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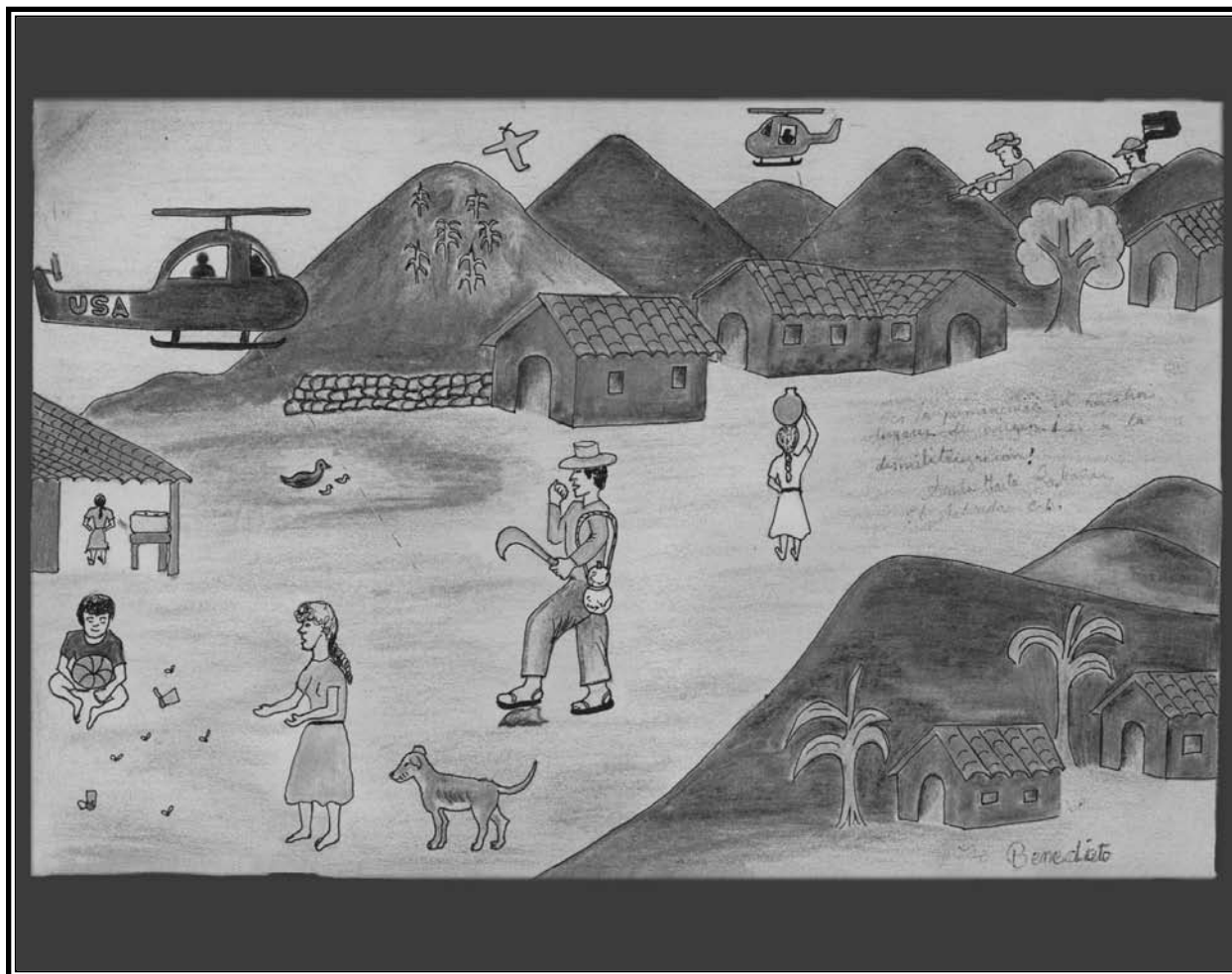
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NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R -- Folk-art drawing of a Salvadoran village, undated, depicting U.S. involvement in the El Salvador Civil War. Inscription reads "Con la permanencia en nosotros lugares de origen. ¡Si a la desmilitarización! Santa Marta Cabañas, El Salvador, C.A." Gift to Senator Joe Moakley from the village of Santa Marta. From the John Joseph Moakley Papers in the John Joseph Moakley Archive and Institute, Suffolk University.

I N S I D E -- Emily R. Novak Gustainis, "The Way We Work", *Archival Insight* (p. 4); Winner of the NEA Student Writing Prize, Amanda Strauss, on "Archives as Testimony" (p. 10); Spring 2011 Meeting Session Reports (p. 18).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

N E A

New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

College Archives & Special Collections
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Notices of archival events should be sent to: Michael Dello Iacono at <melloiacono@suffolk.edu>.

The *NEA Newsletter* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. The contents of the *Newsletter* may be reproduced in whole or in part provided that credit is given.

Articles and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent to: Juliana Kuipers at <juliana.kuipers@gmail.com> or to NEA Newsletter Editors, c/o College Archives & Special Collections, Wallace E. Mason Library, Keene State College, 299 Main Street, Keene, NH. 03435.

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From the Editors

- Michael Dello Iacono

"In summer, the song sings itself."

-- William Carlos Williams

This issue of the *NEA Newsletter*, just in time for summer, reflects on some of the wonderful work done by professional archivists and students alike, and should be a reminder of the importance of our work to researchers, communities, and to each other. Be sure to take a look at the *News and Notes* and *Calendar* sections to find out about newly opened collections and repositories, or to get information on upcoming training opportunities, exhibits, and conferences.

In this issue's *Archival Insight*, Emily R. Novak Gustainis writes about an innovative project at Harvard Medical School's Center for the History of Medicine that seeks to document processing decisions and capture metrics through development and use of a time and labor management database. She shares some of the wonderful insights they have

learned so far since the project began in 2008. In *Around & About*, Nancy Noble of the Maine Historical Society writes about the opportunities she and her colleagues have had to directly interface with collection creators, donors, and even locations. The interaction with the donors and information provided by the descendants of the creators resulted in a greater and richer understanding of the people, places, and subjects covered in the collections.

For any of us who were unable to attend the 2011 Spring Meeting, check out the session reports and the executive board meeting report, as well as a message from NEA president Nova Seals. Also, we are pleased to announce the winner of the second annual student writing prize: Amanda Strauss. Amanda's paper, "Archives as Testimony: Preserving the Memory of Human Rights Violations in Chile and Argentina," reminds us that archives often play a vital role in the formation of a social memory and contribute significantly to critical analysis of historic events. Choosing a winner was quite difficult with the many fascinating and well-written entries we received! We encourage students to submit essays and papers for next year's contest, which will be announced next spring. ■



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ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

The Way We Work

by Emily R. Novak Gustainis, Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library

What is easy to measure is not necessarily what is desirable to measure. – Martha Kyrillidou (1998)

In my experience, when we explain the role of the archivist to an interested party, whether we work in academic special collections environments, historical societies, government repositories, corporate programs, or the myriad cultural heritage organizations that support both our collective and individual interpretations of the past and present, we tend to broadly address the enterprise. To quote Richard Pearce Moses, we provide “access to records of enduring value according to the principles of provenance, original order, and collective control to protect the materials’ authenticity and context.” When we meet someone who is familiar with what an archivist does, or is an archivist, often there is very little perceived need on our part to explain what we do, relying instead on our common understanding of what work goes into ultimately making those collections accessible: “I handle acquisitions and accessions,” or “I process collections,” or “I work with researchers,” or, as is often the case, “I do everything.” But what do these processes actually entail in the context of our own repositories? If we had the opportunity to really describe how we spent a week of our professional lives, what would we say?

When I started at the Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library, in 2008, I brought over ten years of professional experience in a variety of repositories with unique workflows and objectives, staffing configurations, and financial resources ready to inform my new position as Collections Services Archivist. My charge, first and foremost, was (and continues to be) to modify, enhance, standardize, and ultimately innovate, the Center’s descriptive practices. To do this, I had to understand what characterized a processed collection as the Center delivers it to a researcher and what steps we took from the point of accession to enable that ultimate transaction. Only then could we begin to document our practices, understand the impact of experimentation, create realistic productivity expectations, and promote workflow transparency. These processes create critical outputs, and outputs are the raw materials of outcomes. And because metrics must have customers, we must actively engage in assessment to ensure our practices meet the needs of our patrons.

It so happened that the Center had been awarded a Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) grant in 2008 for our Foundations of Public Health Policy initiative, and it was set to start in February. As the project’s Supervisory Archivist, my goal was to work with the Deputy Director, Kathryn Hammond Baker, to develop a strategy for documenting our processing decisions and characterizing our processing approach (as informed by

MPLP/appropriate-level techniques), and to put into practice capturing metrics. This is how MD, our Metrics Database, was scoped. As implemented, it is a collections-centered time and labor management tool with the potential to be a collaborative benchmarking instrument for: 1) assessing the effectiveness of workflow; 2) tracking the impact of processing decisions; 3) targeting areas of workflow improvement; 4) comparing workflow of multiple processors, both in-house and across multiple locations; and 5) predicting costs associated with processing collections. This type of data collection is essentially a longitudinal timing study that can help us make the best decisions for our researchers, make more accurate requests for resources to funders, and understand the likely financial impact of acquiring a collection at the point of acquisition.

Using MD (which is in Microsoft Access, but that we hope to one day make a web-based application), we record collection-by-collection and series-by-series information regarding processing decisions (such as levels of processing, preservation approaches, etc.) and implementation data (the processing task, the processor performing it, and length of time for a particular activity). Our list of activities has expanded to thirty-five since the Center first introduced MD in 2009, but in essence, our processors capture time for arrangement, description, cataloging, encoding, and miscellaneous preservation activities for all collections they work with as part of their routine workflow.

(Please visit <<https://wiki.med.harvard.edu/Countway/ArchivalCollaboratives/ProcessingMetricsDatabase>> for more information or seek out Session 702 at SAA this summer.)

Here are some of the things we have learned:

- *An understanding of, and the creation of documentation for, the activities you perform is a prerequisite of any process-based assessment.* In *Taking Our Pulse: The OCLC Research Survey of Special Collections and Archives* (2010), Jackie Dooley and Katherine Luce ask, “Can we establish processing metrics across the archival community” given the lack of established and/or reported statistics across the special collections community? The answer is yes, if we as a profession are willing to create and share our repositories’ documentation about our processing levels (and what those levels mean), how we characterize collections prior to processing (from “easy to process” to “highly intensive”), and share the decisions we make as we process collections with various configurations of differently skilled employees utilizing different workflows. We cannot simply time an activity; we must measure our work in context. And if we commit, as a profession, to aggregating our local workflows into top level reporting categories that we can agree on, then we can develop metrics for processing collections in a variety of situations. There will never be a “one size fits all” statistic. Furthermore, individual units within a larger institution must utilize opportunities to test and learn, together, which practices effectively support the research endeavor. If we have no hard data on our institution’s own practices and if we don’t better understand how we work, we can’t benchmark against our own revised practices, let alone against the practices of our peers.
- *Hard data to support new and ongoing initiatives and to communicate the true cost of processing a collection to both donors and administration is vital to sustaining our programs.* There is a direct relationship between what we collect, how much we collect, and the cost of making it accessible. Understanding up front how complex a collection is and to what level we should aim to process it, given the nature of the accession, its age, and formats present, results in more precise and trusted requests for financial assistance, both from donors and granting agencies. This will also provide our publics

with the transparency necessary to understand why and how processing priorities are established and how much time “processing light” is actually saving. We have all inherited backlogs. How will we know how to put a time and dollar figure on exposing these hidden collections without any data? After two years of data collection using MD, the Center had dramatically improved how it talks about making a collection accessible and how it plans new processing projects by evaluating processing data for similar collections. The Center has also re-evaluated the cost per box it proposes to donors to process a collection.

