



VIRTUAL MARAC CONFERENCE | OCTOBER 28–30, 2026
ARCHIVES ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORLD

The Fall 2026 Virtual Conference Committee is excited to welcome you to three days of learning, sharing, and making connections with MARAC members from the comfort and convenience of your own device.

The theme of this conference is “Archives Adapting to a Changing World,” and we are pleased to offer a full conference that highlights the innovations and adaptations happening in archival work. Sessions throughout the virtual conference span a wide variety of topics including community relationship building, advocacy, oral histories, description, workplace staffing, audiovisual collections, and more. We are excited to reap the benefits of our MARAC colleagues’ wisdom and participate in an exchange of knowledge.

Each day, we are reminded of how the archival field is evolving and adapting to a changing world—from advancements in technology to changes in perceptions of archives. Pressure, perceived or otherwise, to always adapt can lead to burnout and compassion fatigue, so we are thrilled to welcome Joseph Donnelly, the Associate Director of Discovery Services at Colgate University, as our plenary speaker on Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. Donnelly will share his experiences and recommendations for avoiding burnout in a field that is accustomed to giving generously of our time and resources, sometimes at personal expense.

The virtual conference program is set up to encourage discussion and collaboration among attendees to provide support as you face changing priorities, staffing, and funding. A mix of helpful panel sessions will share best practices for oral history programs, review the pros and cons of AI in archives, and take a closer look at meeting new challenges in staffing. Sessions focused on advocating for archives in communities to identify funding, as well as unexpected opportunities for collaborations with community archives, are just a few highlights of this conference.

The program offers attendees a variety of ways to connect with each other, while also providing

designated screen breaks at lunchtime to balance out your virtual conference experience. On Wednesday, meet up with your state caucus to hear round robin updates from your local colleagues. Then, check out the virtual tours and poster sessions posted on the MARAC YouTube channel, and bring your comments and questions to the corresponding Q&A sessions. A networking breakfast on Thursday, and a Friday social event round out this conference’s opportunities to virtually connect with new faces and long-time friends alike. We hope that these changes will help make the conference a welcoming place for all MARAC attendees.

The Virtual Conference Committee invites you to join us for an inspiring and revitalizing program that we hope will make you feel empowered to continue adapting to change. We look forward to seeing you online in October. Come learn with Loki!



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

12–1 p.m. Plenary Lunch Talk
 1:10–1:35 p.m. Vendor Talk
 1:45–2:35 p.m. Caucus Meetings
 2:45–3:05 p.m. Vendor Talk
 3:15–4 p.m. Virtual Tour Host Q&A Session

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

9–9:50 a.m. Networking Breakfast
 10–11:15 a.m. **S1–S3 Concurrent Sessions**
 11:25–11:50 a.m. Vendor Talk
 11:50–12:30 p.m. Screen Break / Lunch
 12:30–1:30 p.m. MARAC Membership Meeting
 1:45–3 p.m. **S4–S6 Concurrent Sessions**

3:10–3:35 p.m. Vendor Talk

3:45–5 p.m. **S7–S9 Concurrent Sessions**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

9–9:50 a.m. Poster Session Q&A
 10–11:15 a.m. **S10–S12 Concurrent Sessions**
 11:25–11:50 a.m. Vendor Talk
 12–1 p.m. Screen Break / Lunch
 1–2:15 p.m. **S13–S15 Concurrent Sessions**
 2:25–2:50 p.m. Vendor Talk
 3–4 p.m. Friday Social Event

FOR ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION:

<https://marac.memberclicks.net/fall-2026-virtual-conference>



Hine, Lewis Wickes, photographer. Recess games in charge of grade teacher of Jefferson School. See Miss Folks' report. Location: Muskogee, Oklahoma / Lewis W. Hine. March. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2018678185/>.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

PLENARY LUNCH TALK

Navigating Burnout for ADHD Librarians: Build Models, Don't Burn Them Down | 12–1 p.m.

Research suggests that information professionals with ADHD may be more susceptible to burnout than their neurotypical colleagues. In this talk, Joe Donnelly will explore the intersection of ADHD, librarianship, archival work, and burnout. He will examine patterns that contribute to burnout and discuss strategies for managing ADHD-related challenges before they develop into more significant symptoms of exhaustion and disengagement.

Donnelly is the Associate Director of Discovery Services at Colgate University. He manages the cataloging and metadata used to power Colgate Libraries' search system, Primo. Before academia, he contracted with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a government librarian. There, he maintained the agency's institutional repository and archive called the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC).

Receiving an ADHD diagnosis later in life changed how Donnelly understood both his past experiences and his future. Learning about ADHD helped him recognize that many of the struggles he had in the past were, in fact, symptoms of burnout and undiagnosed neurodivergence. His personal journey into understanding his own neurodiversity has led him to explore how ADHD impacts the work of librarians and information stewards.

