

**FRIDAY 10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Sessions 1 – 5**

**ARCHIVAL FUNCTIONS LEGEND**

**AOI:** Advocacy, Outreach, or Instruction

**ACD:** Appraisal or Collection Development

**AEM:** Archival Education, Mentorship

**ADM:** Arrangement, Description, or Metadata

**DR:** Digitization and Reformatting

**DEIE:** Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts

**EPI:** Exhibition Planning and Implementation

**HAAR:** History of Archives and Archival Repositories

**ML:** Management and Leadership

**PDPS:** Preservation or Digital Preservation Security

**RS:** Reference Services

**S1. Everything AND the Kitchen Sink: Working with Unusual Formats in the Archives**

Caring for unique and strange materials, such as microfilm, medical artifacts, and textiles, presents a range of challenges and opportunities that influences both behind-the-scenes archival work and the user experience in the reading room. They also prompt broader questions around institutional policy, resource allocation, and the evolving definition of archival materials. This panel discussion will explore these challenges, opportunities, and questions through the presenters' personal experiences working with unusual formats at their institutions.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, DEIE, HAAR, EPI

**S2. When Churches Die: The Archivist Doula**

As congregations across America face declining membership, aging facilities, and financial pressures, church closures have become an increasingly common reality. When a religious institution approaches its final chapter, archivists emerge as essential companions in a profound transition – serving as “death doulas” for preserving the history of sacred spaces and communities. Drawing inspiration from the healthcare doula model, this presentation explores how community archivists assume a similar role when churches face closure. This session will examine case studies from two recent church closures and highlight the challenges and opportunities these transitions presented. Panelists will discuss the unique ethical and emotional considerations archives and archivists face along the way.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, ACD, ADM, DEIE, PDPS

**S3. Putting Out Fires: Leading from the Middle**

Life in the middle can be tricky sometimes. Middle managers are called on to communicate in all directions, manage and support colleagues and employees, mentor formally or informally, be “in the know” (sometimes with too much to know), juggle what is shared and how, and advocate for themselves and others. This roundtable includes four panelists with different middle management roles and expectations, talking about the good, the bad, and the stressful parts of being in the middle. The panelists will discuss how they came into their role, how they (try to) address challenges day-to-day, answer some questions generated by roundtable members, and take questions from attendees! This session is for anyone, but especially for those interested in discussing management issues.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ML

#### **S4. Sharing Records of Mobile and Migrant Communities in Hostile Times**

Presenters in this session will consider the ethical considerations of sharing materials relating to global migrant communities given current geopolitical conditions. Presenters will discuss two projects: “Displaced Scholars,” an exhibit about migrant scholars at the Institute for Advanced Study, and “Migrants and the State Reading Room,” a digital prototype using historical public domain immigration records held by the National Archives and Records Administration. Together, the projects address the spectrum of challenges and opportunities of making migrant archival material more visible and accessible.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, DR, DEIE, EPI, PDPS

#### **S5. Connecting People to Archives Through Public Libraries**

The panelists in this session will focus on methods of making history more accessible: meeting people where they are, bridging archives with public libraries, and sharing the stories that make each neighborhood unique. Together, these talks will demonstrate the power of libraries as gateways to local history and community connection. Presenters will highlight new archival and local history programming and community engagement at the Gainsboro Branch of Roanoke Public Libraries (VA); using pop-up exhibits and community events to highlight archival collections, amplify underrepresented voices, and encourage shared stewardship of local history at Thomas Balch Library (VA); and making community and library cultural heritage and local history items available online at The Somerset County Library System of NJ.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, DEIE, HAAR, EPI

### **FRIDAY 2:45 – 4 p.m.**

#### **Sessions 6 -9**

#### **S6. United We Stand: Using the 250th to Build Community**

The 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence presents archivists with a unique opportunity to work together. The Delaware Public Archives has focused its efforts on celebrating the semiquincentennial through collaborative initiatives designed to strengthen connections within the community, working with people across the state and beyond. Staff from the Delaware Public Archives will share highlights from their successful expansion of outreach efforts relating to the 250th. Attendees will walk away with new ideas for collaborative initiatives that they can implement at their institutions, strengthening their community beyond July 4th, 2026.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, ML

