

WELCOME TO MARAC'S SECOND VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



THE VIRTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROGRAM
COMMITTEES WELCOME YOU TO THE VIRTUAL 2023

SPRING MARAC! To keep Zoom fatigue at bay and focus on a slate of incredible speakers, the conference will span three days. Spotlighted throughout the conference is the theme "Keeping Archives Relevant in the Digital Age." In addition, there will be opportunities to attend vendor talks and experience our asynchronous poster sessions and tours!

The conference opens with a lunchtime plenary talk on Wednesday by Franklin Vagnone, titled "Drowning in Love: A Museum Anarchist's Guide to Collections Care." Vagnone will discuss museum and cultural site trends and how these trends can help inform ways that we can better utilize our collections.

After three years of reimagining reference services, hosting and attending numerous Zoom meetings, and working to make more collections accessible online, now is the time to take a deeper look at how fellow archivists have innovated in their "new normal" pivots. Sessions throughout the conference focus on gains made in making archives more

discoverable and engaging, as well as acknowledging the gaps in our knowledge and ethical labor practices.

The Thursday MARAC Business Meeting will take place from noon to 1 p.m. All conference times are Eastern Standard Time. Some content may be recorded, including any audience participation.

We hope this virtual conference will bring you all the wonderful and thought-provoking information you have come to expect from a MARAC conference, just from the comfort of your office chair, your home, or wherever you may be.

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Deb Schiff, The College of New Jersey

John Zarrillo, Georgetown University

CO-CHAIRS, PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Kerri Anne Burke, Citigroup

Tara Maharjan, New Jersey State Archives

FRONT COVER: Student on computer in Tillet Hall, 1975. Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

LEFT: Staff or student with early computer, early 1980s. Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

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Sheridan Sayles, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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Beth Zak-Cohen, Newark Public Library

Nick Zmijewski, Industrial Archives & Library

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Nicholas Zmijewski, Industrial Archives & Library

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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE & **CONFERENCE OVERVIEW**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

12-1 p.m. Plenary Lunch Talk

1:10—1:35 p.m..... Vendor Talk

1:40-2 p.m..... Live Tour Host Q&A session

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

10-11:20 a.m. Session Block 1

11:30—11:55 a.m. Vendor Talk

12-1 p.m. MARAC Business Meeting

1:10—1:35 p.m..... Vendor Talk

1:40-3 p.m..... Session Block 2

3:10-3:35 p.m.... Vendor Talk

3:40-5 p.m. Session Block 3

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

9-10:20 a.m..... Session Block 4

10:30-10:55 a.m..... Vendor Talk

11 a.m.—12:20 p.m. Session Block 5

12:30-1 p.m. Vendor Talk

FOR ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION: WWW.MARAC.INFO/SPRING-2023-CONFERENCE.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

PLENARY

12-1 P.M.

DROWNING IN LOVE: A MUSEUM ANARCHIST'S GUIDE TO COLLECTIONS CARE



Frankie Vagnone, Public Historian

In this visual presentation, Frankie Vagnone will discuss museum and cultural site trends and how these trends can help inform ways that we can better

utilize our collections. A generational shift has been taking place that is changing the way we think about death, long-term care, categories & fluidity, and the role of non-profits in the larger community. "I love pretty things," Vagnone states, "but these things need to speak to more than just the eyes."

Frankie Vagnone is a Public Historian who leads the highly respected international cultural consulting firm Twisted Preservation. In addition, he is President of the Newport Restoration Foundation (Newport, Rhode Island). Prior to his current practice, Frankie was CEO of Old Salem Museums & Gardens and The Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts-North Carolina (a 100-acre national historic landmark district and living history site), Executive Director of the Historic House Trust of the City of New York (managed 23 historic sites in the five boroughs of New York City), and The Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks (a collection of history sites and heritage tourism programs).

Along with numerous published articles, he is the co-author of the best-selling museum-related book, *The Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums* (2016, with Deborah Ryan), and recently authored a case study in the edited volume *Sound Heritage: Making Music Matter in Historic House Museums* (2021, with John Yeagley). Frankie's blog Twisted Preservation is read in over 90 countries, and his professional practice concentrates on marginalized narratives and cultural institution innovations.

LIVE TOUR HOST Q&A SESSION

1:40-2 P.M.

Join select virtual tour hosts for an informal discussion and Q&A about the collections or projects highlighted in the tours. The hosts will also talk about the process of creating a virtual tour.



CONCURRENT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 10-11:20 A.M.

