

Volume 46, Number 2 • April 2019

NEA

NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R — Spinning at Cambridge VFW. Pictured: Malcolm Price (Malibu) and Troy Ellerbee (Terminator). This photograph was contributed by a local community member to the Mass. Memories Road Show: Hip-Hop Edition at the Boston Public Library by Troy Ellerbee on May 19, 2018, a public digitization event that documented the history of hip-hop in Boston. *Courtesy of University Archives and Special Collections, Joseph P. Healey Library, University of Massachusetts Boston.*

I N S I D E — Jillian Ewalt speaks to her experience with inclusive description (page 4); in her final column, NEA President Karen Adler Abramson discusses the organization's achievements (page 8); NEA members and local repositories share their latest news (page 10); Joan Ilacqua of the IDC explores repatriation of Native American archival materials (page 14); the *Newsletter's* final book review (page 16); roundtable updates (page 18); and a new featured member column (page 19).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

N E A

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TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

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Articles and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent for consideration to the attention of: Katy Sternberger at <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Requests for changes or updates to website content should be sent to: <webmaster@newenglandarchivists.org>

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Table of Contents

From the Editors	3
Archival Insight	
Toward Inclusive Description: Reparations	
Through Community-Driven Metadata	4
Inside NEA	
From the President.....	8
News and Notes	
Connecticut.....	10
Massachusetts	10
Rhode Island.....	11
Vermont	12
Other News	12
Who's Missing from This Table?	
The Right to Know:	
The Story of the <i>Protocols</i>	14
Reviews	16
NEA Roundtable Updates	18
NEA Member Spotlight	19
This Season in New England History	20

From the Editors

- Sally Blanchard-O'Brien

Another issue of the *NEA Newsletter* has arrived, fresh on the heels of our spring meeting in Burlington, Vermont. The meeting's theme, "Together We Can," provided us with ideas and goals for working with diverse groups to make records more accessible and alive. We continue on these themes with the content featured in this issue. Jillian Ewalt provides a case study for producing accurate and inclusive metadata for underrepresented and marginalized populations, discussing her work with the Japanese American Digitization Project (page 4). In "Who's Missing from this Table?" Joan Ilacqua of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee gives us the story of the *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials* as a step toward decolonizing Native American materials in American archival repositories and putting them back in the hands of tribal communities (page 14).

In this issue, we give you our last book review with Laura Kintz' assessment of *Torn from Their Bindings: A Story of Art, Science, and the Pillaging of American University Libraries* (page 16). Book reviews will remain a feature of the *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*, the other publication of the NEA. Our decision to move our reviews from theory into practice came as we recognized the changing role of the *Newsletter*, and the need to make it more applicable to our daily work. As we phase out our traditional book reviews, we are moving to reviews of software, tools, training, and other programs. Please share your assessment, experience, and insight with us about the tools you use in your career!

This issue launches a new feature that highlights a member in the NEA community. This time, we are introducing you to Carol Ansel, library director of the Godfrey Memorial Library, in Middletown, Connecticut (page 19).

In her final column, President Karen Adler Abramson discusses the accomplishments of our organization over the past year, from new positions to pilot projects, from meeting highlights to social statements (page 8). As always,

we have news and updates from NEA roundtables, members, and regional repositories (page 10).

As we reflect upon the theme of our most recent meeting, we remember that when we come together, there is much we can accomplish and much we can learn from one another. The *NEA Newsletter* is a community publication that functions mostly on member-driven submissions and content. Help us make a vibrant newsletter that serves you! There are many ways to get involved—by writing articles that share your expertise on a subject, reviewing tools of the trade, featuring an image from your photograph collections, and much more. Look for our quarterly calls for submissions or reach out to us any time. All submissions should be emailed to our new email address at <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org>.

And finally, I'd like to take the time to introduce our two new editors, Katy Sternberger as the news and notes editor, and Danielle Castronovo as the reviews and member spotlight editor. Both bring a history of editorial expertise and service to NEA, and we're excited to have them on board with us! ■

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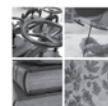
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ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

Toward Inclusive Description: Reparations Through Community-Driven Metadata

By Jillian Ewalt

This case study covers the process and policies involved in creating accurate and inclusive metadata for a historically marginalized community. The Japanese American Digitization Project (JADP) was a consortial, collaborative digitization project with the goal of unifying and providing online access to tens of thousands of archival materials documenting the Japanese American experience. Traditionally, the Japanese American experience, particularly the internment during World War II, has been laden with euphemistic language. This article outlines community-driven metadata development, implementing an inclusive controlled vocabulary, and thinking about archival metadata as a process that can contribute to reparations.

Introduction

As archivists, there are many ways we can integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) into the work that we do. This might include creating more equitable policies, developing collections that document the histories of underrepresented groups, or hosting programs that promote conversation on DEI topics, just to name a few. In this article, I want to talk about my experience applying DEI and social justice concepts to archival description as part of a large-scale, consortial digitization project.

Before I get into the case study itself, I'd like to talk briefly about the historical context for the Japanese American archival collections. During World War II, 120,000 individuals of Japanese descent (most of whom were American citizens) residing on the west coast, were forcibly removed from their homes, placed in temporary holding facilities, and later moved into American concentration camps where they spent some or all of the remainder of the war. They lost their jobs, homes, property, businesses, income, and dignity. They were denied their civil rights as American citizens and forced to spend several years of their lives behind barbed wire. The archival collections that are the basis of this project document those experiences. There is much more to this complex part of American history, and I encourage you to visit the resources below to learn more.