MARAC CAUCUS MEETINGS

1:45–2:35 p.m.

Meet with your State Caucus Representatives to hear updates and news from around the region. This is an opportunity for networking and meeting local colleagues in the field.

VIRTUAL TOUR HOST Q&A SESSION

3:15–4 p.m.

Join the hosts of MARAC'S latest virtual "tours" for a live Q&A session. Make sure to view the 2026 Virtual Tours on the MARAC YouTube channel, available approximately 1 week in advance, and then join this Zoom room for a virtual face-to-face conversation with the tour hosts.

Visit the past and new playlists here: <https://www.youtube.com/@maracmid-atlanticregionala3624/playlists>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

9–9:50 a.m.

Please join your fellow MARAC members at the Networking Breakfast. This is a casual event, giving members a chance to meet their peers. It's also a wonderful way to begin your conference day!

MARAC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

12:30–1:30 p.m.

All conference attendees are welcome to attend the MARAC Membership Meeting. Conducted by the MARAC Chair, Deb Schiff, this meeting is a chance to share information about MARAC activities, and to highlight the hard work of the organization. Should there be any necessary votes, a quorum of the attendees is required. Please join us!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

POSTER SESSIONS Q&A

9–9:50 a.m.

Make sure you take time to view the 2026 Virtual Conference posters on MARAC's YouTube channel and then join this Zoom room for a virtual face-to-face conversation with the poster presenters or submit your written questions via chat.

Poster presentations will be posted to MARAC's YouTube channel 1 week in advance. Visit the past and new playlists here: <https://www.youtube.com/@maracmid-atlanticregionala3624/playlists>.

FRIDAY SOCIAL

3–4 p.m.

Gather together virtually at the end of the conference to mingle and enjoy conversation about the conference. The Friday Social will offer a variety of Zoom rooms for seasonal trivia, networking, and interest groups.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

10–11:15 A.M.

S1. TRUST FIRST: COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS AS THE FOUNDATION FOR MAJOR PRIVATE FUNDING

SPEAKERS: Erin Mustard, *Raíces Cultural Center*
Nicole Wines, *Raíces Cultural Center*

Raíces Cultural Center (Highland Park, NJ) was founded to preserve, steward and share cultural heritage of Caribbean and Afro-Indigenous traditions through arts, history, and ecology. For years, Raíces depended on small, locally oriented grants tied to its programming. That changed in 2025, when a major private foundation awarded \$70,000 expressly for archival work—supporting a digital archivist, recognizing its directors, and ensuring the longevity of a collection two decades in the making. Nicole Wines and Erin Mustard examine how they research, assemble, and pursue funding, as well as maintain community trust while building sustainable work practices. This session is intended for community archivists and partnering institutions.

S2. CONTROLLED VOCABULARIES: YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD FINDER

SPEAKERS: Kelsey Kiantoro, *Pratt Institute, School of Information*
Jessie McCarty, *James Hardie, USA*

Creating a controlled vocabulary is foundational to consistent, scalable metadata. This session explores how metadata authority is also creative work: governed and applied collaboratively across collections. Drawing from real-world digital asset management (DAM) and gallery, library, and museum use cases, the speakers will share their strategies for building and standardizing folksonomies and controlled vocabularies that are intuitive and reflective of their users. Attendees will gain insights into taxonomy design and authority alignment across DAMs. With insight into an empathy-first take on stakeholder collaboration, this session offers examples demonstrating that metadata authority work is a creative practice, just as it is a practical service for users.

S3. BEFORE AND AFTER YOU HIT RECORD: BUILDING AND REVITALIZING ORAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

SPEAKERS: Danielle Glynn, *Oncology Nursing Society*
Ren Harman, *Virginia Tech*

Oral history initiatives in community, institutional, and grassroots settings are growing every year. In this session, attendees will learn best practices for launching sustainable oral history programs, including practical guidance for preparing interviewees, building trust and collaborative relationships, and creating workflows that support accessibility and preservation. Speakers will also discuss what it takes to revitalize legacy programs by looking at the Connie Henke Yarbro Oncology Nursing History Center's Oral History Program, started in the 1990s. Methods of collecting these stories, successes, tools and resources used, and future initiatives will be shared.



Babcock, Richard Fayerweather, Artist. Come on - Join now 15,000,000 members by Christmas // R. Fayerweather Babcock ; Walton & Spencer Co., Chicago, Ill. [Chicago: Walton & Spencer Co] Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2002699396/>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

1:45–3 P.M.

