



MAA 2023 Virtual Annual Meeting, June 19-20, 2023

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Session Descriptions

The Archives are our Classroom: Approaches to Undergraduate Primary Source Information Literacy

Andrea McMillan, *Michigan State University Libraries, Michigan State University*

Katharine Van Arsdale, *Adventist Digital Library, Andrews University*

Emily West, *Wayne State University School of Information Sciences*

Knowing how to navigate archival collections and engage effectively with primary source documents can feel like a daunting task to a newer researcher. This presentation will focus on three different approaches to incorporating archives in instruction sessions. Presenters will speak about their experiences with archival instruction from one-shot sessions, partnering with faculty, and course-long embedded librarian collaboration.

Crowdsourcing Options for GLAM Institutions

Michelle McClellan, *Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan*

Molly McGuire, *Oakland University*

Justin Schell, *Scholarly Technology and Creative Spaces, University of Michigan*

GLAM institutions are increasingly turning to crowdsourcing in order to engage the public, improve knowledge about their materials, enhance metadata, and build more participatory collections. Crowdsourcing has the potential to better promote collections, attract new audiences, and improve accessibility in digital collections. This session will explore different crowdsourcing projects, techniques, and technologies that leverage the expertise of community members, scholars and researchers to enhance collections. We will also consider how crowdsourcing approaches—despite all their advantages—can complicate traditional archival practices.

Where Did We Come from and Where Do We Go? Digital Initiatives at the Ilitch Holdings, Inc. Archives

Robin Derminer, *Ilitch Holdings, Inc.*

This session will discuss the digital initiatives happening at the Ilitch Holdings, Inc. Archives, specifically the establishment of a new Digital Conversion Lab, collections management system, digital preservation efforts and collecting challenges in a multi-corporation context.

Session Descriptions Cont.

Changing and Conflicting Narratives in Primary Sources

Remembering St. John: A Challenging Narrative to Past Interpretations

Jonathan Kirkwood, *Sloan Museum of Discovery*

The St. John neighborhood encompassed housing in the northern section of Flint between Buick City and the Flint River. The city, acting under the banner of urban renewal, demolished it in the early 1970s to make way for I-475. But justifications for urban renewal are giving way as partnerships between Sloan Museum and community groups, oral histories, new accessions to the Sloan Archives, and documentaries show a community with a long and varied history. These new narratives are challenging old ones and prompting complicated feelings and questions from the public. Kirkwood will present on incorporating the new narratives into research, exhibits, and archival education and programming as Sloan Museum builds stronger bridges with the communities it serves.

A Split in Time: Using COVID Oral Histories to Compare Historical Narratives

Robert Browning, *Wayne State University School of Information Sciences*

This presentation discusses an oral history project focusing on the COVID-19 lockdowns in Wuhan, China in early 2020 and will share how the project was conducted and how the interviews fit, or don't, into official narratives as told by Chinese and Western media about what took place. Voices and stories of those who directly experienced and interpreted these traumatic events and how those interpretations may have changed over time will be highlighted. In this way, the project demonstrates that archival resources, such as oral histories, add to or conflict with previously told narratives resulting in a richer historical record. Finally, there will be a brief examination of how these narratives and multiple perspectives could be introduced to public and used to develop a greater understanding of the past.

Creating Collaborative Digital Archives: Lessons from the First Year of UPLINK

Annika Peterson, *Upper Peninsula Digital Network (UPLINK) Digital Project Manager*

Staff at the Central Upper Peninsula and Northern Michigan University Archives have been collaborating with local historical societies to digitize and create metadata for collections for the UPLINK (Upper Peninsula Digital Network) project for the last year. This presentation will explore some of the exciting opportunities and challenges that have come from the project, including how the detailed local and contextual knowledge possessed by the volunteers at the societies has led to better metadata, the problem of trying to standardize metadata created by more than a dozen organizations, how digital access has benefitted researchers and allowed for new kinds of scholarship, and how UPLINK has helped the NMU archives to increase its visibility in the region and promote its value to the university administration.

Session Descriptions Cont.

Close Beside the Winding Cedar: Using Story Maps to tell the History of the Red Cedar River at MSU

Eric Tans, *Michigan State University Libraries, Michigan State University*

Produced as part of the MSU Library Digital Scholarship Lab's Project Incubator and weaving together a cohesive narrative employing maps, images, documents, and timelines, while utilizing ESRI's Story Maps software, the Close Beside the Winding Cedar exhibit acknowledges the crucial role the Red Cedar has played in the history of a major institution in Michigan's history. This presentation will outline a case study of participating in the Project Incubator's 2022-2023 cohort, the process of building the exhibit, and potential future developments.