The Collections

The collections that were part of this project include archival materials documenting the history and activities

of the Japanese American community before, during, and after World War II. The bulk of the materials document the forced removal and incarceration of individuals by the United States government. Many of the World War II-era documents in the collection were created by an arm of the government called the War Relocation Authority (WRA). Other vernacular materials were created by Japanese Americans who lived the experience of forced removal and incarceration. Archival documents also cover Japanese American life before World War II such as immigration, farming, and the California Alien Land Acts of 1913 and 1920, and post-war events such as the Redress and Reparations movement and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Materials in the collection include government documents, correspondence, memos, meeting minutes, camp publications, illustrations and comics, photographs, scrapbooks, art, and ephemera.

The Project

The Japanese American Digitization Project is a grant-funded consortial digitization effort between fifteen California State Universities who all hold archival materials on the Japanese American experience. The mission of the project is to improve access to physically disparate archival collections and facilitate new scholarship. For this project, the workflow included selecting items from the physical collections, digitization, item-level description, providing access to collections via a central website, and long-term preservation of the digitized files and metadata. The materials are available on a CONTENTdm instance hosted by California State University, Dominguez Hills. Metadata is also being harvested by the Digital Public Library of Amer-

ica. A website was created to provide contextual information about the project and collections. There are currently over 20,000 items in the digital collection.

This was a large-scale project, so for this article, I am just going to focus on description: the partnerships, policies, procedures, and practices related to the item-level metadata that we created for digital archival objects. For more about the project as a whole, please see the article, “Building a Statewide Archival Collaborative: The California State University Japanese American Digitization Project.”

Euphemistic Language: From “Relocation Center” to “Incarceration Camp”

Historically, euphemistic language has been used to describe the Japanese American experience. Euphemistic terminology minimizes the government’s punitive treatment of citizens during World War II. I’ll provide some examples of this later. It’s important to note that, in the larger community, there is currently no consensus on the most appropriate terminology for what Japanese Americans experienced during World War II. This was another reason that it was important to gather input from a variety of stakeholders as part of a collaborative approach to metadata development.

One example of euphemistic language is the title of the facilities where Japanese Americans were held during the war. The government called these relocation centers but in fact, they functioned like prisons. They were often located in remote, desolate areas surrounded by barbed wire, patrolled by armed guards, and designed to contain civilians on the basis of race or ethnicity. Another word for these facilities could be concentration camps. “Internment camp” is the most commonly used and generally recognized term, but “internment” refers to the legally permissible detention of enemy aliens, and over two-thirds of individuals held in these camps were American citizens. For this project, the planning group agreed on the term “incarceration camp.” However, cataloging rules allowed for the use of relocation center as a proper noun when referring to a specific place, for example, Topaz War Relocation Center. Other examples of euphemistic terminology include “evacuation” (terminology used for the project was “forced removal”) and “colonists” (terminology used for the project was “incarcerees”).

Who’s Describing Whom? The Importance of Community-Driven Metadata

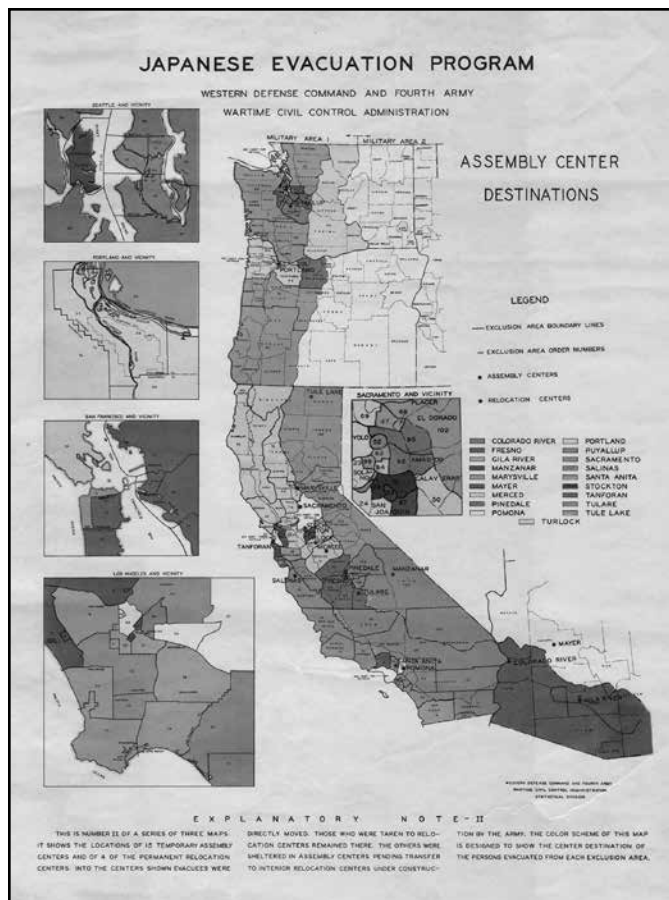
Part of the grant funding for this project included planning, and some of those planning conversations were used to discuss the structure and content of project metadata. In terms of structure, project partners agreed on twenty-four Dublin Core fields that could capture descriptive, technical, and administrative metadata. Because of historically biased terminology and deep-rooted euphemistic language, the descriptive metadata is what makes this project unique and is the focus of this case study.

One critical aspect of this project was the inclusion of diverse stakeholders in early planning conversations. These included librarians, archivists, and catalogers (some of whom were Japanese American), but also members of the broader Japanese American community, Japanese American scholars, and the national Japanese American historical organization, Densho. Densho was a particularly important partner in this project because of their extensive work with terminology and encyclopedic documentation of Japanese American history. These inclusive, cross-disciplinary conversations were critical in order to determine sustainable metadata grounded in current best practices but also terminology that authentically describes—and to a degree corrects—the historical record about the lived experiences of Japanese Americans.

Toward Inclusive Description: The Technical Details

The descriptive fields for this project included Title, Creator, Description, Date, Location, Facility, Subjects, Genre, and Language. Project documentation included a data dictionary outlining standards and/or thesauri for each field. For the “Facility,” “Subjects,” and “Description” fields the group developed project-specific rules and controlled vocabularies.

