embracing micro-appraisal in digital curation workflows

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roadmap

• What inspired the idea of micro-appraisal?
• What do we mean by micro-appraisal?
• What are micro-appraisal’s implications?
• How does micro-appraisal connect to what I do?
• Why does Micro-Appraisal matter?
appraisal drivers

archivist
- content appraisal
- intrinsic value
- research value
- scope of collections & collecting policy
- donor/transfer agreement

+ digital preservation
- technical appraisal
- feasibility
- storage needs
- infrastructure/capabilities
- budget
is it possible to recast the routine decisions that archivists make as they choose what and how many resources to devote to their digital content as “appraisal”? 
what is...
Micro-Appraisal

Characteristics of the records | Informational content | Resources (infrastructure, budget, etc)
Appraisal (n.)
~ 1. The process of identifying materials offered to an archives that have sufficient value to be accessioned.

Selection (n.)
~ 1. The process of identifying materials to be preserved because of their enduring value, especially those materials to be physically transferred to an archives.
~ 2. The process of choosing materials for exhibition, publication, reformatting.
“The Archivist’s job...is to select those records with sufficient value to justify the cost involved with storage, arrangement, description, preservation, and reference. The scarcer the institution’s resources, the more difficult are the appraisal decisions.”

-Hunter

“...technical appraisal, which is the process of deciding if and how to preserve and make available those digital records...”

-Huth
Morass of Data
Narrow Perspectives
micro-appraisal

at the university of kentucky libraries
special collections research center

sarah dorpinghaus
high level appraisal

- subject matter / research value
- size
- technical requirements / format
low level appraisal (micro-appraisal)

- shortly after donation
- during processing
- point and time of access
workflows
a tiered approach

“processing in tears tiers: applying a flexible approach to born-digital materials”
  - Dorothy Waugh, Emory University

“defining levels of processing vs. levels of effort”
  - Carol Kussmann and Lara Friedman-Shedlov, University of Minnesota Libraries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSFER</th>
<th>MINIMAL</th>
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<th>FULL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virus scan as needed/batch</td>
<td>Virus scan</td>
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<td>Disk image- Guymager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robocopy when appropriate</td>
<td>Robocopy, VLC, Windows Media Player, or Handbrake</td>
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<td>File extraction- BitCurator Disk Image Access</td>
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<td>BagIt standard</td>
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<td>Multiple backups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Update accession record</td>
<td>Collection-level data in “born digital” spreadsheet</td>
<td>Collection-level data in “born digital” spreadsheet</td>
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<td>Item-level media log</td>
<td>Item-level media log</td>
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<td>File Info Exporter 3000 documentation file</td>
<td>Reports: Bulk Extractor Viewer and BitCurator Reporting Tool</td>
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<td>Update accession record</td>
<td>Update accession record</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If PM is especially visual or informative, capture information/artwork</td>
<td>Capture/digitize PM with descriptive or visual info</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>REVIEW</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review files for challenging formats</td>
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<td>Review files for challenging formats and no extension/formats</td>
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<td>Reformat copy of files with Quick View Plus if needed</td>
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<td>Search for PII and other sensitive information at a general level</td>
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some considerations

Does the research value of the collection warrant a full forensic migration?

Is there likely PII or other sensitive information?

Where were the files created and edited?

Is it most efficient to create a disk image?

Is the PM damaged?

Is there useful metadata embedded in the files?
appraisal is informed by as well as informs our digital curation workflows and activities
micro-appraisal

at the university of louisville
archives and special collections

heather fox
IDEA
identify gaps that need to be filled; define scope

ACCESS
description; transcription; indexing; streaming

PLAN
who to interview; identify funding; schedule interviews

PRESERVATION
intellectual and physical control; reformatting; digital preservation strategies

INTERVIEW
background research; conduct interview
Our mission is to collect, preserve, and provide access to interviews that document the history of the greater Louisville area as well as the University of Louisville. We initiate oral history projects and support projects undertaken by community groups in a variety of ways.
Search this Index

- Hebrew School and Lunken YMHA
- Jews High School
- 20th Century Jews and World War I

Search the Transcript

1. Hebrew school?
2. Hebrew school: As I recall, the local Hebrew school was first established in
3. Hebrew school was first established in 1905, as a result of the East European immigrants coming over to this country. They felt they needed their own Yeshiva, and they had grown up to be more republic with environment. They weren't permitted to associate with gentiles or what you hate, and Poland is Russia. So, there was Yeshiva.
4. Hebrew school was directly across the street from there.

Connecting topics:
- Jews High School
- Lunken YMHA
- Jews High School and Lunken YMHA
- Jews High School and World War I
African American Community Interviews

Adams, Clarence with Stoner, Fred
Adams recalls the history of the east downtown and Smoketown neighborhoods of Louisville, the predecessor organizations of the Presbyterian Community Center beginning in the 1910s, and the street corner newspaper sales business in Louisville beginning in the 1920s. Both men discuss their efforts to develop a recreation program in basketball, baseball and boxing at the Presbyterian Community Center beginning in the 1930s, the association of Muhammad Ali with the Center, and administrative changes at the Center during the early 1960s.

Alexander, Lloyd
Alexander is a retired professor from Kentucky State University. He discusses his family history; his career and life in the Parkland area of Louisville; recounts what Parkland was like in 1952; and how he was received as one of the first blacks to move into the 2800 block of Virginia Avenue. He discusses the business, education, and retail landscape of Parkland and the deterioration of the neighborhood. At a time, thriving business and retail establishments along Virginia Avenue and Dumesnil Street, Parkland was a middle-class neighborhood during the 1950s.

Aiston, E. Deedom
Aiston discusses his early life in Norfolk, Virginia and his primary and secondary education there; his college education at the North Carolina College for Negroes; his seminary training at Bishop Payne Divinity School; his ordination in the Episcopal Church; his ministry at Louisville's Church of Our Merciful Saviour, 11th and Walnut Street; work in race relations in Louisville; and general remarks on the role of the church in society.
appraisal is informed by as well as informs our oral history workflows and activities
micro-appraising storage

**access server**
full access
digitized content for which we have an analogy copy in good condition
use copies of at-risk and born-digital content

**preservation server**
limited access
digitized content for which we have an analog copy that is at risk or that would be costly to re-digitize
born-digital content

**LOCKSS network**
limited access
geographically distributed; 7 copies saved
digitized content for which we have an analog copy that is at risk or that would be costly to re-digitize
digitized content that is complete and historically significant
born-digital content
Why?
Why?

Naming the intellectual work has implications for the individuals doing the work.
thank you
embracing micro-appraisal in digital curation workflows

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