- *Creating a culture of assessment is a group effort.* People are naturally uneasy when their work habits are examined under a microscope. Data collection designed to leverage workflows to an individual’s strengths and to help an organizational unit better accomplish its goals should never be used as a de facto employee performance report. If people think you are judging how they work, particularly in the current economic climate, they may choose not to participate at all or embellish on productivity, which defeats the purpose. Building trust in our workplaces is critical.

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- *If we can't get a handle on assessing processing workflows for principally paper-based collections, then we will not be prepared to meet the challenges of understanding how we need to rethink workflows for collections almost entirely in electronic format.* As reported by OCLC in the same report, born-digital records and digitization are two of the top three most challenging issues archives face. Electronic records won't change everything because they already **have** changed everything, whether we are talking about email or the digitization of nineteenth century manuscripts. Beginning in January of this year, the Center started tracking its time spent on all activities associated with its participation in the Medical Heritage Library collaboration to truly understand the time and staffing needs associated with participating in important open access initiatives such as this one, and we will need to take steps to document our workflows regarding accessioning, processing, describing, and enabling access to electronic records. It is highly probable that we at the Center (as well as the community at large) will need to go through an enormous number of workflow experiments and considerations before we feel as comfortable processing electronic records as we do paper. Our comfort level with evaluating how we process paper collections, should, we hope, positively impact our approach to processing electronic records.
- *At some point, evaluating the return on investment for refining processing practices will no longer be relevant at the position level.* Applying appropriate-level processing methodologies may increase individual output, but that output will continue to vary given the individual nature of the collections he or she processes. While we have seen great leaps in productivity at the Center, there is only so much time our processors can spend processing in light of the fact that most processors do not just process collections. Knowing what to realistically expect from our colleagues makes a better case for advocating for more staff or clearing things better handled by other staff off of our processors' plates, while ensuring that we don't isolate processors from the intellectual communities producing the collections, the fellow archivists that cultivate the acquisition of those collections, and the researchers using them. It also asks us to consider the value of the additional activities we fold into our grant applications to process collections in the first place. Processing proj-

ects are never just processing projects; they require enormous time expenditures in communications and relationship building, exhibits, website development, and research. We need granting environments that fund *staff*, not projects, if we are to truly address our backlogs.

- *It is not financially viable (in time, labor, money, or other resources), nor should it ultimately be desirable, for a single institution to sustain the collection of data nationally relevant to our profession and make it available in a useful and meaningful way.* When discussing the Archival Metrics Project and its objective of providing standardized user-based evaluation tools to archives, Elizabeth Yakel has stated how we must have large-scale support of metrics-related initiatives at the national level: "If an archival association or archival or government agency helped with the administration and analysis of data from surveys, more North American archives might be able to participate," ("The Development, Testing, and Evaluation of the Archival Metrics Toolkits," *The American Archivist* 73 (2010): 591). The Center has already grappled with this issue in its early attempts to fund the development of a shared system that will enable archivists to aggregate data from multiple repositories about how special collections are processed and facilitate reporting to support benchmarking and resource planning. While our individual efforts may yield rich results, it is the collective presentation of such efforts that will change the way we work.

The Center has many questions it seeks to answer: How can we generate hard data on our accessioning work and illustrate the impact that improved accessioning practices have on processing? How can we best communicate and implement the recommendations of our patrons, and if not, why? What can staff do to enrich and complement the work of our peers? It has been both a pleasure and a challenge to engage in a conversation so essential to our profession's continued evolution, and one in which I hope to participate and contribute. As always, I am continually impressed by the thoughtful and innovative approaches my colleagues at the Center bring to all that they do, and to our leadership for creating a learning environment that values these lines of inquiry. I think very differently about the work we do as archivists and how we talk about our work than I did two years ago. And I look forward to hearing what the community has to say in the years ahead. ■

Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Nova Seals



Like many of you, I am trying to find creative ways to do more with less. As archivists, we as a profession tend to be fairly accommodating. We tend to like to help people when we can. We want to help people find evidence of their pasts, perhaps

their personal ancestral past, or the past of civilization. I think even the most curmudgeonly among us will admit that ours is a profession of service. Whether we are meeting the needs of researchers or the materials in our care, we are providing a service.

I am not offering anything profound, this has been said before, and perhaps it was said best, by Sir Hilary Jenkinson when he said that:

“The Archivist’s career...is one of service. He exists in order to make other people’s work possible... His Creed, the Sanctity of Evidence; his Task, the conservation of every scrap of Evidence attaching to the Documents committed to his charge; his Aim to provide, without prejudice or thought, for all who wish to know the Means of Knowledge.”¹

When examined in this light, our profession seems quite significant—that’s because it is, but of course, I am biased.

Because the nature of archival work can be summed up so succinctly by the word “service,” it makes sense that those who pursue careers in archives and allied professions are somewhat service-minded, and this nature is evident outside of our workplaces. I can provide no better example of archivists’ dedication to service than the volunteerism that occurs, and truly is necessary, to keep the machine of NEA running. I encourage you to not only think about the

ways that you can contribute to keep NEA vital and relevant, but to actually volunteer.

Excerpted from “On Service,” her presidential address given at the Spring 2011 Business Meeting. ■

1. Sir Hilary Jenkinson, “The English Archivist: A New Profession,” page 38.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Silvia Mejia



The business handled at the April 1, 2011 meeting of the Executive Board is summarized below. All **VOTING** is in bold. Complete minutes are available on the NEA web site or from the Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 by Elizabeth Slomba.

Minutes from the January 28, 2011 Board meeting were presented. **All members voted to accept the January 28, 2011 Board meeting minutes.**

Strategic Plan Review

The Board reviewed the objectives and actions of the NEA strategic plan, checking off objectives that have been accomplished in the past year and moving timeframes for those objectives that need additional time for completion. The strategic plan will be updated and made available on the NEA web site.

CONFERENCES

Spring 2011

There were 41 speaker participants listed in the program and 226 registrants. There were four posters in the poster session and two possible speaker cancellations.

Fall 2011

The meeting will be held on October 14-15, 2011 at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. **All members voted to appoint the following individuals to the**

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Program Committee: Jennifer Fauxsmith, Massachusetts Archives, Suzy Taraba, Wesleyan University, Donna Webber, Simmons College, and Christina Zamon, Emerson College.

Spring 2012

All members voted to appoint the following individuals to the Program committee: Christina Zamon, Emerson College, Boston, and Kat Stafko, Bates College, Lewiston to the Spring 2012 Program Committee.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

All members voted in favor to appoint Joyce Clifford and Mathieu Deschaine to the Education Committee for a three-year term from Spring 2011 to Spring 2014.

All members voted in favor to appoint Jodi Goodman to the Education Committee for a three-year term from Fall 2010 to Fall 2013.

All members voted in favor to appoint Amanda Strauss to the Education Committee as the student member for a one-year term Spring 2011-Spring 2012.

Report from Org Eff group on job descriptions

No major content changes were made to the existing job descriptions. The financial planning job description, which was created in the past year, was used as a model for the revisions. The Board then reviewed 13 job descriptions and approved all the descriptions as revised.

Education Committee Proposal

The proposal revolved around the strategic plan and the increasing responsibilities for the Education Committee and called for the appointment of an Education Coordinator. After a brief discussion regarding the coordinator's role and duties, the board recommended the coordinator job description be revised and shared with the Board via email for an online vote.

Advocacy/Diversity Update

A Diversity Task Force will be assembled in Summer 2011. The Board read a list of diversity issues to be considered by the task force when one is created. Three to five items will be identified by the Board for the task force to focus on.

Web Site Discussion

The discussion revolved around the role of the web committee regarding the needs of the Education, Membership, and Newsletter Committees, and proposals for a Web Coordinator and an Assistant Web Coordinator to help meet the committees' needs.

Comprehensive Communications Plan Presentation

The Communication Committee made their presentation. Lisa Long Feldman introduced the committee members: Peter Nelson (not present), Donna DiMichele, Kristin Eshelman, Colin Luken, Sara Shoemaker, and Ellen Doon Representative-At-Large. The Communications Committee then walked the Board through the plan, highlighting the sections that could easily be approved by the Board and noting that other portions will need further discussion. ■



At the Annual Business Meeting on April 2, 2011 (which took place during the Spring NEA Meeting at Brown University) NEA awarded Edouard Desrochers, of the Phillips Exeter Academy Archives and Susan Von Salis of the Harvard Art Museums Archives the distinguished service award for their many contributions to the profession and their commitment to the archival community.

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New Members *- Rodney Obien*

Student

Stacey Chandler
JFK Library

Christian de Torres
UMass Boston

Erin Ellingham
Simmons College

Molly Frazier
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Sarah Funke-Donovan
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Kathy Griffin
Massachusetts Historical
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Alison Harris
Harvard University

Kris Kobialka
Boston Architectural
College

Jeanette Maria
UMass Boston

David McMillen
NARA

Zac Mirecki
Connecticut Historical
Society

Jinny Nathans
American Meteorological
Society

Daniel Neal

Mary Richardson
Yale Divinity School
Library

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STUDENT WRITING PRIZE

Archives as Testimony:

Preserving the Memory of Human Rights Violations in Chile and Argentina

by Amanda Strauss, Winner of the NEA Student Writing Prize

“Tras el término de este periodo, la demanda por verdad y justicia ante las violaciones de los derechos humanos se convirtió en un imperativo de memoria, con el fin ya no solo de denunciar los crímenes del terrorismo de Estado, sino también de delinear un camino para construir una nueva memoria publica en torno al pasado reciente.¹

After the end of this period [of dictatorship], the demand for truth and justice for human rights violations became an imperative of *memory*, with the goal of not only denouncing the crimes and the terrorism of the State, but also of outlining a path for constructing a new public memory of the recent past.

For Chile and Argentina, the decades from the 1970s to the 1990s were marked by two distinct, yet equally devastating, dictatorships. Augusto Pinochet of Chile and Jorge Videla of Argentina caused the disappearance of several thousand of their opponents who became known as *los desaparecidos*; the disappeared.² Their disappearance became an imperative of memory, for just as their physical remains were hidden in mass, unmarked graves on land and in the ocean, so too was the memory of their lives and deaths excised from the official record. In the absence of an official memory, individuals and human rights organizations quietly recorded the crimes of the dictatorships. More than twenty years have passed since the transition back to democracy, first in Argentina and then in Chile. The revitalization of democracy in both countries brought a second challenge to memory. The newly elected Chilean government in particular took the position that to embrace democracy meant solely looking to the future; memories and documentary evidence of the past served only to slow the wheels of progress.³

The passage of time has allowed Chile and Argentina to close the open wounds of the dictatorships, but this temporal distance also threatens to allow the memory of human rights violations to fade. Archival repositories in Chile and Argentina play an integral role in recovering historic memory and constructing a new, public memory of the dictatorships. Through collecting personal papers and records of human rights organizations, and completing oral history projects, these archives gather previously hidden evidence of the dictatorships.⁴ Two institutions in particular, Parque por la Paz Villa Grimaldi in Chile and Memoria

Abierta in Argentina, exemplify these efforts. Villa Grimaldi and Memoria Abierta illustrate how the archivists' role as, to borrow Susan Tucker's phrase, "memory keepers," is shaped by the legacy of the dictatorships.⁵ The archival collections of Villa Grimaldi and Memoria Abierta are sites of testimony. They give voice to the thousands of lives that fell under the shadow of the dictatorships of Pinochet and Videla. In this context, archivists at Villa Grimaldi and Memoria Abierta not only 'keep' memory, but also serve as the means by which memory is produced and recovered. The archival collections of Villa Grimaldi and Memoria Abierta are memorials. They memorialize the dictatorships, those who killed, those who were killed, and those who survived. Yet, the memorials constructed by Villa Grimaldi and Memoria Abierta are not those carved from wood and stone, standing as physical markers on the geographic terrain. They are, instead, memorials of written, spoken, and photographic testimony. Archivists at these institutions not only keep, but also curate memory.