The “Facility” field was used to document one or more of the facilities associated with the Japanese American experience during WWII. For example, the Department of Justice internment camps, temporary assembly centers, and incarceration camps were all places where materials in the collection might have been created or otherwise documented. This vocabulary included seventy-two unique terms. It was important to have a controlled vocabulary for this field not only to reduce euphemisms and ensure consistency but also because camps often had both colloquial and



Japanese Evacuation Program Assembly Center destinations, 1943. Assembly centers are where Japanese Americans were placed before being moved to incarceration camps during World War II. Western Defense Command and Fourth Army Wartime Civil Control Administration (publisher): <<http://digitalcollections.archives.csudh.edu/digital/collection/p16855coll4/id/5833>>.

official names associated with them. The names of facilities can also be an important access point for researchers.

The project team also developed a controlled vocabulary for the “Subject” field. As is the case for many other areas of history, Library of Congress Subject Headings were not sufficient and perpetuated implicit biases. For example, two headings related to World War II are, “Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945” and “World War, 1939-1945--Japanese Americans.” Based on collaborative planning conversations, the project team developed a controlled vocabulary of approximately 300 unique terms that more accurately document the complexities and depth of Japanese American history. These terms include, for example, “World War II--Incarceration camps--Facilities, services and camp administration” and “Immigration and citizenship--Anti-immigration sentiment.” The controlled

vocabulary also built in terms specific to the Japanese American community such as types of leisure activities, sports, or celebrations. It also reflected terminology for different generations including Issei, Nisei, and Kibei.

As I mentioned before, there is a general lack of consensus as to the appropriate terminology to use for this part of American history. Also, no matter how inclusive and well planned a controlled vocabulary is, it’s often still not going to be sufficient for every type of archival document. There was also the issue that, because so many terms have historically been used, we wanted researchers to be able to find the materials, even if they were using outdated or euphemistic terms in their search. To address these kinds of issues, we relied on the free text description field to catch other terms and keywords. When including euphemistic language directly from an archival document, catalogers used quotes around terms (for example, “colonists” or “non-aliens”). In addition to applying established standards, OpenRefine was used to perform batch clean up and quality control prior to submission.

Relevance after 2016 Election

“History teaches caution and skepticism when vague notions of national security are used to justify vast, unprecedented exclusionary measures that target disfavored classes.” – Lawyers for the Japanese American Citizens League

In February 2017, communities and archives recognized the seventy-fifth anniversary of Executive Order 9066. This was the order from President Roosevelt that in 1942, called to forcibly remove and imprison individuals of Japanese ancestry. This also happened to fall days after the signing of Executive Order 13769, more commonly known as the Muslim travel ban. While using our collections to remember and recognize the injustices that occurred in 1942, the project also became an opportunity to draw connections between historic and current events and engage in dialogue on contemporary issues.

As part of the seventy-fifth anniversary, the JADP sponsored a digital exhibit and many of the participating universities held physical exhibits and related programming. The standardized, ethical, and inclusive description made it possible for project metadata to be upcycled as part of the didactic information and exhibit narratives, ultimately broadening the project’s reach and extending the impact of the metadata.

Conclusion

There are several things that I think were important to the success of the descriptive component of this project. First, community-driven metadata is key when describing the documents of a marginalized community. This requires time and resources, but it will greatly enhance the integrity of the metadata. Second, we can approach metadata not only as standardized, neutral description but also as a tool for doing social justice work. Metadata can be part of the reparations process for oppressed or underdocumented groups. It can be an opportunity for communities to reclaim the language that is used to describe their lived experiences. Lastly, metadata can help us make connections between historical events and current circumstances. It can be a part of deepening present conversations around social justice and contemporary issues.

The Japanese American Digitization Project was a large-scale, consortial effort, but inclusive, community-driven metadata can be adapted for small-scale projects with limited resources too. Metadata is just one way that archivists can incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion concepts into the work that we do.

More information:

- California State University, 2014. "Japanese American History Digitization Project." <<http://csujad.com>>
- California State University, 2014. "Japanese American History Digitization Project: An Exhibit" <<http://scalar.usc.edu/works/csujad-exhibit/index>>
- Willams, Gregory L., Sue Tyson, and Maureen Burns. "Building a Statewide Archival Collaborative: The California State University Japanese American History Digitization Project" <<https://online.vraweb.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1078&context=vrab>>
- The Densho organization: <<http://densho.org>>. ■



Jillian Ewalt is a librarian in the Marian Library at the University of Dayton. She was previously archives and manuscripts coordinator at California State University, Sacramento where she worked on the Japanese American Digitization Project. She is an active member of the Society of American Archivists and Art Libraries Society, North America.



Japanese Americans at a Los Angeles train station during mass removal from the west coast in 1942. United States Army Signal Corps (photographer). Retrieved from: <<http://digitalcollections.archives.csudh.edu/digital/collection/p16855coll4/id/5631>>.

Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Karen Adler Abramson



Following the tradition of NEA presidents past, I would like to use my final column as an opportunity to highlight key organizational accomplishments and activities over the past year, including those arising out of the current strategic plan, which comes to a close in the year 2020. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the focused dedication of the Board and broader membership. The following list is not intended to be an exhaustive accounting of all achievements, which would be too numerous to include here.

Community Engagement Coordinator: In 2018 NEA appointed its first Community Engagement Coordinator, Abigail Malangone. This critical position, part of the ongoing strategic plan, is intended to broaden community awareness about the enduring value of archival work, while also helping to widen the potential pool of future archivists and record keepers. Currently, the CEC is in the process of recruiting NEA members as potential judges for National History Day competitions in each state of the region. In addition, she has begun work on developing an NEA Speakers' Bureau that will serve as a valuable and free resource for regional organizations in need of archival guidance and information.