S1: RE-EXAMINING INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

SPEAKERS: Matt Testa, Peabody Institute of the Johns

Hopkins University

Anne-Marie Angelo, Peabody Institute of the

Johns Hopkins University

Caitlin Rizzo, Institute for Advanced Study

Deborah Smith, Jones Memorial Library

This session will feature a discussion of how new research on difficult topics can fit into broader efforts to recontextualize institutional history. The speakers will also discuss how archives and cultural heritage institutions can partner with historians and other professionals to reconcile difficult histories and forge a more positive future. At the Peabody Institute, questions about George Peabody's personal and financial connections to slavery led to a research project on the founder and his associates. The Jones Memorial Library in Lynchburg was segregated until the 1960s; working with limited resources and staff, the library seeks to acknowledge and move forward from a complex legacy of exclusion. The Shelby White and Leon Levy Archives Center is challenging The Institute for Advanced Study to reconsider its foundation as a product of a greater effort to build social networks.

S2: MAKING ARCHIVES MORE ACCESSIBLE:
INTEGRATING DIGITAL COLLECTIONS AND
EDUCATION INITIATIVES AT THE DELAWARE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPEAKERS: Bill Robinson, Delaware Historical Society
Rebecca Fay, Delaware Historical Society
Kristin Geiger-Rayca, Delaware Historical Society

In this session, colleagues at the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) will discuss the development and implementation of their first digital collections platform, the integration

Leigh Rifenburg, Delaware Historical Society

of these collections into ongoing and emerging education initiatives, and continuing audience engagement and impact. The panelists will discuss the successes and challenges of integrating two developing projects—the implementation of a digital asset management system and Liberty in Our Grasp—to make archives more accessible and visible. In addition, they will discuss audience engagement and impact, cross-departmental collaboration within DHS, and the partnerships with vendors, corporate sponsors, non-profits, and teachers that made the projects possible.

S3: MACGYVERING THE ARCHIVES

SPEAKERS: Scott Keefer, Daughters of Charity

Laura Christiansen, Thomas Balch Library

Melissa Davis, George C. Marshall Foundation

Anne Jenkins, Edward Via College of
Osteopathic Medicine

Amy Poe, The Military Women's Memorial

Tara Wink, University of Maryland

In theory, theory and practice are the same thing; in practice, they are not. There are standards in the archives field, but we all know that sometimes the standards are not practical for everyone. It does not make us lesser archivists to not meet every single standard and in fact, it makes us better archivists because we must be more creative to overcome our challenges. There is nothing stopping us from accomplishing goals—even major goals—without large budgets or staff. In this session, see how six organizations manage to ensure their collections are preserved and made available without high-end tools and procedures.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 1:40-3 P.M.

S4: BEYOND ACADEMIA: DESIGNING ARCHIVES OUTREACH FOR NON-TRADITIONAL USERS

SPEAKERS: David Grinnell, University of Pittsburgh
William Daw, University of Pittsburgh
Leah Mickens, University of Pittsburgh
Diael Thomas, University of Pittsburgh

David Williams, William Paterson University

August Wilson, one of America's greatest playwrights, celebrated the lives and culture of African Americans in the 20th century through his ten plays titled the American Century Cycle. The University of Pittsburgh Library System acquired the August Wilson Archive in 2020 and as a result of a generous grant, is launching extensive community engagement efforts. Through data visualization and descriptive diagrams, archivists will provide new access points that allow users to explore the Wilson Archive in visual and engaging ways. Speakers in this session will discuss information design principles and practices; incorporating research in graphic design, typography, visualization, and usability; and methods of improving engagement at every point of service.

S5: THE BLACK HISTORY AND VISUAL CULTURE COLLECTION AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Diversity and Inclusion Session Scholarship Winner

SPEAKERS: Kevin Clair, Penn State University

Patrice Green, Penn State University

Bethann Rea, Penn State University

g. johns, Penn State University

The Penn State University Libraries recently published the Black History and Visual Culture digital collection—a curated selection of photographs, poster art, and audiovisual materials documenting Black student life at Penn State as well as Black political and social movements throughout the 20th century. The conception and

development of the collection is highly collaborative, involving contributions from Special Collections Library curators, technical services archivists, and the digital collections development team. Public programming in support of the collection, and use of the collection in outreach and instruction, are key parts of its ongoing stewardship. In this presentation, speakers will discuss the initial development of the collection; selection criteria for digitization and digital stewardship; and future plans.