By creating and preserving testimony about the human rights violations of the dictatorships, the archivists of Villa Grimaldi and Memoria Abierta have taken a political stance. The politics of memory in Chile and Argentina is such that archivists are "inherently and unavoidably engaged in [...] power struggles to define the nature of [their] societies."⁶ In serving as the 'keepers' and 'curators' of memory, archivists have inserted themselves into the ongoing struggle over how the history of the dictatorships will be written. This struggle is not merely ground for academic fencing among historians, but instead reflects current social and political tensions that mark Chile and

Argentina. Those who supported and those who opposed the dictatorships did not abandon these positions when the dictatorships ended. While the debate about the dictatorships is not always in the public eye, its undercurrents remain strong. The process of memorializing, of documenting, and of preserving evidence of the human rights violations perpetrated by Pinochet and Videla renews this debate and ensures that the archival collections, both as documentary evidence and memorials, will continue to be “contested ground.”⁷

For Villa Grimaldi, the dispute over its archival collections stems from the contentious history of its physical space; the buildings and grounds themselves. A once aristocratic estate in Santiago, Pinochet transformed Villa Grimaldi into one of the primary clandestine centers for detention, torture and disappearance.⁸ Words are inadequate to describe what occurred at Villa Grimaldi during these years; it was a place of horror. In 1997, five years after Chile’s transition to democracy, Villa Grimaldi became a memorial, a “site of memory,” and its primary objectives are to defend human rights and preserve the memory of its history as a detention center.⁹ Villa Grimaldi now serves as “a physical and conceptual place of memory.”¹⁰ Its structure bore witness to torture and the memory of the disappeared is recorded in its soil and on the walls of its buildings. Villa Grimaldi’s most recent work as an archival repository is to create an oral archive of testimonies of ex-detainees, family members, neighbors, and others, who know the stories of the disappeared.¹¹ Conscious of its role in the production and recuperation of memory, Villa Grimaldi reflects on the oral history project by saying:

The testimonies bring the history of the dictatorship and the specific history of place [Villa Grimaldi] closer to the present [...] The personal view of those who remember their own experience contributes to a critical analysis of this period, connecting the history of military dictatorship with the personal stories of the people who lived in the country during this era.”¹²

To date, Villa Grimaldi has recorded one hundred oral testimonies, which now constitute the core of its Museum of Memory and Human Rights.¹³ The memories are spoken, heard, and repeated in the place of their inception. Villa Grimaldi, a place where voices were once suppressed, has become home to *la sala de la memoria*—the memory room, where voices recall and transmit memories. Villa Grimaldi

illustrates that memories are tied to the places in which they are conceived.¹⁴ The provenance, the place that contextualizes the memories of the disappeared, creates an essential connection between the past and the present.

The intrinsic connection between memory and place extends beyond discrete locations such as Villa Grimaldi and extends to Chile and Argentina as nations. These nations escape their geographic borders because many victims of the dictatorships remain in exile. The search for memory is also the search for a national identity. Memoria Abierta, created in 1999 by Argentinian human rights organizations, defines its primary purpose as making “accessible all documentation regarding the last military dictatorship for the purposes of research and the education of future generations.”¹⁵ Accordingly, it has brought together documents from diverse sources in a variety of formats, including an oral archive, a photographic archive, and personal collections.¹⁶ One of its most evocative collections is that of Adelina de Alaye, one of the *Madres de Plaza Mayo de Plata*, a mother of the Plaza Mayo in the city of Plata.¹⁷ In 1977, *Las Madres de Plaza Mayo* united in search of their disappeared children and official recognition and justice for their children’s memory. These mothers have been some of the loudest and most sustained voices of protest, and, for more than thirty years, they have served as the sole keepers for memories that will disappear if not documented. This collection documents not only Adelina de Alaye’s activism, but also her personal anguish in the search for her son, Carlos Esteban, who was taken by Videla’s forces on May 5, 1977 at 7:30. She says:

I am Adelina Ethel Dematti, widow of Alaye, I was born in Chivilcoy in 1928, daughter of Jose Esteban, an Italian, and Clementina Luisa Magii, a daughter of Italians. I finished my primary, secondary, and tertiary studies in Civilcoy, Province of Buenos Aires. I taught in numerous places in the province of Buenos Aires, and I was married in the year ’52 with Luis Maria, a marriage from which were born our children Carlos Esteban and Maria del Carmen. I have a granddaughter who was born in the spring of 1977, Florencia, daughter of Carlos Esteban, and three little boys that my daughter has blessed me with: Julian, Juan Cruz, and Emiliano. This is my identity. Circumstances caused me to become a mother searching for her disappeared son, a mother of the Plaza de Mayo. And this also is my identity.¹⁸

Adelina de Alaye's search has become part of her identity and, in turn, her memory of this search is part of Argentina's national identity. Her collection exemplifies Memoria Abierta's mission to strengthen the connection between individual memories and collective, national memory. Memoria Abierta "articulate[s] a social memory that influences Argentine political culture, contributing to the construction of identity and the strengthening of democracy."¹⁹ Preserving and articulating memories of the dictatorship is a way to honor the past, but for Argentina, memory is also an active, productive process that shapes its future.

Carlos Fuentes said, "*No existe la libertad, sino la búsqueda de la libertad, y esa búsqueda es la que nos hace libres;*" Freedom does not exist, only the search for freedom exists, and it is this search that makes us free. His words are particularly apt in light of Villa Grimaldi and Memoria Abierta's ongoing work. Chile and Argentina are searching for the memory of their past. It is not only the memory itself, but rather the search for this memory, that will prevent future human rights violations. The testimonies of oral histories, photographs, and document collections are becoming increasingly louder in proportion to their collective volume and audience. These testimonies honor the memory of the *desaparecidos* and in doing so produce and revitalize the memory of the lost and the living. Even though Chile and Argentina have maintained democratic governments for more than twenty years, if memory is allowed to lie fallow, the roots of dictatorship could perhaps once again take hold -- if not in the form of government, then in the way the history of this era is written. The process of remembering is a process wrought with conflict, for the desire to remember the injustices of the past does not always weigh more heavily than the desire to forget these injustices in search of a brighter future. Archivists in Chile and Argentina tread on the "contested ground" of memory, and the implications of their work extend beyond the archival profession and into the realm of human rights advocacy.

Writing this short piece has been significant to me, both on a personal level and as I think about the direction of my archival career. I strongly believe that archives play a vital social role, especially in the continuing struggle for human rights. I see archives as sites of testimony, both to the heights to which humankind can soar and of the depths to which it can fall. Beyond the carefully catalogued and preserved collections, beyond the stillness of the vault,

archives connect both the past and the future. I have taken Carlos Fuentes' words to heart—archivists are "memory searchers," who have the opportunity to stand for human rights, both in the United States and abroad. ■

1. Public Access to Memory: The Role of Testimonial Archives in the Democratization of Post-dictatorial Societies. Corporación Parque por la Paz Villa Grimaldi: Chile, 2009, 8. [quote translated]
2. The Rettig Report, commissioned in 1991 by Chilean President Patricio Aylwin estimates that 2,296 people were victims of human rights violations during Pinochet's dictatorship. In 1984, the National Commission on the Disappeared (CONADEP) in Argentina estimated that it had documented 9,000 cases of disappearance. In both countries, the final number of people who were tortured and/or disappeared might never be known. For more information, see the Rettig Report on the website of the Ministry of the Interior of Chile: http://www.ddhh.gov.cl/ddhh_rettig.html (full text in Spanish) and the United States Institute of Peace's explanation of the CONADEP report (full text available in English): <http://www.usip.org/publications/truth-commission-argentina>
3. For more information, see Jessica Merrill "La libertad de expresión política en la prensa escrita de Chile, ISP Collection no. 861 (2010) http://digitalcollections.sit.edu/isp_collection/861.
4. Villa Grimaldi Who we are <http://www.villagrimaldi.cl/quienes-somos.html> [quote translated]
5. Susan Tucker and Svanhildur Bogadóttir "Gender, Memory, and History: In One Culture and Across Others," *Journal of Archival Organization*, 6 no.4 (2008): 288 – 310, 288.
6. Randall C. Jimerson, "Archives for All: Professional Responsibility and Social Justice," *The American Archivist* 70 (2007): 252-281, 262.
7. Jimerson, *Archives for All*, 261.
8. Public Access to Memory, 15. [quote translated]
9. Villa Grimaldi Who we are <http://www.villagrimaldi.cl/quienes-somos.html> [quote translated]; Villa Grimaldi's recent work contributes to the well-established legacy of human rights archives in Chile. From the beginning of the coup de etat to the present, La Vicaria de la Solidaridad, an arm of the Archbishop of Santiago, was instrumental in protesting human rights violations. More information about its collections can be found at: <http://www.vicariadelasolidaridad.cl/index1.html>
10. Bastian, In a 'House of Memory,' 11.
11. Public Access to Memory, 11[quote translated]; and Villa Grimaldi Oral Archive <http://www.villagrimaldi.cl/archivo-oral.html>
12. Villa Grimaldi, Record of Testimonies <http://www.villagrimaldi.cl/archivo-oral/el-registro-de-testimonios.html> [quote translated]
13. Public Access to Memory, 101; Villa Grimaldi Oral History Collection <http://www.villagrimaldi.cl/archivo-oral/la-coleccion.html> [quotes translated]; The oral history project of Villa Grimaldi is modeled after a previously completed project at Memoria Abierta in Argentina. For more information, see Public Access to Memory, 21.
14. Jeannette Bastian discusses the connection between memory and place in her article "In a 'House of Memory': Discovering the Provenance of Place," *Archival Issues* 28 no. 1 (2003-2004): 9-20.
15. Memoria Abierta, Who we are, http://www.memoriaabierta.org.ar/eng/quienes_somos.php
16. Memoria Abierta, We Preserve and Organize, <http://www.memoriaabierta.org.ar/eng/preservamosyorganizamos.php>
17. This collection was declared part of the World Heritage by UNESCO in 2007.
18. Memoria Abierta, The Adelina de Alaye Collection, <http://www.memoriaabierta.org.ar/bases/opac/fondos/alaye/sobreelfondo.html> [quote translated].
19. Memoria Abierta, Our Mission, <http://www.memoriaabierta>

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News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

History at Your Fingertips at the Litchfield Historical Society Web site

In 1784 Tapping Reeve opened the Litchfield Law School, the first in America. The Law School attracted over 1,200 students from 13 states and territories to study in Litchfield. Graduates formed a network of leadership and influence that encompassed public service, business, and other areas of American life.