Task Force on Documentation Practices: This task force, chaired by Communications Committee Chair Sarah Shoemaker, was formed in 2018 with the goal of developing "a consistent, coherent, and efficient system for both working and completed documentation of NEA business." To date, the task force has identified the organization's diverse documentation needs and has proposed a list of recommended tools to replace those currently used for communication, discussion tracking, and active and inactive documentation purposes.

Mentoring Program: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Consortium (MARAC) has adapted NEA's Mentoring Program model to launch a similar program of its own,

which is scheduled to launch in summer 2019. In February of this year, NEA self-nominated the Mentoring Program for the SAA Distinguished Service Award, for which MARAC wrote a glowing support letter.

Statement on Contingent Employment: In response to an open letter written by several UCLA Special Collections librarians demanding that their temporary positions be converted to permanent ones, the NEA Board developed its own statement on contingent employment, which was posted on the NEA website in fall 2018. NEA's stance on contingent employment was referenced in a February 2019 article on the topic written by the editor of *Moving Image Archives News*.

Skillshare and Webinar Pilots: In the effort to promote low-cost professional development opportunities for the NEA membership (as stipulated in the strategic plan), the Education Committee piloted its first skillshare session, a remote discussion on a *JCAS* article authored by Inclusion and Diversity Committee member Meghan R. Rinn. The success of this pilot will likely lead to future skillshare offerings. Relatedly, the Education Committee will be hosting its first webinar in spring 2019, a workshop on salary negotiation for archivists.

Fall 2018 Meeting: The NEA fall meeting, "Our Common Code: Ethics in Archives," proved to be a very well-attended and successful program that piloted a new meeting structure eliminating break-out sessions in favor of holding a unified program in a central space (the JFK Library's Smith Hall). The program committee, chaired by Juliana Kuipers, did an excellent job in pulling together a highly thoughtful and well-organized program.

Newsletter Changes: In the effort to meet changing membership needs, the *NEA Newsletter* will soon be offering a digital-only option to those who want it. Furthermore, the publication will incorporate a new "featured member" section that introduces new NEA members and the NEA Board to the broader membership; soon it will also replace the book reviews section with reviews of archives-related technologies, products, and exhibits.

New Roundtable: The Board recently approved the creation of a new NEA Roundtable, Teaching with Primary Sources, to be co-chaired by Pam Hopkins and Stephanie Call. The work of this roundtable promises to hold great

interest and relevance for our membership.

New Board Roles: The NEA Board has recently approved the creation of a new Meeting Coordinator position for a three-year pilot; the role is intended to bring long-term continuity and consistency to the complex administrative and logistical components of NEA meeting development. And, with an eye toward short- and long-term financial planning needs, the Board also approved the creation of a new Financial Planning Committee, to include the president, vice-president, treasurer, and two external NEA members.

Spring 2019 Meeting: By the time this piece is published, the spring meeting in Burlington, Vermont, will have

already taken place. Titled “Together We Can,” the meeting was the first held in Vermont since 2005; it brought speakers from around the New England region to explore how archivists work with diverse individuals and groups to make records more accessible. Program Committee Chair Sarah Galligan and the program committee are to be commended for their creative and prodigious work.

On a final note, I am delighted to be passing the presidential torch to incoming president, Jamie Kingman Rice, who, together with incoming vice president, Linda Hocking, represent a formidable leadership team. I look forward to working with them, the Board, and the NEA membership to continue the vital work before us. ■

Look for the NEA Board meeting minutes online!

NEA’s Executive Board minutes are now exclusively online at <newenglandarchivists.org>.

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News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Miss Porter's School Digital Archive Available Online

Founded in 1848, Sarah Porter's school in Farmington, Connecticut, was one of the first independent schools to educate young women. In 2018, the Miss Porter's School Ford Library Digital Archives became available on Omeka and contains four collections dating from the 1840s to 1930s:

- The Sarah Porter Collection includes family history and genealogy.
- The highlight of the Rules and Daily School Life Collection is Porter's handwritten rules for students from the 1850s.
- Sarah Abroad: 1872 Letters from Europe has detailed correspondence from Porter to her family.
- Correspondence in Letters from Notable People includes letters from Julia Ward Howe, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Kate Tryon, Mary A. Ward, Kate Douglas Wiggin, and former First Lady Lucretia Garfield. Also included are letters to Noah Porter (Sarah Porter's brother and the former president of Yale) from male politicians, scientists, theologians, and writers.

View the digital archive of the Miss Porter's School at <https://sarahportermpls.omeka.net>.

MASSACHUSETTS

Terence Winch Papers Open at Boston College

John J. Burns Library at Boston College is excited to announce that the recently processed Terence Winch papers are now open to the public. This collection documents the life and work of Winch (1945–), an Irish-American writer and musician based in the Washington, D.C., area. It

includes manuscripts of Winch's work as well as the work and correspondence of a school of poets known as "Mass Transit," which flourished in the 1970s. Another highlight is Winch's musical pursuits, particularly his involvement Celtic Thunder, a traditional Irish music band.

Acquired in 2017, the Terence Winch papers provide a colorful look into literary and musical counterculture from the 1960s through today, presented in formats as wide ranging as handmade books, typescripts, poetry readings flyers, and audiovisual recordings of literary events and concerts. To learn more about the collection, read the finding aid at <http://hdl.handle.net/2345.2/MS2017-005>.

Curator's Choice Exhibition at Concord Free Public Library

After twenty-three years of service, Leslie Perrin Wilson is retiring from her position as the curator of William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library in Concord, Massachusetts. Her final exhibition will be *Curator's Choice: Personal Favorites from Two Decades of Collection Building*.

