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Special Collections Interest Group Report

From: Tanya Zanish-Belcher (Wake Forest University), Second-Year Co-chair
Cristina Favretto (University of Miami) and Kate Matheny (University of Alabama),
First-Year Co-chairs

Overall Goal(s)

The ASERL Special Collections Group will focus on the following issues in the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Focus on communication and networking among the ASERL Special Collections Interest Group
- Developing webinars, discussion topics, and web resources for archives and special collections professionals
- Enhancing resources available through the shared digital exhibit [Enslaved in the Southeast](#)

Resources

Exhibit on the Enslaved (ongoing)

Review by archivists/scholars--recommendations for improvement/additions

Collaborate with HBCUs for submissions

Add bibliography on secondary resources (crowdsourced by our Interest Group and others)

COVID-19 Resource Pages

Collect urls for ASERL institutions implementing COVID-19 collections

Webinars Completed

July 14, 2020

Title: Instruction 180: Moving Special Collections Instruction Online in a Pandemic

Presenters: Krystal Thomas, Rory Grennan, Rachel Duke (Florida State University)

Description: In March 2020, Florida State University Special Collections and Archives faculty and staff, like most archives, moved to a remote working model. This included reimagining previously scheduled instruction sessions. This required a lot of creative re-thinking of what a special collections instruction session looked like, what materials and resources were available in the online environment, and how we learned to use the restrictions of the online environment to our advantage. We also realized this wasn't a short term pivot in how we provide instruction. We are actively thinking about how to prioritize digitization of our materials to meet instruction needs for the foreseeable future. This webinar will look at the challenges and opportunities we've experienced at Florida State University as we make online special collections instruction successful for our faculty and students, and highlight some existing program practices that made adjustment easier.

July 29, 2020

Title: Embracing Micro-Appraisal in Digital Curation Workflows

Presenters: Sarah Dorpinghouse (UK) and Kyna Herzinger (UofL)

Description: In recent years, workflow modeling, tool development, and collaborative projects have served to advance digital curation, yet archivists continue to struggle with the often resource-intensive demands of their digital content. Building on the idea that appraisal, which the profession has traditionally considered a one-and-done activity, happens throughout the curatorial process, this panel recasts the routine decisions that archivists make as they choose what resources to devote to their digital content. Presenters will share examples of how they have sustained and grown their digital programs through this type of ongoing “micro-appraisal.” Juxtaposing content value with storage options, migration steps, and digitization choices, the presenters will share examples of decision trees and other tiered levels of activity that guide the appraisal of their digital content. Presenters and audience will explore together other areas of “micro-appraisal” and its benefits and consequences.

August 25, 2020

Title: Planning for Your Next Disaster: What You Need to Know

Presenters: Dr. Emilie Gagnet Leumas (Archdiocese of New Orleans) and Kathelene Smith (UNCG)

Description: As we live with the current pandemic, we need to remember that other disasters could lurk around the corner. Institutions are dependent on their disaster plans, which can save lives, collections, and facilities, if the staff is prepared and ready to use them. Do you feel comfortable with your institution's disaster plan? What are the elements of a good disaster plan? Join us as our speakers discuss how to create a disaster plan in the best of times, to be prepared for the worst.

September 23, 2020

Title: Once the Disaster Strikes: Dealing with the Aftermath

Presenters: Sean Ferguson (NEDCC), Melissa Smith (LSU), and Andy Corrigan (Tulane University)

Description: Living in the Southeast, every year we face the threat of hurricanes and other disasters, big or small. It is important not only to be prepared, but to be able to implement a disaster plan efficiently and with flexibility. Join us as our speakers discuss dealing with the aftermath of a disaster, including triage and remediation, reintegration, and working with vendors.

September 1, 2020

Title: Documenting Ferguson Project: Perspectives after Seven Years

Presenters: Rudolph Clay and Miranda Rectenwald (Washington University Libraries)

Description: This webinar will explore the origin and development of the Washington University Libraries Documenting Ferguson digital archive which seeks to preserve and make accessible community and media-generated, original content that was captured and created following the killing of 18-year-old, Michael Brown by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri on

August 9, 2014. We will share what we have learned as well as our concerns as we plan the future of the repository.

September 29, 2020

Title: Rights and Responsibilities: Archivists and Human Rights

Presenter: Trudy Huskamp Peterson, Consultant

Description: Archives hold records essential for protecting human rights and for supporting assertions that human rights have been violated. The framework for understanding the nexus of archives and human rights is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with archives relevant to every one of its 30 Articles. The International Council on Archives issued a "Working Document" in 2016, "Basic Principles on the Role of Archivists and Records Managers in Support of Human Rights." The convergence of these actions, from different parts of the world and different actors over more than two decades, shows the increasing recognition of the essential relationship between archives and the protection of human rights.

October 21, 2020

Title: All You Need is Paper and Passion: How Zines Can Help You Document Social Justice Movements

Presenter: Cristina Favretto, University of Miami

Description: This webinar will provide a brief history of "zines," from Roman times (almost...) to the present, offer suggestions for building relevant and responsive zine collections, and help you explore community outreach efforts through zine workshops and instructional sessions. Zines--short for fanzines--are ephemeral, self-published journals that deal with a myriad of topics, from poetry to music to science fiction to dumpster-diving adventures--with tens of thousands of topics in between. They have a long and storied history and have been instrumental in helping create and shape world-wide grassroots activists communities for both vital social issues and niche interests."

Forthcoming Webinar Topics, 2020- June, 2021

Cookbook Collections

Accessibility and the Archives

ASERL Institutions: Update on Universities Studying Slavery

University Naming and Monuments

Relationships between the University Archives and Board of Trustees

Gideon Kennedy (Archivist), John Lewis: Good Trouble Documentary

Oral History and Trauma

Civil Rights--Reproduction, Women's Rights, Suffrage

Association for Documentary Editing Diversity Projects and Forthcoming Workshops

Historians and current Digital Humanities projects

Artists Books

Climate Change and Archives