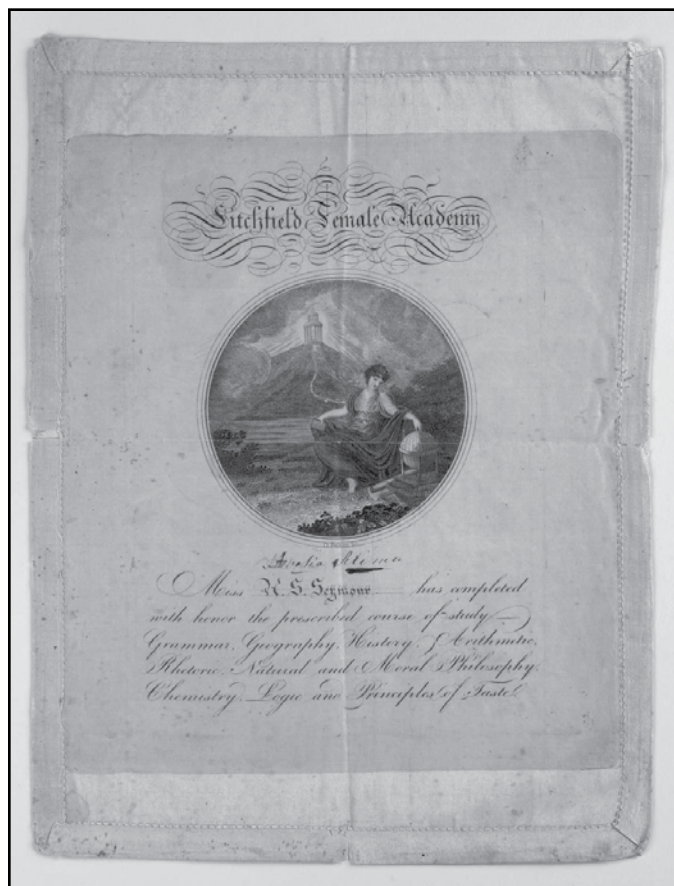
In 1792 Sarah Pierce founded a pioneer institution of female education in America, the Litchfield Female Academy. Her innovative curriculum of academic, practi-

cal, and ornamental courses expanded the world of the estimated 3,000 girls who attended the school over its 41-year history.

The Litchfield Historical Society's *Ledger* presents the stories of these institutions, their founders and students. Their words, artwork, and personal belongings are brought together with biographical and genealogical information from a variety of repositories and private collections. Open its pages and explore. The Ledger contains information about 933 LLS students and 1,626 LFA students. 130 men and 1,496 women attended LFA. To search the Ledger, visit <www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org/ledger>

Combustion Engineering Collection Opens

Windsor Historical Society in Windsor, CT is pleased to announce the opening of the Combustion Engineering, Inc. Collection to visitors and researchers in conjunction with its new exhibit, Combustion Engineering: A Windsor Landmark. Combustion Engineering, Inc., a leader in steam and energy technologies, built a 500-acre campus in Windsor in the 1950s. The facilities housed research, production, and servicing activities for the nuclear and fossil fuel arenas for the next fifty years. The company was acquired by Asea Brown Boveri in 1990. The Windsor site is currently undergoing environmental remediation and the demolition of all facilities in preparation for redevelopment. Windsor Historical Society recently acquired this collection of maps, photographs, in-house manuals and histories, service awards, and promotional artifacts from Boveri and a few former employees. The finding aid can be found on the Society's website at <www.windsorhistoricalsociety.org/finding-aids.html>. The accompanying exhibit will be open until December 31, 2011.



Amelia Seymour Sanford Diploma, ca. 1821. Diploma printed on silk engraved by Oliver Pelton. Miss A. S. Seymour [Amelia Selima inserted above name] has completed with honor the prescribed course of study-- Grammar, Geography, History, Arithmetic, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Chemistry, Logic, and Principles of Taste. Courtesy of the Litchfield Historical Society.

MASSACHUSETTS

Nathan Brooks Papers at the Concord Free Public Library

Comprising 54 linear feet of materials and representing more than two centuries of history, the **Nathan Brooks Papers, 1666-1917**—one of the Concord Free Public Library's most important collections—has recently been

reprocessed and a finding aid made available online at www.concordlibrary.org/brooks.html>

Nathan Brooks (1785-1863) was a prominent Concord lawyer during an era of terrific growth and change in the town. The collection contains both personal and professional materials relating to Brooks and his immediate family, including his father-in-law, Tilly Merrick, whose life and work took him well beyond the confines of Concord during the late 18th century to South Carolina, where he engaged in wholesale shipping, owned plantations, and relied on slave labor, a practice which extended to the brokering of slaves. Merrick's involvement with slavery may well explain the strong abolitionist leanings of his daughter, Mary Merrick Brooks, Nathan's wife, who was among Concord's most active antislavery advocates.

Materials in the collection include legal papers (including writs), voluminous probate records, correspondence, financial records, deeds, and two property surveys by Henry David Thoreau. Taken together, the materials contained in this rich collection create a vivid picture of life in early 19th century Concord, tracing the threads of the town's busy (and revealing) social, commercial, and economic networks.

Presented to the Concord Free Public Library by a Brooks family descendant, the collection remained unprocessed for decades. In the 1970s Concord historian Ruth Wheeler made a first pass through the collection, but it was

not until the 1990s that it underwent its first professional processing under a federal grant. Curator Leslie Wilson recently spent seven months reworking the processing of the collection, resulting in its final organization, arrangement and description, and a finding aid accessible on the library's website.

Massachusetts General Hospital Celebrates its Bicentennial

As the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) celebrates its bicentennial, the commemorative book, *MGH Nursing at Two Hundred*, provides a rare overview of 200 years of nursing at the country's third oldest general hospital. A lively combination of period images and written reflections takes the reader on a journey from the sparse beginnings of nursing in America in the early 1800s to the emergence of the "trained" nurse to the professionalization of nursing and development of nursing practice. *MGH Nursing at Two Hundred* touches upon highlights and major milestones — the people and events — that helped shape the profession. Many who went on to establish and advance nursing throughout the United States and the world were influenced by their experiences at MGH.

Suffolk University: Archives in the Classroom

Since 2006, Nicole Feeney, Assistant Archivist at Suffolk University's John Joseph Moakley Archive and Institute, has been partnering with Associate Professor Kenneth Cosgrove of the SU Government Department in his Legislative Politics course, and for the first time collaborated with another archive — the Carl Albert Congressional Research Center at the University of Oklahoma. In addition to studying the policy issues of Congressman Moakley's career, students also had the opportunity to study the career of Richard Keith "Dick" Armey, a Republican who served as a U.S. representative from Texas and was House Majority Leader from 1995 to 2003. "The students get to see for themselves, by looking at the papers of Congressmen Moakley and Armey how people of good will, who like each other, can end up in very different places ideologically and still have the best interests of the nation and their constituents at heart," said Cosgrove.



Nicole Feeney, Suffolk University Assistant Archivist, uses primary sources in the classroom to teach archival research methods to undergraduate students. *Courtesy of the Suffolk University Archives.*

Armeý was one of the engineers of the “Republican Revolution” of the 1990s, in which the GOP achieved majorities in both houses of Congress for the first time in four decades. He helped draft the GOP’s 1994 “Contract with America” legislative agenda. Course readings were drawn from Moakley’s and Armeý’s papers, and incorporated strategy documents, policy briefings, constituent correspondence, oral history interviews, photographs, and other media. Among the papers students submitted in the course were “Wit and Perseverance: The Moakley Campaigns of 1970 and 1972”, “Joe Moakley and Chapter 40-B: A Case Study”, and “Necessity: The Mother of Reinvention.”

Search the Moakley Papers at <www.archives.law.suffolk.edu/SuffMoakleyWEB>, and the Dick Armeý Papers at <www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives>

Open Archives Week in Cambridge

During the week of July 11, people in Cambridge, Mass. will have the rare opportunity to see inside nine different archives. The third annual Open Archives Tour will feature private archives, city archives, and Harvard University archives on three separate days. “This is a really unique opportunity to see some of the rare items from our collections, see the spaces where our archivists process this material, and talk to the professionals that have a deep and passionate understanding of this history.” said Gavin W. Kleespies, Director of the Cambridge Historical Society. Alyssa Pacy, Archivist at the Public Library added, “Cambridge is a really unusual city in terms of the number of organizations that are collecting and holding archival material and this is an amazing chance to peek behind the scenes in nine of these institutions.”

The following institutions will participate:

- Cambridge City Clerk’s Office
- Cambridge Historical Commission
- Cambridge Historical Society
- Cambridge Public Library
- Harvard University Archives
- Houghton Library
- Longfellow House - Washington’s Headquarters
- Mount Auburn Cemetery
- Schlesinger Library

For additional information, please visit <www.cambridge-archives.org>.

Mount Holyoke College Electronic Records Project

The Mount Holyoke College Archives & Special Collections is busy at work on its National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) electronic records grant project. The outcome of the grant will be established procedures for ingest, processing, preservation, and providing access to campus electronic records of enduring value. While it won’t solve all of the problems inherent in our world’s transition from paper-based records to born-digital records, the project will allow the Archives to begin to collect some critical recent records, including the Board of Trustees meeting minutes and Mount Holyoke College news and events articles. In addition to providing a model for other small institutions grappling with similar challenges, this project will help ensure the continued documentation and preservation of MHC history, a history that has been actively preserved for more than one hundred seventy years. Updates on project activities are posted on the Archives & Special Collections web site, <www.mtholyoke.edu/archives>.

R H O D E I S L A N D

News from the John Hay Library (Brown University)

The John Hay Library at Brown University has been awarded a Basic Processing grant from the NHPRC to expose significant but hidden collections in the holdings of Manuscripts & University Archives. Among the estimated 892 collections are the papers of prominent literary figures, poets, screenwriters, scientists, historians, Brown faculty, and alumni, as well as the records of small presses, literary magazines, and cultural, political, and activist organizations. The two-year project, which began in January, includes a collections assessment, collection-level description of 6500 linear feet of material, the publication of collection-level MARC records and EAD finding aids through local and national databases, implementation of the Archivists’ Toolkit, and the development of guidelines and procedures with the express purpose of preventing future

backlog. For further information, contact project archivist Christopher Geissler <christopher_geissler@brown.edu>.

Naval Historical Collection: Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibit

The Naval War College's Naval Historical Collection holds Civil War letters, documents, and imprints from Union Navy sailors and officers. To mark this important anniversary, some of these significant items are on display in an exhibit in the archives reading room. CDR John Marchand, commanding officer of the USS James Adger of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, was assigned blockade duty in Charleston, South Carolina. Marchand's journals describe the weather, the boredom, and the capture of vessels trying to breach the blockade. Admiral David Farragut of the USS Hartford was in command at the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864. In a letter of July 31 to his wife, he wrote that he did not know when he was going to encounter the enemy, but he trusted in God. John Seacote, a member of the New Hampshire Infantry, was on the USS Savannah and USS Chenango in 1864-1865. His letters to his father describe his daily routine, his need for money, and the future bounty due him. The last document in the exhibit is an annotated list of Confederate prizes captured by the U.S. Navy as of August 1, 1864.

VERMONT

News from the Vermont State Archives

The Vermont Press Association honored State Archivist Gregory Sanford with its 2011 Matthew Lyon Award. The award is given in recognition of "a lifetime commitment to the First Amendment and to the public's right to know the truth." Matthew Lyon was a congressman from Vermont convicted under the Sedition Act for attacking President John Adams. Vermonters re-elected him to Congress while he was still in jail.

