



**NEA FALL
2013 SYMPOSIUM**

GIVING COLOR TO IDEAS

AMHERST COLLEGE

LEWIS-SEBRING COMMONS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2013

1:00PM - 5:00PM

WELCOME



I would like to welcome you to New England Archivists' first symposium, "Giving Color to Ideas." Two thousand thirteen is a historic year for NEA: at the same time we are celebrating 40 years as a professional organization, we are breaking from tradition. The half day symposium is a departure from our typical fall meeting in ways that we hope will be inspiring and enjoyable. Today's symposium offers us an opportunity to meet together as a group and share our professional knowledge in a new way.

Ever since the planning for today began last fall, I have been waiting eagerly to see the program that would develop. It was with boldness and innovation that the Fall Program Committee shook up our traditional format and created an afternoon of talks and discussions designed to push the boundaries of archival thought. Over the past six months, I have watched the symposium grow into a thought provoking and exciting line up, featuring ideas—some serious and some fun—that we have not yet encountered at a NEA meeting. Now that the day has finally arrived, I am truly excited to hear the plenary talk by Jeffrey Schnapp, metaLAB (at) Harvard's founder, and engage in the lively discussions that the Lightning Talks will surely inspire.

I would like to thank all the NEA volunteers who helped make this symposium happen. A big thank you is in order for the Fall Program Committee: co-chairs Colin Lukens and Amanda Strauss; Kate Gyllensvard, Abigail Cramer, and David Read. Thank you to Juliana Kuipers for serving as registrar and to Jessica Tanny, who designed the symposium's graphics and program. I would also like to thank the five local repositories—Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, UMass Amherst, the Wistariahurst Museum, and the Five College Depository—that graciously offered open houses and guided tours of their archives and special collections facilities. Peter Nelson and Amherst College deserve a hearty thank you for hosting us.

Lastly, thank you for being a part of a new chapter for NEA.

Alyssa Pacy
Cambridge Public Library
2013-2014 President

SCHEDULE

On behalf of the New England Archivists, we welcome you to the Fall 2013 Symposium! This symposium will focus on innovative thinking in the field of archives. The goal of this event is to inspire and challenge attendees, push the boundaries of current archival thought, and provide a forum for present and future dialog by illustrating ideas and ‘what-if’ scenarios that have yet to be explored by archivists in the New England region.

2013 Fall Program Committee:

co-chair, **Colin Lukens**, Harvard University Archives

co-chair, **Amanda Strauss**, Schlesinger Library

Kate Gyllensvard, MIT Libraries

Abigail Cramer, Historic New England

David Read, Harvard University

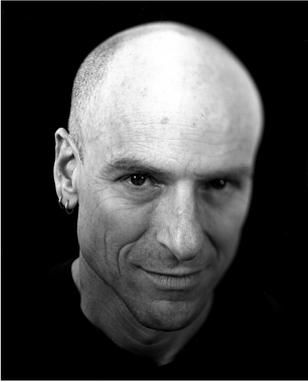
2013 Fall Local Arrangement:

Peter Nelson, Amherst College

1:00-1:10	Welcome
1:10-2:15	Plenary talk, Jeffrey Schnapp
2:15-2:45	Break
2:45-3:15	Talks (Session I)
3:15-3:45	Moderated discussion (Session I)
3:45-4:00	Break
4:00-4:30	Talks (Session II)
4:30-5:00	Moderated discussion (Session II)

PLENARY TALK

Jeffrey T. Schnapp : FROM ARCHIVE TO ARCH[L]IVE



“What if you thought seriously about the library as a laboratory, as a place where people do things, where they make things?” Jeffrey T.

Schnapp asked this question to participants in his “Library Test Kitchen” seminar last year at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. For today’s plenary talk, Schnapp turns his attention towards archives, speaking broadly on the challenges of designing new kinds

of user-centered archival repositories. Using examples from his work as faculty director at metaLAB (at) Harvard, he will discuss current experiments underway in the area of crisis archiving (the Digital Archive of Japan 2011 Disasters), working with object-based collections (Teaching with Things), and participatory curation and processing (Curarium.com).

Schnapp is Professor of Romance Languages & Literatures, Director of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society, and Director of the metaLAB (at) Harvard University. Before coming to Harvard in 2011, he occupied the Pierotti Chair of Italian Studies at Stanford, where he founded the Stanford Humanities Lab in 2000. A cultural historian with research interests extending from antiquity to the present, two of his most recent books are *The Electric Information Age Book*, written in collaboration with Adam Michaels, and *Digital Humanities*, co-written with Anne Burdick, Johanna Drucker, Peter Lunenfeld, and Todd Presner. He is currently at work with metaLAB colleague Matthew Battles on *The Library After the Book*, an exploration of future scenarios for libraries in the digital age.

TALKS

Kate Bowers & Robin McElheny (Harvard University Archives)

The Death of Arrangement

What if we abandoned the notion of arrangement? Archivists are taught that "Processing = arrangement + description." We will explore the possibility of a new model, "Processing = analysis + description."

Rebecca Goldman (LaSalle University)

What's So Funny About Archives, Anyway?

A talk about finding humor in the archives world, and how we can use humor to teach and learn new archives skills, to engage with users, and to improve awareness of the field.

Aliza Leventhal (EBSCO Publishing)

Digital Design Records: What to Preserve When "Preserve It All" Isn't an Option

Preserving Computer-Aided-Design (CAD) files cannot be accomplished through technological efforts alone. Proactive discussions to determine what content and features of these large, complex, and proprietary software produced files should be preserved could alleviate the technological burden. As we begin to answer the question: "what to save?", we will be better equipped and more effective in determining "how to save it?".

Mary Richardson (Yale Divinity Library)

Archives to the Front: Lessons Learned from the Riot Grrrl Movement

A presentation that will focus on what we as archivists can learn from the DIY (Do It Yourself) aesthetic that Riot Grrrl embraced. By exploring this aesthetic we can look at our work in new ways, and think about what we CAN creatively accomplish instead of concentrating on what we CAN'T accomplish.

TALKS (CONT.)

Bill Ross (Milne Special Collections and Archives, University of New Hampshire)

Can We View the Repository as More Like a Laboratory Than a Warehouse?

Much of our research and thought processes are focused on boxes and stacks and description of what we collect rather than the active learning that such collections can provide. Instead, let's focus on different ways of thinking about our collections and see the reading room as a collaborative environment for learning and inquiry.

Kathy Wisser (Simmons College)

EAC-CPF and the Diaspora of Archival Material: Challenges and Opportunities

This presentation seeks to lay a foundation for a conversation around the challenges faced through the natural diaspora of materials and suggests that EAC-CPF (Encoded Archival Context – Corporate bodies, Persons, and Families) constitutes a transformation in archival description practices that does not require a reconstitution of individual legacy finding aids but leverages existing description for improved access.

MODERATORS:

Jill Synder

Office of the Chief Records Officer, National Archives and Records Administration

Giordana Mecagni

Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections

REPOSITORY TOURS

The Program Committee would like to thank the following individuals and institutions for opening their doors for tours prior to the Symposium:

Rob Cox

UMass Amherst, Special Collections
and University Archives

Peter Nelson

Amherst College Archives and Five
College Depository (“The Bunker”)

Leslie Fields

Mount Holyoke College Archives
and Special Collections

Nanci Young

Smith College, Special Collections
and the College Archives

Penni Martorell

Wistariahurst Museum

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