S4. CHANGE FOR THE SAKE OF CHANGE: NEW DIRECTIONS FOR ARCHIVES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

SPEAKERS: Shane Moran, *St. Mary's College of Maryland*
Harrison Wick, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

This session explores the changing archives workplace and the new directions that reshape our roles. Our profession has changed dramatically, and we are all learning to embrace new expectations as our positions evolve and expectations in the workplace continue to change over time. The disparity between best practices and current realities can be daunting. It is hard to get the job done when you feel anxious, uncertain or unsupported. What can we do to improve the situation? Through the successes and lessons learned, we can begin to identify processes and workflows that can pull our archives into the present without sacrificing our sanity.

S5. "BRING ME THE DISCO KING": AN ADVOCACY BRAINSTORMING BIRDS-OF-A-FEATHER SESSION

DISCUSSION MODERATOR: Kira A. Dietz, *Virginia Tech*

Whether within your organization or with external constituencies and stakeholders, advocacy can be one of the hardest puzzles for archivists to solve, especially when one size rarely fits all, needs may vary, and success isn't always possible. In this birds-of-a-feather session, the facilitator will offer a brief introduction, then attendees will collectively decide on some advocacy issues or challenges to discuss. Bring your questions and ideas about advocacy and join in an active discussion! The session will feature the use of polls and whiteboards, as well as audio and chat conversation.

S6. REALITIES OF AI IMPLEMENTATION: FROM THEORY TO PRAXIS

SPEAKERS: Elizabeth Japha, *Gratz College*
Taylor Schuler, *West Chester University*

This session aims to cut through the "AI Revolution" noise and educate archivists on the realities of incorporating AI into archival workflows. Topics to be explored include distinguishing between AI technologies (automatic speech recognition, generative AI, intelligent agents), the potential long-term effects of relying on AI technology, and the impact to ethical frameworks around privacy, sustainability, and equity. Moving beyond theory, speakers from the Digital Scholarship team at Gratz College will share their experience using Whisper AI to generate transcripts for two hundred unprocessed oral histories from the Holocaust Oral History Archive. The speakers will touch on the decision to use Whisper AI and the recalibration needed due to the AI's struggle with accented English and Jewish terminology, as well as auditing the AI-generated oral history transcripts.



Sherman, Nathan, Artist. Work With Care. [Pennsylvania: Federal Art Project]
Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/98517388/>.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29**3:45–5 P.M.****S7. ALL BLESSINGS, NO CURSES: DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING WORKFLOWS AND FRAMEWORKS FOR PART-TIME WORKER OPTIMIZATION**

SPEAKERS: Mae Casey, *Penn State University*
Kalei Woodford, *Virginia Tech*

Archives that employ part-time workers can find themselves either blessed or cursed based on their level of commitment to training and guidance. Part-time workers can complete useful projects, but they require an investment of time and energy to produce meaningful results. They need instruction, goals, and resources, all of which can be provided through frameworks and workflows. At Penn State, archivists employ an instructional framework requiring projects to be planned, intentional, concrete, personalized, and beneficial. At Virginia Tech, two workflows were developed for student workers assisting in publishing Christiansburg Institute's digital collections on Tech's platform. This session will focus on the development of these workflows and frameworks, providing individual examples of projects.

S8. SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-DRIVEN PROJECTS THROUGH A SHARED AUTHORITY ORAL HISTORY APPROACH

SPEAKERS: Francesco De Salvatore, *Alexandria Oral History Center*
Joni J. Floyd, *University of Maryland*
Michael Johnson, *City of Alexandria, Virginia*
Auriel Mayberry-Gaballa, *Severn Improvement Association*
Jada Yolich, *University of Maryland*

This interdisciplinary, case-study features panelists with extensive experience engaging underserved communities through oral history programming. These practitioners will discuss the genesis of their programs and share critical lessons learned, ranging from attracting and compensating narrators to fostering sustainability protocols. The panel will center community engagement as an integral part of archival practice, particularly regarding how governance is shared between community and institutional partners in state-sponsored oral history work.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**10-11:15 A.M.****S9. CHARTING THE COURSE: A DISCUSSION PRESENTATION ON BUILDING COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES PROGRAMS**

SPEAKERS: Ruth Cody, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
Jeannie Latartara, *University of Mississippi*
Amy Roberts, *Cal Poly Pomona*
Amelia Verkerk, *Virginia Tech*

University and college archives exist in a wide range of institutional settings. What are the commonalities? What can we learn from each other? What are our biggest challenges? How do we intentionally build and strengthen our archives programs? Four university archivists from different institutions have created a survey to enrich the understanding of the theoretical and practical foundations of university archives, inform the profession, and help provide resources and support for university and college archivists. In this presentation, speakers will discuss some of the larger data points from the survey and will also ask for input from the audience about the scope and direction for producing usable resources from the data.



Bain News Service, Publisher. Tom Gibbons interviewed. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2014716240/>.