On May 3rd the Vermont General Assembly passed a resolution (H.C.R. 85) recognizing Sanford's receipt of the award and for "his nearly three decades" of vigilance "in advocating for more effective public records laws that are written with clarity and facilitate the maximum possible public access to state records."

Thanks to Robert Horton and the Minnesota NDIPP project a two day presentation was held at VSARA's facility on Tessella's digital archives application. The presentations included VSARA staff as well as representatives from the Vermont Department of Information and Innovation and the Vermont Department of Libraries. The Vermont partnership will test the application in some small pilot projects.

Vermont's access to public records laws were tightened through passage of H. 73 that made the awarding of legal fees mandatory when a party substantially prevails in a challenge to a public agency's denial of access to public records.

OTHER NEWS

Grants for Archives

The Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, offers grants to process and describe archival collections in the history of physics and astronomy. For the current year, the deadline for applications is August 15, 2011. The grants are intended to make accessible records, papers, and other primary sources that document the history of modern physics and allied fields (astronomy, geophysics, optics, etc.). Grants may be up to \$10,000 each and can be used to cover direct expenses connected with preserving, inventorying, arranging, describing, or cataloging appropriate collections. Expenses can include staff salaries/benefits and archival storage materials but not overhead or equipment.

The AIP History Center's mission is to help preserve and make known the history of modern physics, astronomy, and allied sciences, and the grant program is intended to help support significant work to make original sources in these fields accessible to researchers. Preference will accordingly be given to medium size or larger projects for which the grant will be matched by the parent organization or other funding sources. For grant guidelines check the Center's web site at <www.aip.org/history/grntgde.htm> or call 301-209-3165. Inquiries are welcome, and sample proposals are available on request. A list of previous recipients is on the web site. Deadline for receipt of applications is August 15, 2011 ■

Spring 2011 Meeting Session Reports

The meeting's theme was "The Future of Archives" and each session followed one of four sub-themed tracks.

TRACK ONE:

THE FUTURE OF ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION

New Ways to Use Archival Data

Chair: Mark Matienzo, Yale University

Speakers: Aaron Rubinstein, Tufts University and Julia Flanders, Brown University

- Erin Ellingham

Aaron Rubinstein started the session with his presentation "From the Bottom Up: Re-imagining Archival Metadata on the Web," which related to work he had done as the digital project manager for the Special Collections and University Archives at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Focusing on the potential of archival materials and

the way they are described and presented online, the presentation offered a possible path for making this data available in the future through linked open data and the Semantic Web. Rubinstein discussed the changing nature of archival collections and highlighted the issues of how to integrate both data and metadata from older collections with those of born digital materials, how to connect data across collections and institutions, and how to enrich our data and provide more context for our materials. He offered linked data as a way to address these issues. He discussed the basic rules of linked data (use URIs as identifiers, use http URIs so they can be looked up, provide useful information using standards, include links to other URIs) and described how this aggregation of information through semantic links will lead to the Semantic Web. This potentially huge network of data can be difficult to make sense of, which is where ontologies, such as FOAF and Dublin Core, come in. They provide logic to allow computers to make sense of the connections and provide meaning. The presentation ended with a demonstration of his project, which modeled names in archival collections and their relationships to other data. The slides from this presentation, including examples and a link to the project, can be found at the Tufts website: <<http://sites.tufts.edu/dca/files/2011/04/nea11sp.pdf>>.



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Julia Flanders, Director of the Women Writers Project at Brown University, followed up Rubinstein's discussion by asking how we can reach the Semantic Web without losing the aspects of archival collections that make them distinctive. Her presentation "Describing the Archive," representing a digital humanities perspective, looked at how methods of digital representation affect our understanding and use of archival material, particularly materials whose artifactual and material nature is of as much importance for research as their informational content. The discussion focused on the issues of representing materiality in a digital environment and the difficulty of formalizing descriptions in order to support meaningful digital interactions and comparisons between items. In the interest of making archival collections more accessible to researchers there is a need for standards that enable the sharing and aggregation of data and the development of tools that can be used across collections and institutions. Flanders cited Text Encoding (TEI) as a way to formalize specific material aspects of an individual item, allowing direct comparison between items and collections. She also cited projects, such as the Walt Whitman Archive, that create virtual aggregations of materials that may have been physically separated. For more on the Women Writers Project see: <www.tei-c.org/About/Archive_new/ETE/Preview/flanders.xml>.

EAC-CPF: What Is It, and What Can I Do With It?

Speakers: Kathy Wisser, Simmons College and Krista Ferrante, Harvard University

– *Megan Schwenke*

Kathy Wisser began this session with a description of the development of the Encoded Archival Context—Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families (EAC-CPF) content standard from her perspective as chair of the EAC-CPF Working Group. EAC-CPF was first released in March of 2010, and was adopted by SAA in January of this year. The standard uses an entity/identity relationship to describe corporate bodies, persons, or families, where an identity is a person, and an entity is the physical embodiment of the identity. EAC aims to separate the description of materials from the description of their creators and context while still linking them together.

There are several principles behind EAC: it is written to be closely aligned with the archival authority record standard ISAAR (CPF); it is intended to be philosophically neutral, so expression of identities can be flexible in each institution; its design is extensible; and it's adaptable to relational database structure and design. The authors drew from DACS Principle 2, which speaks to provenance, and Principle 8, which says that description of the creator of archival materials is essential. EAC also builds upon lessons learned in the application of EAD. EAC reflects a more robust understanding of XML than EAD, and the structured records produced using EAC can be interfiled with any existing XML records already in use at an institution. EAC also includes more metadata than EAD. Some of the EAC metadata elements are required, but many are optional. The SNAC Social Networks and Archival Context Project and the National Library of Australia's Trove project were shown as examples of projects that incorporated EAC.

Kathy's talk was followed by Krista Ferrante's account of implementing EAC-CPF in the Digital Collections and Archives at Tufts University. The Tufts Accessioning Program for Electronic Records (TAPER), funded by an NHPRC grant, chose EAC to help create regularized information about the groups relevant to the Archives, as a traditional finding aid could not truly capture the complexity of the people, entities, and organizations in play and their relationships to each other. Though the implementation is still ongoing, the archivists at Tufts have found EAC to be very flexible in allowing local decisions to be made when needed while also decreasing data duplication. The linking functionality within EAC was found to be very powerful as well; organizational charts and family trees were shown to illustrate this point. This combination of EAC's flexibility and linkability moves the traditional finding aid away from static EAD documents to a multifaceted instrument that can use one identity, and thus one access point, to draw information in different collections in different locations together. In conclusion, both presenters stressed that the archival community must take the initiative to experiment further with EAC to decide how it should be utilized and how it can best benefit its users.

Visit the NEA online at:

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

Playing with Metadata: Developing an Open Source Metadata Games System for Archives and Libraries

Speakers: Mary Flanagan, Dartmouth College and Peter Carini, Dartmouth College

- **Sarah Funke Donovan**

How many archives have looked at digitization projects and wished that metadata could generate itself? To tap into larger networks of knowledge, institutions have experimented with crowd-sourcing as a way of creating descriptive metadata: in 2008, the Library of Congress created a Flickr page and invited users to tag images and leave comments.

The results were surprisingly successful: out of approximately 67,000 tags, fewer than 25 instances of user-generated content had to be removed. However, many comments, though positive, were not informative (i.e., comments such as “great picture!”). In addition, over 80% of the tags closely matched existing metadata or features within the image, meaning that little new information was created.

Perhaps most importantly, the project required at least 1.5 FTE staff to maintain. Many smaller institutions don’t have that many staff to spare on digitization projects. Thus, speakers Mary Flanagan and Peter Carini of Dartmouth College sought to involve users in metadata creation in a way that would require less staff time and yield more meaningful results. So, what about making metadata creation into a game?

An NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant (and funding from ACLS) enabled Flanagan and Carini to test pilot the concept of using online games to harvest metadata. The project created and experimented with several different kinds of 1-2 player games. The games were originally created in Flash, although the project is working to move to HTML5 and to create a Facebook application.

The project started with Dartmouth’s Stefansson Arctic Photographs, a collection that already had descriptive metadata that could be compared to the results of the games. Because the Library of Congress experiment had found that images with less metadata generated more user responses, the original metadata was stripped for the Dartmouth project. Players ranged from experts in arctic

exploration to 11-year-olds, and their responses were divided into two groups: the red tags and the blue tags. Over 4,000+ entries were generated by the two groups.

The games offer some variety for players: in the “Guess What?” game, Player 1 receives an image and tries to describe it, sending descriptive tags to Player 2. Player 2 then receives a suite of images and tries to match the metadata from Player 1 to the correct image. Other games, such as “Zen Tag,” require a single player to view an image and start typing in a tag box. The player receives more points for obscure words, to encourage a variety of responses.

A few questions the project raised were how to tap player expertise (or, how to get arctic exploration experts to play, for example), how to trust players (there is always a prankster who will type “hog” for every image), and how to guard good data against subversion. A further question from the audience wondered how to incorporate serious subjects (such as Holocaust photographs) into the more fun-based environment of gaming. The initial project results, however, suggest great promise for the use of online games to create metadata.

TRACK TWO:

THE FUTURE OF PRESERVATION

Coordinated Disaster Planning

Chair: Veronica Martzahl, Tufts University

Speakers: Polly Darnell, Shelburne Museum; Donna

Longo DiMichele, Office of Library and Information

Services, State of Rhode Island; Eileen Warburton, Office

of Library and Information Services, State of Rhode

Island; Rebecca Hatcher, Yale University

- **Laura Cass, Simmons College GSLIS**

Session Chair Veronica Martzahl, of Tufts University and the Massachusetts Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness (COSTEP) Steering Committee, began the session by explaining the importance of disaster planning as a preventive preservation strategy. Introducing the session’s theme of collaboration, Martzahl urged participants to form relationships with local, state, and federal institutions, and to identify a key contact in case of emergency.

Polly Darnell, of the Shelburne Museum and the

Vermont Alliance for Response, talked about how the VAR is forming relationships in the community. In particular, she emphasized the importance of contacting the fire department, who can examine your building and make a detailed plan of action in case of a fire or flood. She also suggested that holding a drill is an excellent way to get buy-in from your co-workers and neighboring institutions, since oftentimes people need a drill to show them exactly how unprepared they are for a disaster. As well as holding their own drills, institutions should also make sure they participate in their state's emergency drill.

Rebecca Hatcher, of Yale University (who read the presentation of Kathy Craughwell-Vardan, who was not able to make it), discussed Connecticut's COSTEP program, which was formed in 2010 with help from the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC). One of their biggest achievements is an upcoming series of five regional forums hosted by NEDCC's Lorie Foley, a recognized disaster planning expert. They were able to host these forums using an NHPRC State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) grant, which they applied for with partners the Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board (CT SHRAB) and Connecticut's Conservation ConneCTion.

Donna Longo DiMichele and Eileen Warburton, of the Office of Library and Information Services of the State of Rhode Island, spoke about their state's "Connecting to Collections" project. The project involves two phases, a planning phase and an implementation phase, each funded by separate Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grants. Both phases involve steering committees consisting of representatives from state cultural heritage institutions as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and NEDCC. One challenge they have is that Rhode Islanders, Long and Warburton claim, are very reluctant to work with people outside their own town. In trying to create a Rhode Island COSTEP, one of their first goals, they have been holding small regional meetings at interesting venues with light refreshments, to get people comfortable with the process. Though the town-level work is going slowly, they have had a lot of success at the state level, and the RI Lieutenant Governor is a huge supporter of their work. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Advisory Council has also provided significant support, including web space. One of the program's biggest goals is to encourage RI institutions to adopt dPlan, an online disaster management tool designed by NEDCC and the Massachusetts

Board of Library Commissioners. They recommend that institutions try "dPlan Lite" if they find dPlan too overwhelming.