S6: MAKING A/V MATERIALS DISCOVERABLE

SPEAKERS: Vicki Russo, Swarthmore College

Michael Andrec, Ukrainian History and Education Center

Laura Melbourne, War Resisters League

Stephanie Sussmeier, Westminster Choir College

of Rider University

Our collections are not relevant if no one knows they exist. This is a problem that particularly affects audiovisual collections, which require significantly more processing to make them discoverable and available. How have institutions tackled this problem, and how can we do better going forward? Speakers in this session will present about working with audiovisual material in their institutions and address how to keep the momentum from special projects going. Archives are losing materials every day as magnetic tape deteriorates, films succumb to sticky-shed syndrome, and hardware to play obsolete media becomes increasingly scarce. How do we advocate for budgeting and staffing for audiovisual digitization to ensure our collections remain accessible? The speakers will also discuss ways of building an audiovisual digitization workflow that is not dependent on special funding.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27 | 3:40-5 P.M.

S7: MID-CAREER ARCHIVIST GROUP

MODERATOR: Karolina Lewandowska,

Commander, Navy Installations Command

The MARAC Mid Career e-list invites mid-career archivists to participate in this vibrant, informal, and safe-space about pertinent mid-career issues and experiences. The group encourages participation from MARAC members at any point in their professional development, believing that we all have much to learn from one another.

S8: WHAT I DIDN'T LEARN IN SCHOOL: PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREER ARCHIVISTS

SPEAKERS: Amanda Menjivar, George Mason University
Laura Christiansen, Thomas Balch Library
Zachary Hottel, Shenandoah County Library
Frank Vitale, Millersville University
Emily Welsh, Washington National Cathedral

Participate in this lively panel discussion about topics and experiences for which higher education did not adequately prepare us. A panel of archivists across different institutions and backgrounds will discuss their transition to the workforce and share lessons and guidance. Job hunting, project and contract employment, varying recruiting practices, the shortage of entry-level jobs, and the value of work experience against the worth of professional certificates will also be explored. This panel seeks to discuss lessons learned and give solutions to some of these issues that can benefit students and early- career archivists as well as their educators.

S9: THEY'RE IN A BETTER PLACE NOW: NAVIGATING COLLECTION TRANSFERS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS

SPEAKERS: Jasmine Smith, Alvernia University

Bethany J. Antos, Rockefeller Archive Center

Sandra Glascock, Maryland Center for History
and Culture

Although transferring a collection of materials from one institution to another can be a big undertaking, rehoming it may enhance the accessibility and visibility of the materials, provide a better storage environment, or confer other advantages for one or both institutions. This presentation will address both the practical and philosophical sides of interinstitutional collection transfers. In addition to discussing the logistics and documentation of collection transfers, presenters will talk about why a particular collection move was proposed and accepted, and how it affected staff and researchers. This session will not discuss transfers that are part of scheduled records management activities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 | 9-10:20 A.M.

S10: CHALLENGES IN SELECTING A DIGITAL REPOSITORY SYSTEM

SPEAKERS: Alex Japha, Lehigh University

Christine Anne George, New York University

Elizabeth James, West Virginia University

Bethann Rea, Penn State University Park

Facilitating access to digitized or born-digital materials requires a functional digital repository platform capable of hosting a variety of different media formats. Numerous repository platforms exist, each with unique features and limitations. Selecting an appropriate repository platform is often a struggle between institutional needs, financial restrictions, and staff time and expertise. In this session, a panel of librarians and archivists will share their experiences with the digital repository selection and implementation process. Panelists will speak about the digital repository environment at large, what challenges they faced during selection, and how these challenges were addressed at their institutions.

S11: WHEN ARTWORKS ARE NOT ARTWORKS: CARING FOR ARTIST EPHEMERA IN THE ARCHIVES

SPEAKERS: Nathan Avant, Glenstone Museum

Ben Blake, University of Maryland

Stephanie Crawford, Brooklyn Museum

Cara A. Howe, Colgate University

Preserving and providing access to objects such as drawings, collage, and sculptures, often calls for techniques that are not part of traditional archives education programs. In this session, speakers will share their experiences caring for art objects in a variety of contexts. Nathan Avant will give a tour of two artist-ephemera collections at Glenstone Museum and discuss the value of developing cross-departmental consultation relationships. Cara Howe will discuss her

approach to caring for Upstate Medical University's portrait collection and its positive impact on other parts of the Archives and Special Collections. Stephanie Crawford will discuss the challenges of processing artwork in two collections of artists papers held at the Miriam Schapiro Archives on Women Artists at Rutgers University and the Mattatuck Museum. Finally, Ben Blake will discuss the challenges of preserving and providing access to artifacts of labor and social justice protests such as hand painted signs, leaflets, and t-shirts.