Wilson identifies the acquisitions she has determined to be the most significant in building and expanding the scope of the library's special collections. These include a major purchase of Louisa May Alcott manuscripts, the Robbins-Mills Collection of Herbert Wendell Gleason Photographic Negatives, and Ada Shepard's letters and sketchbooks, as well as the papers and materials of many local families, including the Andersons, Barretts, Munroes, Prichards, and Wheelers.

The exhibition runs from May 3 to July 25 and is open during regular library hours. An opening reception on May 3 will serve as a tribute to Wilson and her work. For more information, visit <https://concordlibrary.org>.

Perkins School for the Blind Announces New Helen Keller Collection

The Perkins School for the Blind Archives recently acquired a new collection related to Helen Keller. The Robert R. Chaney Helen Keller Collection documents the friendship that Robert Chaney and his wife, Thelma, had

with Helen Keller, Anne Sullivan Macy, and Polly Thomson (Keller's assistant after Sullivan's death). The collection includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and hardcover books.

Correspondence features descriptions of travels as well as other informal, friendly communications, including letters from Thomson that were written while she and Keller were in Scotland right after Sullivan's death as Keller sought "quiet" to work. Newspaper clippings consist of stories about topics and people related to Keller, including book reviews, event reports, and announcements of her birthday and death.

A digital collection of photographs and selected correspondence with transcriptions is available at <<http://bit.ly/ChaneyCollection>>. Contact <archives@perkins.org> with any questions.

UMass Lowell Announces Southeast Asian Digital Archive

The Southeast Asian Digital Archive (SEADA) at the University of Massachusetts Lowell launched on December 4, 2018. A partnership between UMass Lowell's Center for Asian American Studies and the university's library, the SEADA is a community-based archive of cultural heritage materials from Southeast Asian American communities in the Lowell, Massachusetts, region.

Collections related to local Southeast Asian nonprofits and the Burmese and Cambodian communities are now available online. This project is made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Lowell Cultural Council, the UMass Creative Economy Initiatives Fund, and the Chancellor's 2020 Challenge Grant.

For more information or to access the collections, visit <<https://uml.edu/SEADA>>.

Glennon Archives Reopens to the Public

The Dr. Thomas J. Glennon Archives reopened to the public on March 16 during the Woburn Public Library's grand opening at the new library building at 45 Pleasant Street in Woburn, Massachusetts. The building



View from the mezzanine of the new Woburn Public Library building.

was designed by the firm CBT Architects of Boston as an addition to the historic 1879 Henry Hobson Richardson library building. The Glennon Archives reading room and exhibition space are located on the mezzanine of the new building. Hours of operation are listed on the library website. For more information, see <<https://woburnpubliclibrary.org/archives/about-the-archives>> or contact archivist Tom Doyle at <tdoyle@minlib.net>.

R H O D E I S L A N D

Digitized Materials from the Documenting Slavery Project Available Online

Salve Regina University Archives & Special Collections, in partnership with the South Kingstown Town Clerk's Office and with support from the Rhode Island Foundation, has completed the first phase of the Documenting Slavery in South Kingstown's Colonial Records project, describing seventy-eight colonial-era documents and publishing them in Artstor.

History major Sarah Christiana '21 and archivist Genna Duplisea identified people, activities, and places throughout these documents, with particular attention to enslaved individuals whose lives are little represented in the documentary record. Wills sometimes gifted members of enslaved families to different individuals or even granted

shared ownership of a human being to multiple inheritors. The probate and town council records show families separated, estates contested, eminent domain disputes, and antiquated marriage customs.

The project will continue with internal funding in 2019, with the goal of recentering historical analysis on marginalized individuals in Rhode Island. Digitized materials are available at <<http://tiny.cc/sk-colonial-records>>.

VERMONT

The Vermont Historical Records Program

The Vermont Historical Records Program, based at the Vermont State Archives & Records Administration, offers free technical assistance to repositories throughout the state and seeks to build Vermont's capacity to support these organizations. Rachel Onuf, formerly the roving archivist for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, serves as the VHRP coordinator. When she is not roaming the state, she works on collaborative statewide initiatives, including developing an alliance of collections care professionals, mapping Vermont's cultural assets, and establishing contingency contracts with disaster recovery vendors. The VHRP also received funding from the Performing Arts Readiness Project <<https://performingartsreadiness.org/>> to develop an emergency preparedness and response network for arts and culture organizations. About thirty-five people are working together, with a facilitator, to organize the network. The VHRP is made possible by Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The coordinator can be reached at <rachel.onuf@vermont.gov> or 802-828-2204.

OTHER NEWS

Save the Date for the NEA Spring 2020 Meeting

Save the date! The NEA Spring 2020 Meeting will be held April 2–4, 2020, in Providence, Rhode Island. The theme is “Inside & Outside,” and program details are forthcoming. We look forward to seeing you there! The spring 2020 program committee chair is Amber LaFountain, <Amber_LaFountain@hms.harvard.edu>.

JCAS Announces New Editors

The *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies* welcomed new editorial board members in March. After serving as both a peer reviewer and an associate editor for the journal, Rosemary K. J. Davis (Yale University) assumed the role of managing editor. She is joined by four new associate editors who are NEA members: Des Alaniz (University of California, Santa Barbara), Anna Clutterbuck-Cook (Massachusetts Historical Society), Jessica Holden (University of Massachusetts, Boston), and Monika Lehman (Yale University).

Outgoing managing editor Michael Lotstein (Yale University) has served since the journal's inception in 2014. Former associate editors William Ross (University of New Hampshire) and Sarah Shoemaker (Brandeis University) were also founding members of the journal.

JCAS is a peer-reviewed, open access journal sponsored by New England Archivists, Yale University Library, and Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. For more information, visit <<https://elischolar.library.yale.edu/jcas>> or email the journal at <email.jcas@gmail.com>.

