

2021 Conference Schedule
Society of North Carolina Archivists Annual Meeting
April 14-16, 2021
(all sessions require Zoom password provided to all registrants)

Wednesday, April 14: Pre-conference workshops

10:00-3:00

Pre-Conference Workshop

Introduction to Review, Appraisal and Triage of Mail (RATOM)

This workshop will explore open-source software (OSS) tools and methods for libraries, archives and museums (LAMs) to identify email in born-digital collections, review email sources for sensitive or restricted materials, and perform appraisal and triage tasks to identify and annotate records. We'll specifically focus on products of the Review, Appraisal and Triage of Mail (RATOM) project's use of machine learning to separate records from non-records, along with natural language processing methods to identify entities of interest within those records. In addition to gaining hands-on experience using the tools, participants will also learn about the rationale for their development, how they relate to other available software, and how processing of email can fit into larger digital curation workflows. We will conclude with a discussion of implications for participants in their own institutions.

Instructors

Cal Lee, Professor, School of Information and Library Science, UNC Chapel Hill
Camille Tyndall Watson, Digital Services Section Head, State Archives of North Carolina
Sangeeta Desai, Systems Integration Librarian, State Archives of North Carolina

Thursday, April 15: Annual Meeting Day 1

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

SESSION 1A

Constructing a Purposeful Environment: High-Impact Practices and Student Experiential Learning

This presentation will consider how archives can improve student experiential learning through the lens of high-impact practices, and internships in particular. Presenters will examine the educational concepts behind these practices and explore important elements that make an internship high-impact. Drawing from their own experience, UNC-Wilmington Special Collections staff will discuss how they are transforming the student assistant position, improving repository workflows, and demonstrating value beyond the walls of the repository.

Speakers

Rebecca Baugnon, Special Collections Librarian, UNC-Wilmington
Nicole Yatsonsky, Special Collections Library Specialist, UNC-Wilmington

Good Pirating: ECU Adds Value to Student Work Experiences

Libraries and archives have always relied heavily on student labor to keep the gears grinding. Frequently this has resulted in students doing menial and/or tedious tasks. While these are sometimes necessary, in ECU Special Collections we are intentionally working to increase opportunities for employment and internships to be more meaningful for students. This panel will discuss our efforts to add value to their work experiences while also ensuring the division's needs are met.

Speakers

Alston Cobourn, University Archivist, East Carolina University, "Overhauling Our Student Internship Program"

Kelly Spring, Access Archivist, East Carolina University, "Students, Data Analysis, and Information Management Systems"

SESSION 1B

Crowdsourcing Interviews Transcription: State Archives of North Carolina's Women's Veterans Oral History Transcription Project

Presenters will explore challenges, successes, and lessons learned from operation of a pioneering crowdsourced oral history transcription project, Veterans Oral History Transcription Project, by the State Library of North Carolina and State Archives of North Carolina, from 2017 to 2019. Funded by a grant, the presenters will discuss the technologies utilized, the design of the webpage, interacting with the public for virtual transcription, user feedback, and challenges in facilitating such a project.

Speakers

Matthew M. Peek, Military Collection Archivist, State Archives of North Carolina

Michael Millner, Systems Support Librarian at State Library of North Carolina

Crowdsourcing the Implementation of ArchivesSpace

Bennett Chapman presents on the implementation of ArchivesSpace at the Johnston County Heritage Center. The presentation will explore project origins, volunteer and staff training, project management during the pandemic, and linked data creation during the collections review.

Speaker

Bennett Chapman, Archivist, Johnston County Heritage Center, Crowdsourcing the Implementation of ArchivesSpace

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Business Meeting

12:00 PM-1:00 PM

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 PM-2:15 PM

SESSION 2A

Hidden Labor: Paraprofessionals in Special Collections

Panelists from three triangle area special collections libraries will discuss their paraprofessional work and how the pandemic has affected that work. We will relate the conversation to a survey we administered to paraprofessionals working in special collections, university archives, and rare book rooms at colleges and universities across North Carolina. The survey sought to learn more about job description, function, and satisfaction amongst paraprofessionals working in the professional library world.