#### **S7. Rooted in Community: Supporting Grassroots Archives through Outreach, Education, and Mobile Archiving**

This session explores practical, community-centered strategies for helping small grassroots organizations and residents preserve their histories amid shifting resources, digital complexity, and leadership changes. Through case-based examples, presenters will demonstrate how archivists can collaborate with faith-based groups, cultural associations, residents, and social justice organizations to stabilize collections, bridge digital and physical records, and build long-term continuity. Participants will leave with models, tools, and approaches for supporting community partners in documenting themselves and safeguarding their cultural identity for future generations.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, DEIE, EPI

### **S8. Building Digital Futures: New Skills, New Tools, and Collaborative Approaches to Digital Preservation**

Special collections and archives in smaller institutions face distinctive challenges when developing digital preservation programs, particularly when working with complex born-digital materials such as email and electronic administrative records. These presentations will examine how collaborative, cross-departmental approaches and shared learning can help small institutions build sustainable digital archiving workflows despite limited resources and varying levels of technical expertise. They will explore the practical realities of learning software such as ePADD and Bitcurator while simultaneously developing workflows that address common born-digital challenges such as managing large file volumes, handling personally identifiable information, and creating procedures that can be maintained through institutional transitions and administrative turnover.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, ADM, PDPS

### **S9. Outreach and Resilience: Student-Centered Archival Encounters**

Across academic archives and libraries, educators and practitioners are seeking ways to connect students with cultural evidence, especially as collections and research materials become increasingly digital, interactive, and participatory. The presenters in this session will explore how archivists, librarians, and faculty can empower students not only as users of archives, but as active collaborators in preserving, interpreting, and engaging with cultural heritage. One presentation will focus on pedagogies that introduce students to the complexities of born-digital preservation and the study of digital cultural heritage, and the other will discuss a data-driven model that rethinks archival outreach from a student-centered perspective. Attendees will gain practical ideas and inspiration for cultivating resilient and student-driven archival communities.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, DEIE, PDPS, RS

## **FRIDAY 4:15 – 5:50 p.m. Sessions 10 – 13**

### **S10. Ships in the Night: Custodial Gaps and How to Bridge Them**

Opened in 1975 for the college's centennial celebration, the SUNY Maritime College Archives were championed by Filomena Magavero, but did not have a dedicated trained archivist until 2016 when a position was created and Annie Tummino was hired. Since then, the baton has been passed twice: Renae Rapp held the position from 2020 to 2022 and Taliesin Gamache from 2023 to the present. In this session, Annie, Renae, and Taliesin will cover the importance of strong documentation, the challenges of being a solo archivist, establishing expectations for an institutional archives, and holding strong to professional standards and modern models in a climate that holds tightly to tradition.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ML

### **S11. Helping Hands: Archivists in their Communities**

This session features a panel presentation focusing on three distinct projects aligned with the conference theme of supporting grassroots efforts to preserve the records of communities. Discussions will cover the challenges of establishing a church's archives program remotely and documenting the legislative and advocacy success of regional disability rights professionals. The third project details a collaborative effort between university archivists and a local historical society aimed at making community oral histories widely accessible.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, AOI, PDPS

### **S12. AI for Access: A Focus on the Mid-Atlantic**

Join the Digital Library Federation Born-Digital Access Working Group's Visioning Access Systems subgroup for a discussion on the state of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies in archives in the Mid-Atlantic region! This session, drawing on data from the "AI is for Access" national survey, will illuminate how archival workers in the Mid-Atlantic are adopting or rejecting AI/ML. Specific topics to be discussed include how archival workers and institutions are using (or not using) these technologies, what kinds of tools are currently being used, and respondents' perceptions—both positive and negative—about these tools and their use in the future. By providing data-driven analyses and trends, the presenters aim to give attendees information they can bring back to their organizations to navigate the challenges and opportunities afforded by AI/ML head-on.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, ADM, AOI, DR, ML, PDPS, RS

### **S13. So You Found Classified Records, Now What?**

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.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, EPI, PDPS, RS

## **SATURDAY 9:05 – 10:20 a.m.**

### **Sessions 14 – 17**

### **S14. Student Paper Session**

Engagement with emerging professionals is a hallmark of MARAC's conference participation throughout its many decades of existence. This session provides graduate students studying to become professionals in our field with a platform to share their current interests and writings on topics that have shaped our practice and engage our thinking on current issues impacting the profession. Themes presented in this session include community, memory, and Presidential libraries.