Keynote "The Door"

**Sheila L. Chingwa, Community Elder and former Archivist
Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians**

Knock, and the door shall open. Doors are everywhere but the door you choose to knock on may or may not open. Open doors invite the inquisitive in on a whim. A closed door, one can stand outside a door for years knocking because they are locked and inaccessible. Our open-door policy for donations to our community brings in pieces of history that opens avenues in which our research can continue. Behind our door, everyone's history is important. Big or small, the collections that come through our doors are irreplaceable. In this lecture, LTTB Community Elder Sheila L. Chingwa, shares her experience as an Archivist for her Native Community with a collection that was brought into their Tribal archives.

In January 2023, the Archives Department was notified of the death, removal and discarding of personal items from a Tribal member's home. With permission, Eric Hemenway went on a rescue mission to save as many historical records he could in two days' time to bring them into the safety of the walls of the archives. Sheila will take the audience through the intrigue of the archivist as she unpacks the boxes of papers and pictures as she unfolds the life story of the individual. The audience will be taken through a brief processing and preservation process of this collection. The door has been opened. Who is behind that door? Sheila L. Chingwa will introduce you to the door of Julius and Judith Kewaygoshkum.

Sheila L. Chingwa, former Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians' Archivist, resides amongst her community in the wonderful town of Petoskey Michigan. As a retired teacher, she returned to assist with the collection and preservation of historical Tribal documents of the Tribal community. With her Master's in education, she uses her skills to research archival documents through digital and various media platforms to fill in the blanks of lost Native American history. As a life-long learner, she treasures every collection that comes in for it brings with it new understanding to the life of her community. Untold history is revealed throughout her daily efforts. In her free time, she writes memoirs, poems, and short stories and publishes them on Vocal, a social media writer's platform. If your curiosity is triggered, visit <https://vocal.media/authors/sheila-l-chingwa> and enjoy!

Digital Preservation Policy Workshop

Dr. Chelsea Denault, Michigan Digital Preservation Network Coordinator
Cinda May, co-founder InDiPres

This workshop will introduce what a Digital Preservation Policy is, what it covers (and what it doesn't!), and why it's important for your organization to have one. We will walk section-by-section through a policy framework, review example policies, and spend time discussing, writing, and sharing content. Attendees will emerge from the workshop with a draft policy and a helpful roadmap for continuing development, including building a digital preservation team in their organization that can actualize their new policy and serve as cheerleaders for digital preservation across different departments in a collaborative way. We'll end the workshop by briefly discussing how to appraise and select content for digital preservation by laying out eight basic criteria that help turn a challenging, even overwhelming task, into a more standardized and objective assessment.

Dr. Chelsea Denault is the Coordinator of the Michigan Digital Preservation Network, a new statewide initiative to bring access to affordable digital preservation services to cultural memory institutions of all sizes across Michigan. Before joining the MDPN, she served at various museums and archives in Michigan and Chicago, including The Henry Ford, the Archdiocese of Chicago Archives and Records Center, and Landmarks Illinois. Dr. Denault holds a Ph.D. in US History and an MA in Public History from Loyola University Chicago, and is also a graduate of Albion College.

Cinda May most recently served as the Digital Preservation Strategist for Notre Dame's Hesburgh Libraries where she provided vision, focus, and leadership for digital preservation activities. Cinda is the first woman to serve as Chairperson of Special Collections at Indiana State University Library, a department that includes Rare Books and Manuscripts, University Archives, the Permanent Art Collection and Digital Initiatives. She is a co-founder of Indiana Digital Preservation (InDiPres) established to address the long term preservation needs of digital content created through LSTA digitization grant funding; and the former director of Wabash Valley Visions & Voices Digital Memory Project, a cooperative venture to document the history and cultural heritage of west central Indiana in word, image, and sound.

MAA Annual Meeting 2024 Detroit, MI

The 2024 Michigan Archival Association Annual Meeting will take place in **Detroit**, the exciting Motor City! It will have been 14 years since we last met in Detroit and our Local Arrangements Committee is working hard to ensure we have an amazing time next June! Accommodation details and exact dates will be forthcoming!