MBLC Announces Online Resource for Disaster Preparedness

Start planning for disaster preparedness now! The complete curriculum for *Finding Common Ground: Collaborative Training for the Cultural Heritage and Emergency Response Communities* is available online. Developed by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services and with the support of a two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the program guides institutions in disaster planning.

Finding Common Ground brings cultural heritage institutions and first responders together to learn from each other at the local level, ensuring that humanities collections and municipal records are included in risk assessment, mitigation planning, and disaster preparedness and response training. The curriculum helps institutions prepare for and respond to disasters while building relationships with local emergency responders.

Program materials, which can be adapted, include webinars, slide decks, checklists, and handouts. View the curriculum at <<https://guides.mblc.state.ma.us/finding-common-ground>>.

Archives in Context: New Podcast from SAA

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) is delighted to present season one of *Archives in Context*, a podcast highlighting archival literature and technologies, and most importantly, the people behind them. Cosponsored by SAA's Publications Board and *American Archivist* Editorial Board, the podcast offers a new medium for exploring the often moving and important work of memory keeping.

Season one features interviews with Kären M. Mason, Cal Lee, Michelle Caswell, Karen Trivette, Anthony Cocciolo, Dominique Luster, and stories from "A Finding Aid to My Soul," an open-mic event at ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2018. Listen to the full season now via Google Play, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and the *Archives in Context* website <<https://archivesincontext.archivists.org>>. ■



Tulips at the John Paul Jones House in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The famous Revolutionary naval hero John Paul Jones boarded at this house, now a museum, from 1781 to 1782 during construction of the ship *America*. Circa 1935–1945, the image was taken by photographer and Portsmouth native Arthur I. Harriman (1875–1947). *Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum.*

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WHO'S MISSING FROM THIS TABLE?

About the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion, social justice, and diversity within the archives profession and NEA.

The Right to Know:
The Story of the *Protocols*

By Joan Ilacqua

The “Right to Know”

The story of the *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials* often begins in 2006, but in truth, activist work to decolonize Native American materials in American archives began over forty years ago. According to Jennifer O’Neal, historian, archivist, and member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Oregon, until the mid-twentieth century, many tribal communities produced few written records, and most physical archival collections that document Native American history exist in repositories outside of tribal communities. The bulk of these records derive from anthropologists, ethnographers, historians, and amateur collectors, as well as federal and state agencies, including the Smithsonian Institution, which produced historical documentation on tribal communities.

In 1978, Vine Deloria, Jr., a historian, activist, and member of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, wrote “The Right to Know,” a report arguing that as part of the federal government’s treaty responsibility, it had an obligation to provide funds to tribes for library, information, and archival services. Deloria argued for inventorying existing records in federal possession, establishing regional research centers, developing library and information science education for tribal members, and appropriating funds for repatriating tribal materials. Building on this idea throughout the 1970s and 1980s, many tribal archives were established and projects such as the Native American Archives Project (funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities), Tribal Archives Northwest, and the Southwest Oregon Research Project began efforts to decolonize Native American materials. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 did not extend to archival collections, but it led to a grassroots movement to establish solutions to questions raised by archives after NAGPRA, including the proper care of and disposition of Native American archival material and cultural property, whether tangible (records, manuscripts, pictures) or intangible (songs, dances, oral his-

stories). Due to the fact that non-tribal archives did not have a mandate to follow NAGPRA, ad hoc measures and activism to follow the example set by NAPGRA began. This culminated in a petition to create the Native American Archives Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists in 2005.

The *Protocols*

In 2006, the *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials* was drafted to provide guidance and inform archivists about best practices for Native American archives. Karen Underhill of Northern Arizona University gathered a diverse group of authors that included archivists, librarians, museum curators, historians, and anthropologists, both Native American and non-Native American. The group, known as the First Archivist Circle, met to identify professional best practices for culturally responsible care and use of Native American archival material held by non-tribal organizations. Their approach was grounded in social justice archiving and the postcustodial model for participatory and community archives. The group brought the *Protocols* to professional organizations for implementation and endorsement. In 2007, the Society of American Archivists created a task force to solicit opinion regarding the *Protocols* from its membership and created a report. Although there was some support, particularly from the Native American Archives Roundtable, respondents had a variety of strong opinions on the *Protocols*, including concern that shared stewardship would be cost prohibitive and burdensome, or that implementing the *Protocols* would encourage non-tribal archives not to acquire Native American holdings. Shockingly, some commenters thought that the principles laid out were counter to the archival tenets of free and open access, while others challenged the sovereignty of native nations and the right of tribes to their own cultural knowledge.

After the task force report, SAA continued to hold forums at annual meetings from 2009 to 2011 about the *Protocols*. In 2012, the SAA Council declined again to endorse the

Protocols. Despite the lack of official endorsement, individual libraries and archives began to change their policies and practices surrounding Native American holdings. A group of indigenous archival professionals created the National Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (a predecessor of the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums), which in turn endorsed the *Protocols*. Proof of the *Protocols*' influence and guidance exist in content management systems like Mukurtu, which allows tribes and archives to share content according to custom. Projects like the Plateau Peoples' Web Portal, a partnership of eight tribes and Washington State University which utilizes Mukurtu, shows the power of collaboration and respect.