**Archival functions covered:** HAAR, PDPS, DR, DEIE, ACD, ADM, ML, RS

### **S15. Invisible Networks: Building Archival Resilience Through Informal Communication and Cross-Library Collaboration**

This session brings together archivists from the University of Virginia (UVA) and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) to explore how they rely on both formal and informal information networks to navigate increasing political and institutional pressures and build infrastructures of support among colleagues. Presenters from UVA will share their experiences with cross-library collaboration through their Web Archiving Working Group, fostering mutual support, sharing expertise, and exchanging information to document rapidly changing online university content. An archivist at UTK will discuss how gossip has served as an informal information practice to build solidarity, emotional resilience, and cross-institutional understanding. After these reflections, attendees will be invited to share their own experiences and collaboratively identify strategies for fostering resilience within their workplaces and professional communities.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, ADM, AOI, DEIE, ML, PDPS

### **S16. Locating Slavery's Legacies on University Campuses**

Throughout our region, college and university landscapes reflect America's complicated understanding of slavery and its legacies through memorials, monuments, and other campus features. The Locating Slavery's Legacies database, a project led by The University of the South's Roberson Project, aims to gather information about monuments and memorials linked to the Lost Cause, as well as those in support of civil rights and racial equality. Presenters will discuss their experiences working with students to research and submit content, and how the database can be used by researchers and campus communities.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, DEIE, EPI

### **S17. Navigating the Maze: Demystifying Early-career Archival Challenges**

While there are some resources available to support emerging archivists in their professional growth, it can be difficult to find direction and mentorship and learn self-advocacy. Early-career archivists may also face factors such as limited time and resources, or a lack of central institutional support. This roundtable aims to illuminate the paths that the panelists navigated in their own development, while also providing a venue for audience members to share experiences, and generate ideas collaboratively. The goal of this session is to not only provide a platform for the promotion of existing resources, but to identify areas of weakness, silence, and opportunities for growth in the space of professional development for archivists, focusing on early-career resources.

**Archival Functions Covered:** AOI, DEIE

## **SATURDAY 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.**

### **Sessions 18 – 21**

### **S18. Beyond the Namesakes: Navigating a Storied Past with Collecting, Reputation, and Use**

Historically, the Washington and Lee University Library's Special Collections and Archives prioritized collecting about the Confederacy, Robert E. Lee, the Lee family, and George Washington. This presentation will discuss the legacy of that collecting foci, how the presenters have worked to navigate the policies and collections of their predecessors, and the attempts to separate from the Lost Cause narrative. The presenters will detail what they've accomplished up to this point in relation to collection development, arrangement and description, and instruction and outreach, as well as their current and future goals.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, ADM, AOI, DEIE, EPI, HAAR, ML

### **S19. Bridging Archival Theory and Practice: Documentation, Archives, and History from Below**

Three archivists from the City University of New York (CUNY) will focus on the development of approaches to documenting underrepresented groups and movements. Jessica Webster will present on the shift in archival theory and practice in the 1970s to develop collections on historically excluded groups. Roxanne Shirazi will discuss the CUNY Digital History Archive, examining its connection to the American Social History Project and the larger movement to document grassroots histories. Thomas Cleary will discuss ways he and his faculty colleagues have used oral history projects to raise awareness about the archives among their students while also documenting underrepresented parts of their community. He will explore an approach to oral history as a teaching tool in an interdisciplinary context.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, AOI, HAAR

## **S20. Third Party, All the Time: Third-Party Rights and Archives**

There's a big party in the archives with more guests than ever before! Third-party rights have always been a part of managing archival collections, but with the heightened expectations of researchers and the growth of digital collections, we have more rights-related inquiries than ever before. In this roundtable session, archivists who handle questions of rights, permissions, and use on a regular basis will cover challenges such as take-down requests, legal consultations, copyright challenges, content with harmful or confidential information, poorly documented oral histories, heirs of past cantankerous donors, restricting and returning content, and working with community members represented in collections. As the party hosts, archivists need to make informed decisions to keep the party going.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, AOI, DEIE, DR, ML, RS

## **S21. Collection Connections: Fostering Internal Collaboration and External Relations Through Creative Applications of Archival Processing**

Records processing is a necessary aspect of archival work, but it can also open pathways to understanding for those who are unfamiliar with the day-to-day work of the profession. This session will explore how repositories can use processing to introduce their collections to outside stakeholders as well as new team members. Including these new perspectives in processing fosters stronger relationships, improves overall knowledge of the collections, and enhances description. In this session, presenters from William & Mary's Special Collections Research Center and Towson University's Special Collections and University Archives will demonstrate how they applied these principles to significant effect through group events and internal training sessions, becoming the new default policy going forward.

**Archival Functions Covered:** ACD, ADM, AOI, DEIE, ML