Links:

<www.heritagepreservation.org/afr/Vermont/index.html>

<<http://costep.cslib.org/>>

<www.archives.gov/nhprc/announcement/partnership.html>

<www.imls.gov/collections/>

<www.dplan.org/>

Preserving Architectural Records

Chair: Laura Tatum, Yale University

Speaker: Tom Rosko, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- *Frances Harrell*

Laura Tatum, Architectural Archivist at Yale, described her experience being the sole archivist managing a collection with intensive pre-custodial intervention. Because of the nature of chronological deposit, the Yale Archives are still mainly dealing with paper architectural records. The architecture department out-collects all other types of records in the archives, and the collections themselves are very large, both in volume and physical dimensions. They are used regularly in teaching, and access is non-mediated. These factors all present challenges in a generalist repository.

To be able to offer the level of access necessary for teaching, the architecture department has adopted a system of pre-processed deposit, essentially asking donating firms to use archival methods to prepare their own collections, including the purchase of housing materials. During the pre-custodial intervention, the archivist advises which materials are useful, what types of researchers will use the materials, and what the expectations are after deposit (specifically that there will be no further processing at the archives). Working as a consultant in this way is extremely time-consuming, but it provides fully processed, openly accessible documents on delivery. The scope of the work of processing the collections, along with the costs, time, and output, are all mutually understood before the deed of gift is signed.

The system has benefited the archives by helping to

communicate the value of the records and archival methods to the donors, as well as allowing the archivist to become familiar with the scope of the collection before deposit. It has benefited researchers and students by providing day of delivery access, and it has benefitted donor firms by helping them understand the importance of their own records and valuable output.

Tom Rosko, Head of Institute Archives and Special Collections at MIT, followed by describing his work with the research project FACADE: Future-proofing Architectural Computer-Aided Design. This IMLS grant-funded project tackled the original research problem of current architectural data being lost. The outcome was to develop a best practices guide for capturing, describing, managing, preserving, and making available digital Computer Aided Design (CAD) models.

Initial problems include the extreme complexity of CAD and a general lack of tools, standards, and approaches for 3D digital preservation. Using three recent building projects, the FACADE team developed a preliminary workflow using the content management tool Curator's Workbench, a set of user interface tools: SIMILE's Longwell, Exhibit, and Timeline, and storage within a DSpace repository. Through Curator's Workbench, they created a new vocabulary for description of CAD objects.

At this point in the project, the benefits have mainly come from the tool and interface developments that have been made. The major and persistent challenge is related to the intellectual property and rights issues surrounding the proprietary software used in the design process. This challenge will need to be met to see the system implemented.

Cloud Computing

Chair: Anne Sauer, Tufts University

Speakers: Ari Davidow, Jewish Women's Archive and Bill Donovan, Boston College

- **Bridget Jeffs**

For many archives, "cloud computing" is a new way to store digital materials without costly servers or technical staff but there are still many archivists who are not familiar with the concept or its many uses within the profession. This panel not only provided useful general infor-

mation on the topic but also two specific examples of possible uses of the new technology.

In "Archives in the Cloud," Ann Sauer provided a basic overview of the different versions and uses of cloud computing, including which variety would best serve the archival community. Of the three uses Sauer outlined ("Software as a Service," "Platform as a Service," and "Infrastructure as a Service") the most useable in traditional archives is Infrastructure as a Service because this is the version that uses the cloud as a storage space. Sauer concluded her introduction with the possible advantages and challenges to cloud storage.

Ari Davidow of the Jewish Women's Archives, an exclusively online archive, describes the great asset that cloud storage can be in his presentation "A Small Archive in the Cloud." As a small archives with a small budget, cloud storage offered a cost effective alternative to traditional (and costly) onsite server storage. While the JWA project is ongoing, as it stands it is a good model for other small institutions with budget or space issues for maintaining a physical server and the staff to maintain it.

Bill Donovan presented on "Distributed Digital Preservation" which describes the work being done by the MetaArchive Collective in storing geographically dispersed replicates of records for preservation purposes. The MetaArchive Collective uses the cloud as administrative space to provide equal access to all of the Collective's member institutions.

TRACK THREE:

THE FUTURE OF RECORDS CREATORS

Working with Community Archives and Organizational Records

Speakers: Jennifer Lanzing, Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut; Kevin Glick, Yale University; and Michelle Romero, Northeastern University

- **Abraham Miller**

Community archives and organizational records are frequently used to create collective memories for these groups. The speakers discussed methods to make these records available, while describing how each institu-

tion attempts to overcome the unique difficulties that each encounters.

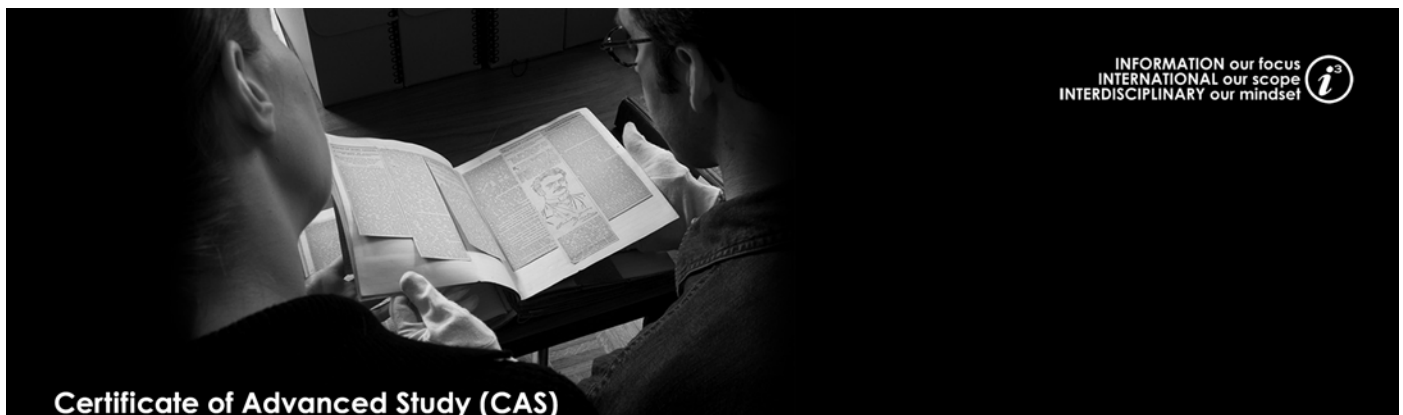
Jennifer Lanzing discussed several core issues related to providing access to the Mohegan Tribe's archives, which is closed to the public outside of the tribe. Electronic access is difficult for community members who may not have computer skills, because of a lack of technical infrastructure, and the sensitive nature of the records. Furthermore, not all community members understand how the archives can strengthen tribal memory and identity. To address these issues, Lanzing has undertaken outreach programs designed to educate the community about the archives and to teach computer skills to older members of the community.

Michelle Romero discussed how Northeastern University preserves the web presences from Boston area social justice organizations. While Northeastern has the paper records from these organizations, it is important to capture their web presence for a more complete picture. While Romero could have relied on the Internet Archive's "Wayback Machine" for harvesting, their "Archive-It" ser-

vice provided the control that she needed. While there were issues with crawling, such as dynamic pages that could trap the harvester, the system allowed for Dublin Core metadata creation and keyword searching.

Kevin Glick discussed the challenges of preserving digital records created by community organizations. While pre-custodial intervention and retrospective records management works for analog records, this does not work as well for digital records. This is because digital recordkeeping is frequently more haphazard and because of the fast rate of change in digital media. Furthermore, tech support staff in community organizations has a high rate of turnover. Particular challenges included creating workarounds to properly harvest email from commercial cloud services, like Yahoo. Harvesting social media, like Facebook, proved difficult to preserve because of how quickly pages disappear and because of rights issues.

In each of the above examples, the archivists work with and on behalf of the records creators, so that a record of the past can be accessed in the future.



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Curating Special Types of Documentation

Speakers: Susan Keats, Fidelity Corporation; Birkin Diana, Brown University; Cindy Teixeira, University of Connecticut

- Molly Bruce

The three panelists participating in this session discussed their experiences working with special types of document and data collections. These experiences highlight diverse challenges, as well as several different strategies involved in coordinating with records creators to meet those challenges.

From the Fidelity Corporation, Susan Keats was the first panelist to present. Since 2002, she has been working on Fidelity's filmed oral history program, a project intended to preserve corporate memory in order to share the history and culture of the firm with future employees. Keats described the processes of researching who to interview and their backgrounds, grappling with the logistics of travel (sometimes overseas) with heavy AV equipment, and constructing effective film sets on the fly. After filming the interviews, the next steps included creating archival and use copies and sending the interviews out for transcribing. Some of the interviews gathered for the oral history program have been published in the corporation's annual reports and newsletters, as well as being part of a thirty minute video about the early history of Fidelity.

Next Birkin Diana, from the Center for Digital Scholarship (CDS) at Brown University, discussed creating an uploader for the Brown Digital Repository (BDR), which would enable students and faculty to upload and store documents in the repository. Opening the repository to general use among the Brown community raised some concerns that the BDR might turn into a digital "junk drawer" of sorts. In response to this problem, CDS staff has been building tools that help users navigate uploaded files, discern usefulness among those files, and find relevant resources. These tools call for good metadata, and rather than requiring users to supply metadata with each upload (which is not a user-friendly approach), Diana and his colleagues resolved to design automated processes to mine for metadata and allow for optional user input. Dialog boxes would prompt users with questions about items, their importance, and their relations to other items. The goal is to form a real-time feedback loop that shows users

how answering questions improves their experience using the BDR, thereby encouraging users to continue supplying useful metadata in response to prompts.

Finally, Cindy Teixeira described her work at the archives of the University of Connecticut's Roper Center, which holds over 20,000 public opinion surveys. The Roper Center is a member of the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS), a partnership of institutions devoted to archiving data used in social science research. Teixeira discussed a collaborative project of the Roper Center and NARA to catalog approximately 2,000 United States Information Agency (USIA) international research studies, dating from 1952 to 1999. The Roper Center held several hundred of these studies, but the majority of the studies were housed at NARA, and Teixeira described the challenging tasks of exchanging cataloging information, acquiring materials for scanning, format migration, and improving the quality of metadata. To meet these challenges, she stressed the importance of leveraging strengths and sharing resources. She concluded that the success of collaborative projects ultimately strengthens communication with other professionals and enhances opportunities for diverse projects in the future.

Perspectives of Records Collectors/Gatherers

Chair: Melissa Watterworth Batt, University of Connecticut

Speaker: Heather Cole, University of Massachusetts Boston and Mass. Memories Road Show

- Derek Mosley

The Mass. Memories Road Show is a history project that digitizes family photographs and records the background of the photographs at public events held across the state of Massachusetts. The program produces a digital archive that showcases all the photos on its web site: <<http://massmemories.net/>>. The project is run through The University of Massachusetts Boston. Each town creates a local arrangements team which is usually the local historical society and they are tasked with taking care of all the publicity and logistics. The community is also involved in scanning photographs and taking oral histories from the participants.