Speakers

Jennifer Baker, Access Services Section Head, Research Services, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

Alison Barnett, Business Service Coordinator, North Carolina Collection at Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Cathy Dorin-Black, University Archives Specialist, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University

Megan Ong, Serials Specialist, Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Lucy VanderKamp, Research Services Library Associate (Stacks Manager), David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University

Clara Wilson, Research Services Assistant, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University

SESSION 2B

Preserving the Ephemeral: Issues in Music Conservation

The Cello Music Collections at UNCG constitute the largest single holding of cello music-related materials in the world. Music scores are a vehicle for perpetuating a performative art, but also carry narratives of the musicians who perform from them. Paper records the narrative of a musical score's use and becomes evidence of the life of musicians. What should be repaired and what damage should remain as a witness to the history of the object's use?

Speakers

Suzanne Sawyer, Preservation Specialist, UNC Greensboro

Stacey Krim, Curator of Manuscripts, UNC Greensboro

What Goes Where: Collecting Policies, Advocacy, and Permanent Records

The State Archives and State Library of North Carolina offer varied resources and assistance. This panel discussion will explain the collecting policy and overall mission of each and how they can support the work of librarians and others within the NC community college system as well as lone arrangers in small government agencies. It will also provide models of collecting policies, preservation techniques, and advocacy strategies to encourage the development of archives in new institutions.

Speakers

Courtney Bailey, Records Analyst, State Archives of North Carolina, “Diamonds in the Rough: Identifying Historical Records”

Denise Jones, State Publications Clearinghouse Liaison, State Library of North Carolina, “Keeping it Forever: State Publications Repository”

2:30 PM – 3:45 PM

SESSION 3A

Putting the "Out" in Outreach: Engaging Nontraditional Partners in Archival Instruction

The Outer Banks History Center, a regional unit of the State Archives of North Carolina, has developed a successful archival instruction program involving numerous nontraditional partners. This session will discuss innovative approaches to instruction with these partners, particularly K-12 students, as well as ideas for outreach and making connections outside the repository and unique approaches to bringing primary sources out of the walls of the reading room.

Speaker

Samantha Crisp, Director, Outer Banks History Center

Provincial Pandemic: Comparing Across Community-Engaged Covid-19 Collecting Efforts

Cultural heritage institutions of all kinds have responded to the Covid-19 pandemic by engaging with their communities to generate documentary records of this extraordinary moment. This presentation reports initial findings from research into how Southeastern cultural heritage institutions have developed, implemented, and maintained these community-engaged collecting efforts. The research progressed in two phases: first sending out a survey to Southeastern institutions engaged in these collecting efforts (n=30), and then conducting semi-structured interviews with 10 of these institutions.

While community-focused approaches to collecting have grown in recent years, the broad extent and range of Covid-19 collecting efforts presents an opportunity for comparative research to better understand the skills, technologies, and theoretical issues involved. This research explores how memory workers and institutions in a particular region have undertaken these projects, responding to both social and technological factors to develop collections that highlight distinct local experiences of a global phenomena.

Speakers

Colin Post, Assistant Professor in Library and Information Science, UNC Greensboro

Kassidy Hof-Mahoney, MLIS Student, UNC Greensboro

SESSION 3B

Building Community of Care around Archives, Memory, and Complex Histories

This session will be a conversation among friends - a philosopher, archivist, independent scholar/recovering librarian, and graduating Philosophy major - about how we have been able to build a community of care around archives, history, and memory. We will talk about how our work building relationships and shared spaces has helped us to confront complex histories, apply critical lenses to our archives in order to understand them better, and think about how we collect and tell stories for the future.

Speakers

Libby Coyner, Archivist, Elon University

Dr. Lauren Guilmette, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Elon University

Emily Lange '21, Philosophy and English Double Major, Elon University

Shepherd Tsosie, Unaffiliated Scholar (Indigenous Queer Studies)

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Afternoon Trivia with Josh Hager

Friday, April 16: Annual Meeting Day 2

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Awards Ceremony

9:30-10:45 a.m.