The Outcome and Reactions

At the 2018 SAA meeting, twelve years after the meeting of the First Archivists Circle, the Society of American Archivists endorsed the *Protocols for Native American Materials*. They acknowledged that “many of the original criticisms of the *Protocols* were based in the language of cultural insensitivity and white supremacy,” and “endorsement of the *Protocols* is long overdue.” Jennifer Snow, former Mohegan Tribe tribal archivist and librarian (2009-2011) and current librarian for anthropology; sociology; and women's, gender, and sexuality studies at Yale University, says that much of her experience with the *Protocols* has been reactive since the *Protocols* were developed before her tenure at the Mohegan Tribe. Because the Mohegan Tribal Archives are only accessible to Mohegan Tribe members, there is less concern about who is using the materials within the archives and why. When the tribe worked to repatriate artifacts and access to tribal lands, the *Protocols* were not used in the discussions. According to Snow, “I was the only archivist who worked there, and as the *Protocols* had not been adopted as professional standards by the SAA, there was little impetus to employ them in conversations with other institutions.” In her view, one of the reasons it took so long for SAA to endorse the *Protocols* was due to a lack of cultural understanding and an inability to discuss Native American collections in tribal terms. She continues, “Many professionals who identify with the majority white American culture simply did not understand the gravity of many objects and records for Native American tribes and groups. These archival collections are not just historical relics, but are deeply embedded in the identity and experiences of the tribes.” Now that the *Protocols* have been endorsed, Snow sees relationship building between tribes and the archives community as the next step. The *Protocols* provide a

way to start the conversation but cannot be the final word. Snow concludes, “A dialogue needs to continue, and the SAA needs to encourage individual archives and other cultural institutions to reach out to local tribes and work with them so that Native American collections are treated with the respect they deserve.” Anything less would make the passing of the *Protocols* after all this time an empty gesture.

Resources:

- Agarwal, Kritika. “A Way Forward.” *Perspectives on History*, October 1, 2018. Accessed February 19, 2019. <<https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/october-2018/a-way-forward-the-society-of-american-archivists-endorses-protocols-for-native-american-materials>>
- Kim, E. Tammy. “The Passamaquoddy Reclaim Their Culture Through Digital Repatriation.” *The New Yorker*, January 30, 2019. Accessed February 19, 2019. <<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/the-passamaquoddy-reclaim-their-culture-through-digital-repatriation>>
- O’Neal, Jennifer. “‘The Right to Know’: Decolonizing Native American Archives.” *Journal of Western Archives* 6, no. 1 (2015): 1-17. Accessed February 19, 2019. <<https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/westernarchives/vol6/iss1/2/>>
- “Protocols for Native American Archival Materials.” Protocols for Native American Archival Materials. Accessed February 19, 2019. <<https://www2.nau.edu/libnap-p/protocols.html>>
- “SAA Council Endorsement of Protocols for Native American Archival Materials.” Society of American Archivists. Accessed February 19, 2019. <<https://www2.archivists.org/statements/saa-council-endorsement-of-protocols-for-native-american-archival-materials>>



Joan Ilacqua is serving a one year term as a member of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee. She is the archivist for diversity and inclusion at Harvard Medical School's Center for the History of Medicine and co-chair of the board of directors of The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston. She has a background in advocacy and oral history, and is a graduate of UMass Boston's public history master's program. ■

Reviews

McDade, Travis. *Torn from Their Bindings: A Story of Art, Science, and the Pillaging of American University Libraries*. Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 2018. 248 pages. \$24.95 (hardcover). ISBN: 9780700626366

- Laura Kintz

In an account well-suited to today's fascination with true crime, Travis McDade's *Torn from Their Bindings: A Story of Art, Science, and the Pillaging of American University Libraries* tells the story of antique print dealer Robert Kindred's misguided quest to profit off the vulnerabilities of institutions charged with protecting rare and valuable books. With a particular affinity for nineteenth-century publications featuring illustrations of botanical and other natural subjects, Kindred made a career of cutting prints from their bindings, framing them, and selling them. McDade chronicles Kindred's progression from struggling print dealer to convicted felon, offering a detailed and intriguing narrative that highlights the myriad challenges involved in preventing, prosecuting, and recouping losses in cases of rare book theft.

Travis McDade is curator of law rare books at the University of Illinois College of Law and a leading expert on crimes related to rare books and other printed materials; he has degrees in both law and library science. His law background informs his understanding of the intricacies of Kindred's crime and subsequent prosecution and conviction. His training as a librarian is evident in, and is also most likely a product of, the reverence he has for printed materials, which he conveys throughout the book.

McDade's prologue introduces readers to a pivotal point in Kindred's story: the night of his ultimate downfall in June of 1980 when a University of Illinois employee discovered a pile of massive antique books on the ground outside an HVAC building and decided to investigate. Readers then learn how Kindred began his career selling antiques in storefronts that never became very profitable. Facing financial hardship, he traveled around the country, entering university libraries armed with razor blades and leaving with piles of lithographs that he cut from books before returning those books to the shelves. McDade then details Kindred's apprehension and subsequent legal woes, and the judicial proceedings on behalf of Illinois and other victim universities.

The greatest strength of McDade's book is the care with which he treats both the topic of book theft and the pillaged materials themselves. Although the specificities of the stolen prints do at times seem excessive, McDade wants to ensure that they are given all due respect. He expresses anger that Kindred received only a brief jail sentence, was not required to pay any restitution, and that most of the stolen materials were not returned to the institutions from which they were taken. Despite concerted efforts to prosecute the case, neither law enforcement nor the legal system understood the real value of the materials—value of a cultural, educational, and scholarly kind (although the monetary value was also grossly underestimated). On this point, a more in-depth reflection on the ramifications of the theft at the libraries from which Kindred stole would have been helpful.