After looking at some photos, the session turned into a discussion where the background of the program and the success of the program were discussed. The discussion also included ways to encourage underrepresented citizens to participate in these types of events. The session ended with a look toward the future and how to integrate this program into the local schools.

TRACK FOUR:

THE FUTURE OF THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION

Is Archival Education Preparing Tomorrow's Archivists?

Speakers: Alyssa Pacy, Cambridge Public Library; Rachel Onuff, Preservation Consultant and Simmons College; Jeannette Bastian, Simmons College

- Andrea Cronin, Simmons College, GSLIS

Alyssa Pacy of Cambridge Public Library opened this session's discussion of archival education by asking educators Rachel Onuff, adjunct professor at Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science West and Jeannette Bastian, acting Dean of Simmons GSLIS and director of the archives program how archival education has changed in the last five years. Pacy explained how two events have largely impacted her career since her graduation in 2006: digitization and the recession. According to Pacy, the skills a good archivist needs include being organized, project-driven, financially and politically savvy, well-spoken, willingness to be out in the community, and technological abilities. She asked the panel to explain how these skills are being taught in archival programs.

"The degree starts to go stale as soon as you are awarded it," said Onuff. She offered the advice that potential employers are looking for ways in which archivists and archival students stay engaged with the profession. Onuff credited the continuing value of the core courses taught at Simmons GSLIS and the Technology Orientation Requirement (TOR) as a means of getting the basics, but she said that archival programs also work to give students access to networking and practical experience through internships. She made note that Simmons GSLIS is separating the internship into a required course on its own in order to emphasize the importance of practical experience.

Jeannette Bastian discussed the relationship between education and the profession, explaining that education not only follows practice and responds to need, but education develops, informs, and forecasts practice. Education has the ability to foresee the way a discipline might be changing. Bastian illustrated the new directions that archival education may be taking, especially in light of the recession and a difficult job market. The traditional institutional archivist position may be harder to find but there are many positions out there that archivists have the skills to perform. She highlighted new directions for which archivists have the skill and ability in digital curation, digital asset management, content management systems, cultural heritage informatics, community archives, social media, memory studies, and issues of social justice. Bastian also brought to light the new approaches to educational practice of digital material like Simmons GSLIS Digital Curriculum Lab, a digital space for students to safely practice digital skills, and Archivopteryx, an application that allows students to process a collection in a digital environment.

Is Archival Research Relevant To Practitioners?

Chair: Patricia Condon, Simmons College

Speakers: Brien Brothman, Rhode Island State Archives and Lisa Hussey, Simmons College

- Kimberly Kennedy

This session focused on the nature of the research that appears in archival journals and literature and whether that research is relevant to archivists. Both panelists agreed that the answer is "yes."

Brien Brothman of the Rhode Island State Archives began by discussing how the archival "neighborhood" is changing. Historians performed some of the first archives research and the first archives programs were situated in history departments. Since then the center of research has shifted to library schools, practicing archivists and information schools, and the research neighborhood is continuing to evolve. Research habitats, archival space, and users' space are all being influenced by technology.

Brothman also discussed how researchers are increasingly interested in classification. For example, they are becoming more scientific and focusing on patterns in the

behavior of both record keepers and users. In general, the archives field is becoming more interdisciplinary; research relevant to archives is found in many areas, including computer science and human-computer interaction. Also applicable are studies on the nature of communities, justice, and memory. In conclusion, Brothman called for more research on how technology moves from research to practice.

Lisa Hussey of Simmons College began her talk by stating that since she is not an archivist, she would focus on the dichotomy and split between theory and practice in libraries. While journal articles can be heavy in theory, theories are still important because they provide a frame for the direction of research. In addition, archivists and librarians are often asked to think outside of the box, but until we know the theory that created the box, we cannot think outside of it.

Next, Hussey discussed how researchers choose their topics. For many, the need to publish in a prestigious journal influences their research focus and can help explain why some research doesn't seem relevant to practitioners. Furthermore, what an archivist sees as important depends on how removed they are from a situation. Although academics may view things differently from practicing librarians due to their distance, this is not necessarily negative since distance can create objectivity. Hussey believes that we need both hands-on and theoretical research and that the increasingly popular case studies are a good example of the convergence between the two. Some gaps in current research include the management and administration of archives. She concluded with the thought that there is value to both practice and research.

Ideas to Balance Need vs. Resources

Chair: Sean Fisher, Department of Conservation and Recreation, State of Massachusetts

Speakers: Richard Ring, Trinity College and Nancy Kougeas, Consultant

- Emily Gonzalez, Simmons GSLIS

Today, more graduate students are attending programs in archival management. While archival repositories have a strong need for archivists, the economic recession severely limits the number of employment opportunities that are available. How do we as archivists help to bridge this need vs. resources gap? The panelists at this session

shared their own experiences and offered suggestions for succeeding in today's archival job market.

Richard Ring began the session by talking about what archival institutions look for in a potential archivist. Archival institutions like the idea of a "scholar" in the archives, but this is hard to support. Realistically, today's archival positions are much more blended. Institutions want an archivist who is able to do more – to think critically about the collections and process quickly and accurately.

Ring believes that archivists could have more rewarding and possibly better paid work by being savvy, recognizing what needs to get done, and helping the repository meet their financial needs. The hard facts are that student members of the Society of American Archivists have doubled and there aren't enough jobs to accommodate everyone from 2010 to 2020. So, how can future archivists put themselves ahead of the rest? Ring offered a number of suggestions. Attend conferences and strive to meet others with similar interests. Move closer to entrepreneurship by approaching an institution and bidding on a job that you would like. Volunteer for a small collection as a way to work your way into an organization. Ring also named three buzzwords that he believes archivists in training should keep in mind: broadcasting, branding, and promotion.

Nancy Kougeas then spoke on her experiences in the Massachusetts Documentary Heritage Program. Through her work as a long-term consultant, Kougeas has learned to make quick and honest decisions about archival collections. Kougeas believes that archival institutions today need archivists with strong leadership capabilities; people who can figure out disaster plans and have a clear understanding of how to bring in money to the institution. As an example of the different kind of work available for future archivists, she cited how the Maine Memory Network looks for circuit writers and roving archivists. Kougeas offered some further suggestions for what archivists can do to prepare themselves for the job market. Records management and grant writing courses are both crucial to any archivists' training, as are courses on contemporary metadata standards. When applying for jobs, show that you are dedicated to your work by selling your skills and your passions. Try to speak the language of the institution where you are applying. Tap into volunteer opportunities not only for good experience but also as possible nodes of networking. Finally, don't be afraid to market yourself internationally.

Closing Plenary Session

Moderator: Eliot Wilczek, Tufts University

Speakers: Susan Pyzynski, Harvard University; Ross Harvey, Simmons College; Kathryn Hammond Baker, Harvard University; James O'Toole, Boston College

- Molly Bruce, Laura Cass, Frances Harrell, and Andrea Cronin

The four panelists each followed a single thematic track throughout the day, and presented brief summaries and their analysis of the sessions they attended:

Starting the plenary session, Susan Pyzynski, Associate Librarian at Harvard's Houghton Library, summarized the description track. The panels in this track proposed new, forward-thinking, and challenging ways to address the future of description. Pyzynski noted three major themes expressed in these panels: context, trustworthiness, and relationships. The revolutionary potential of the Semantic Web for description and the expression of context lead us to consider the nature of meaningful digital interaction for users. Encoded Archival Context addresses the description of corporate bodies, persons and families that create, use, and maintain records, and the implementation of EAC poses new opportunities and challenges. User generation of metadata is a powerful tool that presents the task of finding ways to ensure that metadata is trustworthy. Finally, the ability to foster relationships across archival collections and repositories is strengthened by new digital technologies. We can share what we learn without reinventing the wheel. Pyzynski closed with some questions raised in the description track. How are our collections changing? What does that mean in terms of description? And how can it be implemented, particularly at small institutions?

Professor Ross Harvey of Simmons College gave a summary of the preservation track. The track had two overarching themes, he said: the future of preservation and collaboration among institutions and agencies. The architectural records sessions made Harvey think about how, though we might be focused on moving forward, we always have to consider the past when talking about the future, and that identifying links across time can help us to develop the most effective preservation strategy. For Harvey, the disaster-planning session was a perfect example of the importance of collaboration. In the cloud computing session, Harvey was most struck by the notion of "just-in-

time" scalability. Finally, Harvey was impressed that, unlike at other conferences, the presenters in this meeting's preservation track gave equal time to digital preservation, Harvey's area of expertise. The emphasis on digital preservation, argued Harvey, makes collaboration all the more crucial. To paraphrase Bill Donovan, one of the session presenters, Harvey said, "Digital preservation – and preservation, by extension – will only succeed through effective collaboration."

Kathryn Hammond Baker, Deputy Director at the Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library, summarized the future of records creators track. She first emphasized the message that we as archivists must all be addressing electronic records and their preservation, while also noting that records which are not under the control of the records creators (such as Facebook content) will be a future trend and challenge facing the profession. She saw the emerging theme of the day to be that compliance and participation of creator communities rely on the benefits to that community, especially those they can see directly. We should endeavor to be persuaders, not enforcers, making sure we provide and show benefits of participation and letting creators come to us. There are two ways we can influence creators: indirectly and directly. Indirect influence can be as simple as giving records creators a new sense of the importance of their own records, which Mass. Memories has tried to do. Or the influence can come from the status of the collecting program, such as the Fidelity oral history project. The importance the company put on the program influenced the value employees placed on their records. Direct influence can be achieved through pre-custodial intervention, as Birkin Diana spoke to, regarding a personal digital repository. Building an informed creation environment can ensure high quality content in the repository.

Lastly, James O'Toole of Boston College concluded the plenary session with his thoughts on the professional track. He believed there was very fruitful discussion on the traditional archival skills and the skills needed for the future, especially in the aftermath and continuing aspects of digitization. The profession is changing; there is a need to pre-

Continued on page 30

Visit the NEA online at:

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

AROUND & ABOUT

Making the Connection

by Nancy Noble, Archivist/Cataloger, Maine Historical Society

Collections arrive. We process them. They are placed on the shelf, and made available to the public. This is the usual procedure for the majority of our collections. But sometimes, we are fortunate enough to really make the connection between the collection itself, and the donor and location of the original records. This has happened at least three times in the past few years with some of our larger collections.

When the processing of the large Merrill Transportation Company collection was underway in offsite storage in Scarborough, the library staff was able to visit the company's facility in South Portland, now mostly owned by Sprague Energy. Wearing hard hats, we wandered in and out of warehouses that stored the tapioca and paper and other products transported by the Merrill Transportation Company. We stood on the edge of the Fore River, watching modern day ships load and unload their cargo. The Merrill Company was started by Paul E. Merrill in 1929, and this collection (approx. 240 linear ft.) is mostly the records of his son, P.D. Merrill (1944-2007), who took over the company in 1982, after the death of his father. P.D. Merrill saw the Merrill Terminal grow to be the largest dry freight marine terminal in the state, handling newsprint, wood pulp, coal, salt, and scrap metal in shipments to and from Newfoundland, Sweden, China, Thailand, Chile, and Egypt, among other distant ports. We have been fortunate to have access to people associated with the company to give us perspective and information on this amazing collection.