SESSION 4A

Tracking Down and Preserving the Histories of North Carolina's Community Colleges: A Progress Report

The North Carolina Community College Archives Association (NCCCAA) was formed less than five years ago by a group of concerned librarians, educators, and archivists who wanted to save the institutional memories of their individual colleges before they vanished. Unlike more established archives and special collections at four-year colleges and universities, community college archives, if they exist at all, are often little-known, even on their own campuses. NCCCAA held its first planning meeting on Dec. 2nd, 2016, at Randolph Community College. It made its first presentation at the Society of North Carolina Archivists Conference in the spring of 2017. In the years since, and with the help of SNCA, the NC Digital Heritage Center, and the State Archives of NC, among others, NCCCAA has provided its members with a variety of useful workshops and webinars. As it approaches the five year mark, NCCCAA's proposal for the SNCA 2021 Conference is an organizational progress report.

Speakers

Peggy Higgins, Systems/Access Services Librarian, A-B Tech Community College, NCCCAA
President
Clark Adams, Instructor, English/Communication, Randolph Community College, NCCCAA
Past President

SESSION 4B

Parts and Labor: Looking Under the Accessioning Hood at UNC-Chapel Hill

At Wilson Library, accessioning labor is increasingly visible because accessioning is all our work. In our accessioning model, responsibilities are distributed among specialists across departments. We come together in weekly office hours convened by an accessioning archivist to make collection materials useable in the research room and discoverable online in one pass. In this session, specialists in pre-accessioning, accessioning, curatorial, electronic records, and research and instruction will describe workflows and perspectives behind each accession.

Speakers

Nancy Kaiser, Technical Services Archivist, UNC Chapel Hill
Dawne Howard Lucas, Technical Services Archivist, UNC Chapel Hill
Matt Turi, Manuscripts Research and Instruction Librarian, UNC Chapel Hill
Gillian McCuiston, Graduate Student Assistant in the Southern Historical Collection, UNC Chapel Hill
Clare Carlson, Former Graduate Research Assistant, UNC Chapel Hill

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

SESSION 5

Hidden Mythologies: Narratives of Power in Land Grant University Archives

Archives and archivists wield considerable power in the creation and dissemination of historical narratives at land grant universities, and often serve as the bedrock for how we discuss and perceive these colleges and their legacies today. While archivists continue to confront their own power as custodians of these records, they have historically portrayed themselves as neutral purveyors of “objective truths,” obscuring the roles they took to serve the university’s colonially-rooted interests. By interrogating the intentionally hidden labor of White archivists and librarians in NC State’s history, one begins to uncover how these institutions served and promoted broader settler colonial agendas of dispossession, erasure, and assimilation. As a graduate student at NC State, I am interested in how archivists and librarians, as agents of institutional memory, used their power to uphold the legacies of the university but also erased these institutions’ settler colonial roots.

Speakers

Samantha Aamot, Graduate Student, Public History/Library Science, NC State University/UNC Chapel Hill

Managing Oral Histories in Digital Spaces

Hosting oral histories on digital platforms is convenient and provides opportunities for exploration in the areas of user experience and linked data. This poster will provide a framework of assessment by addressing hidden costs – time, labor, finance, and technology - required of institutions regarding the stewardship of oral history collections. Managing these collections can be quite an undertaking, but, when provided with adequate resources, it will be worth the work, benefiting organizations and their patrons.

Speakers

Ashelee Gerald Hill, Processing Archivist, Wake Forest University

Jessica Wilson-Saia, Digital Scholarship Developer, Wake Forest University

Erin Lawrimore, University Archivist and Associate Professor, UNC Greensboro

Amplifying Access: Re-describing Legacy Audiovisual Materials at Wilson Special Collections Library

The shift to remote work in the wake of COVID-19 provided an opportunity for members of UNC's audiovisual preservation team to prioritize a re-description project for a subset of AV collections found in the Southern Folklife Collection. This presentation will explore the labor behind this re-description project, paying particular attention to staff collaboration and highlighting how this work facilitated more equitable access to previously hidden archival audio recordings at UNC's Wilson Special Collections Library. Creating meaningful and useful description required us to retrace collection management processes, call upon colleagues' institutional knowledge, consult outside resources for research in the absence of access to most donors, and to be upfront about unknowns. Situated within Wilson Library's Conscious Editing initiative to develop more inclusive archival description, this re-description project aims to surface the voices and lived experiences of individuals documented in collections, while also informing future AV digitization priorities.

Speakers

Anne Wells, Audiovisual Archivist, UNC Chapel Hill

Meredith Kite, Library Assistant, UNC Chapel Hill