In recounting this case, McDade illustrates some of the challenges that are common to both librarians and archivists. How do we provide access to materials while also protecting them? How do we lobby successfully for the resources and respect that our positions, materials, and institutions deserve? Robert Kindred's crime was not just about the theft of some book pages; it was an attack on the preservation of history and the access to knowledge to which librarians and archivists have devoted their careers. In *Torn from Their Bindings*, Travis McDade makes a strong case that our society needs to take such crimes more seriously if we want our cultural heritage resources to be available to future generations. ■



May Processional, 1940s. For many decades the Catholic Churches in Lawrence, MA, celebrated the Queen of Heaven in a May processional. This image, with Father Lorenzo Andolfi, shows the procession from Holy Rosary Church walking along Haverill Street in the 1940s. This photograph was donated to the library by Phyllis Tyler, and another series of processional images exists in the Ciofalo photograph collection. *Courtesy of Lawrence Public Library.*

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NEA Roundtable Updates

Digital Archives Roundtable Discusses Digital Processing Framework

In January, the NEA Digital Archives Roundtable met online to discuss Cornell University's Digital Processing Framework, <<https://hdl.handle.net/1813/57659>>. This document presents a tiered processing standard for born-digital archival materials, progressing from baseline to intensive processing requirements.

One significant topic from the discussion was the labor-intensive nature of managing a born-digital archive. The baseline tier is still very robust compared to how many institutions are currently handling born-digital archives. The framework could be useful in advocating for additional staff time.

There was also a discussion of how users inform our best practices and the difficulty in making any decision without understanding the end user. Many institutions have a limited idea of its user base, assuming the research is exclusively academic. One idea was to host a symposium to bring together digital archivists and users of born-digital archives.

To hear about future discussions of digital archives and join the conversation, join the DART at <<http://bit.do/neadar>>.

New Teaching with Primary Sources Roundtable Established

A new roundtable, Teaching with Primary Sources, was recently approved by the NEA board. In the past few years, archivists have been increasingly called upon to engage students of all ages with archives through the development of lesson plans and resources and to provide support and expertise to faculty and educators.

The Teaching with Primary Sources Roundtable will create a network of current practitioners and others who are interested in getting involved with this work to share

skills, create a body of resources, advocate for professional development opportunities, and foster an active, regional community of practice. The first meeting of the roundtable took place at the NEA Spring 2019 Meeting in Burlington, Vermont, and more programming will be developed based on feedback from attendees.

Join us! Contact co-chairs Pam Hopkins at <psm-hopkins@gmail.com> and Stephanie Call at <steliza277@gmail.com> with your ideas. ■



Lawn Mowing, 1912. Emil Therkelson mows the Bushnell Park lawn in Hartford, CT, on May 1, 1912. This image comes from the Hartford Parks Collection. *Courtesy Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library.*

NEA Invites You to Start a Roundtable!

NEA members are encouraged to start a roundtable—a more informal way to get involved with NEA and the archival community, and to connect with others around your interests and needs as a professional. Roundtables organize workshops or events, develop conference sessions, and work with NEA committees on specific initiatives. Take your discussion online through Twitter, Facebook, a blog, or an email list, or make recommendations to the NEA board based on the experience of roundtable members.

NEA Member Spotlight



Name: Carol Ansel

Affiliated Institution:

Library Director
Godfrey Memorial Library
Middletown, CT

Job title or career stage:

Library director, Godfrey Memorial Library. I recently changed career emphasis from school librarianship.

How did you become interested in the archival field?

Once I got bitten by the genealogy bug, I began visiting many archival repositories and archives. I've also had a close family relationship with the Mystic Seaport Museum. My daughter has been very involved in archival digitization projects. So, my personal library experience, plus an interest in genealogical and historical research, plus the need for a job change led to my interest in archival repositories and archives.

What are some of your focuses and interests in the archival field?

While I have over thirty years of library experience, none of it was directly involved with archival materials and preservation. With my new job, I'm looking for help in that area; until I find a crash course, I'm self-educating online.

What piqued your interest about New England Archivists?

I've always found professional organizations, especially their conferences and meetings, extremely valuable for continuing education.

What are you looking forward to about your new membership?

I am looking forward to conferences and discussion list conversations. I am especially looking for advice from colleagues active in the field, not just theoretical or philosophical discussions.

What's an interesting fact about you or an unexpected talent or interest?

I've played the hammered dulcimer for many years. I am currently part of a group of women who play stringed instruments, with an emphasis on harps, for nursing homes and assisted living communities. I'm also an avid English country dancer—think Jane Austen movies.

What are your hopes for the archival profession?

That we continue to find the best ways to stabilize, conserve, and preserve our artifacts and materials. It's equally important that we also find ways to disseminate, share, and connect them to related collections and enthusiastic users.

What challenges have you observed so far in your career?

In the library part of my career, convincing administrators and funders that libraries are more, not less, necessary in this age of nearly boundless access to information on the internet. In switching to the world of archives, I find the emphasis is more on preserving and maintaining a relatively static collection. In school and public libraries the collection is an ever-changing reflection of the interests of the community, with worn or dated materials sometimes repaired or replaced, but often discarded. The more current the nonfiction collection, the better; in archives, the older material carries more of a badge of honor. The cost of materials for preservation and conservation can be a little shocking, and it's not especially visible; the equivalent of replacing your furnace at home—it's got to be done but not something you post on your Facebook page. ■



A Day in the Park, undated. Children play on the Cellar Door Slide in Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT. This image comes from the Hartford Parks Collection. Date unknown. *Courtesy Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library.*

THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



Spring Bloom – “A Double Sweet-Scented Chinese Peony”

This botanical illustration of a peony is from a nineteenth-century horticultural magazine, *Edwards's Botanical Register*. The illustrated horticultural magazine ran from 1815 to 1847. This illustration is a part of the Trustees of Reservations collections about Long Hill. In 1916, Long Hill, a 114-acre hillside property in Beverly, attracted *Atlantic Monthly* editor and publisher Ellery Sedgwick and his wife, Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, for its lovely views of the rural North Shore. Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, an accomplished gardener and horticulturist, quickly went to work designing the garden that featured many peonies. *Courtesy the Henrietta Ellery Sedgwick Lockwood Collection, Archives & Research Center, The Trustees of Reservations.*