This past year we've been processing the Weston Homestead Farm Corporation collection, which is comprised of letters, diaries, photographs, etc. This collection, which is approximately 52 linear feet, gives a picture of a mid-Maine farm family, mostly revolving around Addie Bixby Weston, a farm wife and writer for magazines such as *Ladies Home Journal* and *Good Housekeeping*. In August 2010, I attended the Weston family reunion, along with my husband Michael, Sarah Gillis, a former intern and current Simmons graduate student who processed the photographs, and her mother. Not only were we given a tour of the wonderful homestead (ca. 1786) in Madison, which is still filled with family furniture and memorabilia, but we were able to meet the descendants of Addie and

Theodore Weston. We lunched with them, enjoying burgers and hot dogs, cookies and watermelon, while hearing even more family tales. The family has always been willing to answer our questions.

Recently my intern, Maddy Bunker, a Bennington College student, processed the letters of Eula Bixby, a cousin of Addie's, and found her to be a fascinating woman. Eula was a teacher and photographer in the late 1800s, and part of the Bixby family that settled in Southern California. We shot off some emails to a few of the Weston descendants to see if they had more information about Eula that they could share with us, and they quickly responded with whatever knowledge they had. They seem to appreciate our enthusiasm for their family's legacy, and are pleased when we get absorbed into the details of this charming and appealing clan.

Finally, this past summer, a volunteer, Jane Cullen, processed the records of the Robinson Manufacturing Company. The records, which encompass 13 linear ft., 70 volumes, and 17 oversized folders of drawings, tell the story of a textile mill in Oxford, Maine, owned by the same family from the mid 1800s until the past few years. George Robinson and his wife Harriet met us at their home in Otisfield, Maine, on a glorious autumn day. Enjoying the scenic views of the mountains of western Maine, and New Hampshire, we sat on the porch drinking coffee with these descendants of John Robinson, who originally came over from England, including a brother and cousin. Thanks to the graciousness of the Robinsons, Jane was able to fill in some of the blanks of her work on the collection. We then followed George and Harriet to nearby Oxford, where a former employee now looks after the mill. He led us through the cavernous rooms and offices, which still showed traces of use, from giant reams of fabric to random

Internet Tidbits

- Susan Martin

The George Washington University's National Security Archive (<www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/>) is "an independent non-governmental research institute and library" that "collects and publishes declassified documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act," declassification, and collection acquisition. Subjects include not only national security, but also foreign policy, intelligence, economics, and diplomatic and military history. The Archive has published more than 500,000 documents—many of which have never been seen before—in microfiche collections, CD-ROMs, and books, in 35 different collections in the Digital National Security Archive database (available with a subscription), and online as Electronic Briefing Books.

You'll find the Electronic Briefing Books at the Archive's home page and at the "documents" and "news" tabs. New groups of documents are posted frequently, with the latest posting at the top. Recent subjects have included Osama bin Laden, the Bay of Pigs Invasion, paramilitary groups in Colombia, nuclear weapons, and the Darfur genocide. Each page contains an overview, followed by a

list of related documents with abstracts. External links are provided as needed throughout the text—for example, to a related book on Amazon.com—and a sidebar on the left of every page lists other Archive postings on the same topic. Original documents are linked as scanned PDFs, and many pages also incorporate photographs, audio files, or embedded videos. For example, the Archive's page on the Bay of Pigs includes MP3s of a telephone conversation between John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy (as well as a fascinating memo from Richard Goodwin describing an interview with Che Guevara), and another page contains a 1950s training video dramatizing the U.S. Air Force's "Quick Strike" response in the case of a nuclear attack by the Soviets. Several generations of striking satellite images show sites in the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

The strength of the National Security Archive is unfortunately also its weakness. The website is very content-rich and up-to-date, but it contains so much information that its organization is haphazard. Formatting is inconsistent, pages are cluttered, and navigation is confusing. The search engine is unsophisticated and consists only of a basic keyword search. On older pages, many external links are broken. But the essays and abstracts accompanying the featured documents are well-researched and comprehensive, and they provide invaluable context when discussing very complex issues.

The National Security Archive also advocates for open government policies, and the web site contains news and information related to the Freedom of Information Act. (However, the latest news item posted at the "FOIA" tab is three years old.) Other news related to the National Security Archive is located on the home page and includes items related to exhibits, awards, and publications. ■

office furniture. The town of Oxford now owns the mill complex, and plans for its future use are uncertain.

All these opportunities to "make the connection" make our work even more meaningful, and serve to bring to life collections which, by the time they arrive here, may seem to be only vestiges of a long ago era. Now, when I work on the Weston collection, I picture the homestead where Theodore and Addie sat by the fire, and when we put the final touches on the Robinson collection, we pictured the huge rooms where the mill workers wove the cloth.

A shorter version of this article was originally published in the Winter 2010 Maine Historical Society newsletter: http://www.mainehistory.org/PDF/newsletter_Winter2010.pdf. ■

The *NEA Newsletter* is seeking submissions from repositories in New England for back cover pictorial features in *This Season in New England History*. Send submissions in JPG or TIFF format, along with a caption detailing the subject of the photograph, to Judy Farrar at <jfarrar@umassd.edu>. Photographs must be scanned at 600 dpi or better.

Reviews

Theimer, Kate. *Web 2.0 Tools and Strategies for Archives and Local History Collections*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc., 2010. 246 pages. \$79.95 ISBN 978-1-55570-679-1

- Cynthia G. Swank, CA, CRM, Inlook Group

For anyone contemplating using Web 2.0 tools to improve the visibility and accessibility of their organization and its collections, this book provides an excellent introduction. Theimer's enthusiasm is infectious and, despite her cogent discussion about planning and managing Web 2.0 projects, I expect some readers may be tempted to take the plunge without thoughtful consideration of what is sustainable.

After a brief history of what she calls the building blocks of Web 2.0, Theimer devotes individual chapters to blogs, podcasts, Flickr and other image-sharing sites, YouTube and other video-sharing sites, Twitter, wikis, and Facebook and other social networking sites. Another chapter describes mashups, widgets, online chat, and *Second Life*.

The format for each chapter is similar: she defines each tool, describes how an archival organization can use the tool, and outlines what it takes for a successful effort. Theimer provides examples from many archival organizations and includes screenshots of relevant web pages. There also are text boxes containing tips; and others that provide excerpts of interviews with representatives of organizations using a particular tool. The same questions were asked of each so that the reader obtains some comparative information.

The author also delves into measurement and management issues relating to the implementation of Web 2.0 tools. The *Appendix: Additional Resources* provides

recommendations for learning more about each of the tools and Web 2.0 in general.

My only criticism is the inclusion of "Local History Collections" in the title of the book. When Theimer was writing this book, there may have been few examples of public library local history collections, local historical societies, or municipal archives that had deployed Web 2.0 tools. For instance, the only local historical societies mentioned in the book are in communities where one would expect many computer savvy residents: Los Alamos, NM and Maynard, MA. The vast majority of repositories in the book are academic archives and special collections and state or national archives and libraries: archival organizations with professional staff members and IT support.

Nevertheless, read in conjunction with online resources for up-to-date information, including the author's own blog, *ArchivesNext*, this book serves a real need in archival literature, provides practical guidance, and entices the reader to consider how best to use the many Web 2.0 tools now available. ■

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pare students for new archival directions, of which the majority involve technological skills. He also stated that not only are the skills changing, but the neighborhood – once inhabited by historians, archivists, and records managers – is changing as well. Some of our neighbors have left and no longer live in the neighborhood (like historians) but that there is a need to know more about our new neighbors. In sorrow, O'Toole expressed the opinion that the final session was the future as seen from 1965, where students were encouraged to "find some neat historical stuff, do a survey, and write a grant to process it. A grant? Have you been reading the newspapers?" O'Toole found this advice to be a sad disservice to the modern students, whose concerns include how to assemble monthly rent, pay student loans, and other essentials. The theme of the sessions was a growing divide. There is a divide growing in the profession between the archives and technology, but also a divide between the archives profession and history. The ability to bridge these divides lies in education and communication. In recommending *Processing the Past* by Francis X. Blouin Jr. and William G. Rosenberg, O'Toole suggests that we, as archivists, just need to read more. ■

Visit the NEA online at:

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

Calendar of Events



Press releases and other announcements should be sent to Michael Dello Iacono at <delloiacono@gmail.com>. Please provide the date, time, place, and a brief description of the event and the name, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted for information.

July 13-16, 2011. CoSA and NAGARA (Council of State Archivists/National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators) Joint Annual Meeting, "Sweet Harmony and Solid Gold," in Nashville, TN. For details see <www.statearchivists.org/meetings/2011/index.htm>

July 31 - August 5, 2011. ACRL (Association of College & Research Libraries)/Harvard Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians in Cambridge, MA. For details see <www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/events/leadershipinstitute.cfm>

August 22-27, 2011. SAA (Society of American Archivists) Annual Conference, "Archives 360°" in Chicago, IL. For details see <www2.archivists.org/conference/2011/chicago>

October 14-15, 2011. NEA Fall Meeting, "Teaching with Primary Sources," at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. For details see <www.newenglandarchivists.org/meetings/meetings.html>

October 17-19, 2011. ARMA International Conference & Expo in Washington DC. For details see <www.arma.org/conference/2011/WashingtonDC.aspx>

November 16-19, 2011. AMIA (Association of Moving Image Archivists) Conference in Austin, TX. For details see <www.amiaconference.com> ■

People

Beth Carroll-Horrocks has joined the staff of the State Library of Massachusetts as Head of Special Collections. She previously served as Director of Archives at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, and as the Technical Services Librarian for the Harvard Theatre Collection.

At the Annual Business Meeting on April 2, 2011 (which took place during the Spring NEA Meeting at Brown University) NEA awarded **Edouard Desrochers**, of the Phillips Exeter Academy Archives, and **Susan Von Salis** of the Harvard Art Museums Archives the distinguished service award for their many contributions to the profession and their commitment to the archival community.

Michael P. Dello Iacono was recently hired as Suffolk University's Records Manager. Michael was previously at Harvard Medical School, where he was the manuscript processor and project manager for their Foundations of Public Health Policy grant initiative. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Records Manager at Harvard, and an English teacher and career counselor for Millennium Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. ■

SAVE THE DATE!

The New England Archivists Fall 2011 meeting will be held on October 14-15, 2011 at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. The program will focus on teaching with primary sources and will provide participants the opportunity to discuss using primary source materials inside and outside the classroom, education and outreach programs and using technology to share such materials. Further information on the meeting and workshops to be offered may be found on the NEA web site and through the NEA listserv. Hope to see you there!

Now you can join and renew your NEA membership online! Visit <www.newenglandarchivists.org/join/join.html> to get started. Anyone may join! New England Archivists membership is open to individuals and institutions upon payment of annual dues. Payment received after September 1 is applied to the following year. A Google account is required to securely join or renew online with Google Checkout. If you do not already have a Google account, you will be redirected to a Google-hosted page and instructed to create one.

THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



Trap Fishing in Barnstable Harbor, 1952

Fishermen from Barnstable, Massachusetts fish for tuna from trap boats in Cape Cod Bay. They used trap nets, or fish weirs, to catch fish, then harvested them from trap boats. This was an age-old method, and commonly used for commercial fishing of bluefin tuna during the first half of the 20th century.

Bluefin tuna are most abundant in local waters in June and July, which is most likely when this photograph was taken. Pictured from left are Mike Goulart, Joseph Neves, Al Van Know and Adam Rupkus. The trap boat belonged to Rupkus and Goulart. This photograph is from the collection of Tony DeMartino, who was also a fisherman and may have been the photographer as well. From the collection of the Barnstable Historical Society.

Courtesy of the Barnstable Historical Society.