S10. PRESERVING AND UTILIZING COLLECTIONS TO CREATE SOFT POWER TO ADVOCATE FOR INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

SPEAKERS: Robert Gasperino, *Maryland State Archives*
 Robin Gower, *Maryland Commission on Artistic Property*
 Edward Heimiller, *Maryland State Archives*
 Darby Nisbett Schini, *Maryland State Archives*

In the age of AI, demonstrating the value of archives is increasingly important. How can archives proactively use collections to develop relationships with stakeholders? Museums have developed community outreach programs, but what works for archives? This panel, presented by staff from the Maryland State Archives, demonstrates the success of both their Circulating Art and social media programs through the creative use of digital reproductions, resulting in heightened awareness, accessibility, and collaboration to support the Archives' mission. The speakers will highlight how archivists across disciplines can collaborate to promote their collections, ensuring archival materials are seen and remain relevant.

S11. BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE, COLLABORATIVE ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM IN A RESOURCE-CONSTRAINED ENVIRONMENT

SPEAKERS: Gabriella Diaz, *University of Maryland, College Park*
 Dennis Nangle, *University of Maryland, Baltimore*
 Tara Wink, *University of Maryland, Baltimore*

As archives navigate shrinking resources and expanding expectations, developing sustainable and collaborative models is essential. This session examines a cross-campus oral history program designed to document and amplify diverse experiences while building archival capacity at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Presenters will explore how the project leverages collaboration, grant planning, and participatory workflows to address common challenges faced by smaller archives. Attendees will learn practical strategies for forming cross-institutional working groups, developing scalable workflows, and engaging communities in co-creating archival records. The presentation will highlight lessons learned from pilot interviews, training, and repository development, with a focus on sustainability and replicability.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

1-2:15 P.M.

S12. SO YOU FOUND CLASSIFIED RECORDS, NOW WHAT?

SPEAKERS: Chair: Sharmila Bhatia, *National Archives and Records Administration*
 Amy Fitch, *Rockefeller Archive Center*
 Christian Goos, *National Archives and Records Administration*
 Bryan Oklin, *National Archives and Records Administration*

What should you do if you find something marked SECRET in your collection, and what happens when you call the United States government? Join officials from the Information Security Oversight Office at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and archivists from a variety of institutions as they discuss the process of properly identifying and safeguarding classified national security information encountered in their collections.

S13. MELTING METROPOLIS: RECORDING, MAKING, AND ARCHIVING STORIES OF URBAN HEAT IN NEW YORK CITY

SPEAKERS: Meral Agish, *Queens Public Library*
 Isa Dorvillier, *Queens Public Library*

Melting Metropolis is an international project focusing on histories of urban heat and health. Members of the New York City cohort will share how they have interpreted the urban heat island effect in creative projects, guided by stories that are under-represented in broader narratives about extreme weather and climate change. Through collaborative zine making, oral history collecting, cyanotype-making, and data-driven storymapping, the cohort has found ways for the embodied experience of increasingly hot summers to be creatively expressed in the moment and documented for research and policy work by the Melting Metropolis team and future advocates.

S14. SALVAGE TO SPOTLIGHT: BRINGING COLLECTIONS OUT OF THE BASEMENT AND ONTO THE BLOG

SPEAKERS: Mark Coulbourne, *University of Maryland, College Park*
 Rosemarie Fetting, *University of Maryland, College Park*
 Jenny Schollaert, *University of Maryland, College Park*

When rapidly deteriorating environmental conditions in an aging storage space threatened the AFL-CIO film collections in the University of Maryland Libraries, a long-neglected project kicked into high gear. Staff from the Preservation, Access, and Instruction & Outreach teams will share their collaborative work to evacuate the collections on short notice, find a more stable storage solution, execute an unprecedented processing project, and experiment with new outreach strategies to bring thousands of under-documented items into the spotlight. Part process overview and part project survival strategy, this panel explores the benefits of cross-unit collaboration as a means of navigating institutional instability.



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Sierra, Teri, photographer. The People's Library set up by the Occupy Wall Street protest movement in Zuccotti Park, New York City. October. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/2015647967/>

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Registration

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Once again, our Virtual MARAC will be **FREE** for MARAC student members and **ONLY \$10** for non-member students!

MARAC will host the virtual conference through Zoom Events which provides a central hub from which you can explore sessions, build an itinerary, view speaker and vendor information, and meet other participants.

A week before the conference, registrants will receive an email from Zoom containing a unique link to join the conference.

Registrants may sign in with a Zoom account or authenticate with a one-time password.

More details on how to navigate Zoom Events will be provided closer to the conference date.

RATES:

MARAC MEMBER: \$40 | MARAC STUDENT MEMBER: Free

NON-MEMBER: \$55 | NON-MEMBER STUDENT: \$10

REGISTER ONLINE AT https://marac.memberclicks.net/fall2026_meeting_registration

All registrants agree to comply with MARAC's Code of Conduct and registration may be revoked by MARAC at any time if the code of conduct is not followed.