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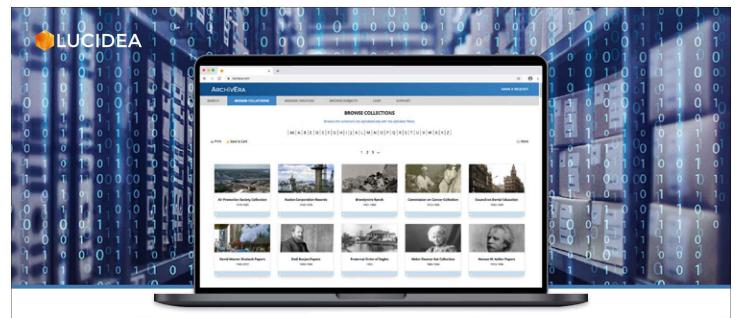


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S12: THAT'S IN THE ARCHIVES! HELPING RESEARCHERS FIND YOUR DIGITAL AND ANALOG COLLECTIONS

SPEAKERS: Melissa Barker, Houston County, Tennessee Archives & Museum

Anastasia Rousseau, Arcadia University

Archives are often overlooked by researchers who think they can find everything they are looking for online. Even if what they need happens to be in a digital format, researchers may have a hard time finding it. Attend this session to learn how to get your analog and digital collection noticed by genealogists, university students, authors, and other researchers.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 | 11 A.M.-12:20 P.M.

S13: LEVERAGING REGIONAL ADVOCACY TO ADVANCE ETHICAL LABOR PRACTICES: NORTHWEST ARCHIVISTS' ARCHIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

SPEAKERS: Kathryn Kramer, K.M. Kramer Consulting LLC

Laura Cray, Oregon Historical Society

Sara Piasecki, National Park Service (Interior Region 11 - Alaska)

Rachel Thomas

Rachael Cristine Woody, Relicura™ LLC

Conversations about fair and ethical archival labor practices underpin ongoing advocacy to build a strong, stable, and diverse workforce within the archival profession. The discussion around the value of archival labor has increased with urgency, and in response, Northwest Archivists, Inc. (NWA) created an ad hoc committee to develop a new paid internship pilot, the Archivist-in-Residence (AiR) program. The goal is to advocate for the value of internships as archival labor and to effectively steward the next generation of archivists into the profession through the creation of productive, self-initiated, and funded internship opportunities. This session will address the AiR program formation and decision-making process; detail application and evaluation rubrics and how they can be replicated;

describe the challenges and solutions involved in offering fair compensation across a region with widely varying cost of living; and address the sustainability of the program by reviewing fundraising strategies.

S14: LET'S COLLABORATE: FACILITATING ENGAGING PROJECTS WITH STUDENTS

SPEAKERS: Molly Tighe, Chatham University

Joseph Amodei, Chatham University

Chrystal Carpenter, Virginia Commonwealth

University

Emily Davis, Carnegie Mellon University

Crystal Johnson, Carnegie Mellon University

In this session, archivists and faculty who are working together to enrich campus experiences and forward institutional goals will discuss a variety of classroom applications for primary source collections. Speakers will share examples of immersive media technology applied to historical records to engage the concept of "serious play" in student exhibitions that reflect upon social good and political engagement. The session will also provide a view of ongoing collaborations between archivists and faculty to map the history of security and public safety; how students interrogate whose stories are being told and what role archives play in institutional accountability; and an exploration of new and evolving opportunities to engage a wide variety of stakeholders with archival collections in service of broad institutional goals.

S15: FINDING NEW METHODS OF MAKING LEGACY COLLECTIONS RELEVANT TO STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

SPEAKERS: Dr. Harrison Wick, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Laura Vetter, Episcopal High School

Learn how archivists at two different types of educational institutions are helping students and researchers navigate new and old archival resources. At Indiana University of Pennsylvania, the Special Collections and University Archives is building new opportunities for student-faculty collaboration and comparative research using oral history interviews and digitized archival collections, including rare books and primary source materials related to pandemics. At the Episcopal High School, a private boarding school established in 1839, students are using primary source materials within the school's archival holdings for research projects and adding to the historical record by conducting interviews with alumni.



REGISTRATION

MARAC will use Zoom Events to host the virtual conference. All participants <u>MUST</u> have a Zoom account, either organizational or personal, to take part in the conference. The email address associated with your Zoom account will be required at the time of registration.

If you do not have a Zoom account, visit https://zoom.us/signup#/signup to sign up for a FREE account prior to registering for the conference.

MARAC's virtual conference is a great opportunity to experience quality archival education at reasonable pricing, and once again, our Virtual MARAC will be free for students!

RATES:

MARAC Member: \$25.00

Non-Member: \$50.00

Student: \$0.00

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

