate repository platform is often a struggle between institutional needs, financial restrictions, and staff time and expertise. In this session, a panel of librarians and archivists will share their experiences with the digital repository selection and implementation process. Panelists will speak about the digital repository environment at large, what challenges they faced during selection, and how these challenges were addressed at their institutions.

S11: WHEN ARTWORKS ARE NOT ARTWORKS: CARING FOR ARTIST EPHEMERA IN THE ARCHIVES

SPEAKERS: Nathan Avant, *Glenstone Museum*
Ben Blake, *University of Maryland*
Stephanie Crawford, *Brooklyn Museum*
Cara A. Howe, *Colgate University*

Preserving and providing access to objects such as drawings, collage, and sculptures, often calls for techniques that are not part of traditional archives education programs. In this session, speakers will share their experiences caring for art objects in a variety of contexts. Nathan Avant will give a tour of two artist-ephemera collections at Glenstone Museum and discuss the value of developing cross-departmental consultation relationships. Cara Howe will discuss her

approach to caring for Upstate Medical University's portrait collection and its positive impact on other parts of the Archives and Special Collections. Stephanie Crawford will discuss the challenges of processing artwork in two collections of artists papers held at the Miriam Schapiro Archives on Women Artists at Rutgers University and the Mattatuck Museum. Finally, Ben Blake will discuss the challenges of preserving and providing access to artifacts of labor and social justice protests such as hand painted signs, leaflets, and t-shirts.



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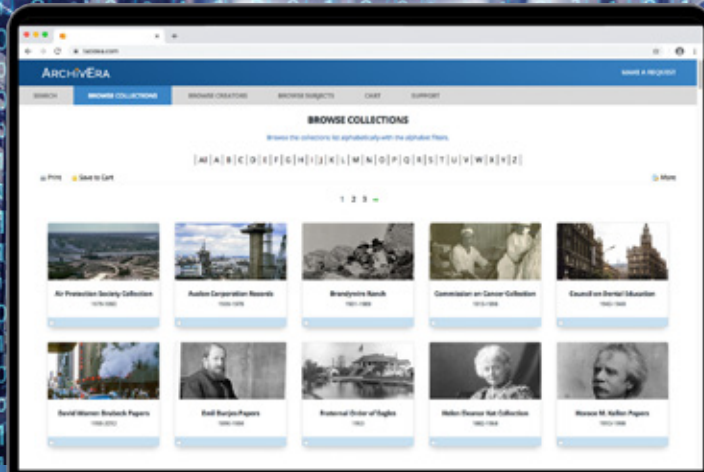


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S12: THAT'S IN THE ARCHIVES! HELPING RESEARCHERS FIND YOUR DIGITAL AND ANALOG COLLECTIONS

SPEAKERS: Melissa Barker, *Houston County, Tennessee Archives & Museum*
Anastasia Rousseau, *Arcadia University*

Archives are often overlooked by researchers who think they can find everything they are looking for online. Even if what they need happens to be in a digital format, researchers may have a hard time finding it. Attend this session to learn how to get your analog and digital collection noticed by genealogists, university students, authors, and other researchers.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 | 11 A.M.–12:20 P.M.

S13: LEVERAGING REGIONAL ADVOCACY TO ADVANCE ETHICAL LABOR PRACTICES: NORTHWEST ARCHIVISTS' ARCHIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

SPEAKERS: Kathryn Kramer, *K.M. Kramer Consulting LLC*
Laura Cray, *Oregon Historical Society*
Sara Piasecki, *National Park Service (Interior Region 11 - Alaska)*
Rachel Thomas
Rachael Cristine Woody, *Relicura™ LLC*

Conversations about fair and ethical archival labor practices underpin ongoing advocacy to build a strong, stable, and diverse workforce within the archival profession. The discussion around the value of archival labor has increased with urgency, and in response, Northwest Archivists, Inc. (NWA) created an ad hoc committee to develop a new paid internship pilot, the Archivist-in-Residence (AiR) program. The goal is to advocate for the value of internships as archival labor and to effectively steward the next generation of archivists into the profession through the creation of productive, self-initiated, and funded internship opportunities. This session will address the AiR program formation and decision-making process; detail application and evaluation rubrics and how they can be replicated;

describe the challenges and solutions involved in offering fair compensation across a region with widely varying cost of living; and address the sustainability of the program by reviewing fundraising strategies.

S14: FINDING NEW METHODS OF MAKING LEGACY COLLECTIONS RELEVANT TO STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

SPEAKERS: Molly Tighe, *Chatham University*
Joseph Amodei, *Chatham University*
Chrystal Carpenter, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
Emily Davis, *Carnegie Mellon University*
Crystal Johnson, *Carnegie Mellon University*

In this session, archivists and faculty who are working together to enrich campus experiences and forward institutional goals will discuss a variety of classroom applications for primary source collections. Speakers will share examples of immersive media technology applied to historical records to engage the concept of “serious play” in student exhibitions that reflect upon social good and political engagement. The session will also provide a view of ongoing collaborations between archivists and faculty to map the history of security and public safety; how students interrogate whose stories are being told and what role archives play in institutional accountability; and an exploration of new and evolving opportunities to engage a wide variety of stakeholders with archival collections in service of broad institutional goals.

S15: LET'S COLLABORATE: FACILITATING ENGAGING PROJECTS WITH STUDENTS

SPEAKERS: Dr. Harrison Wick, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Laura Vetter, *Episcopal High School*

Learn how archivists at two different types of educational institutions are helping students and researchers navigate new and old archival resources. At Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Special Collections and University Archives is building new opportunities for student-faculty collaboration and comparative research using oral history interviews and digitized archival collections, including rare books and primary source materials related to pandemics. At the Episcopal High School, a private boarding school established in 1839, students are using primary source materials within the school's archival holdings for research projects and adding to the historical record by conducting interviews with alumni.



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RATES:

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