

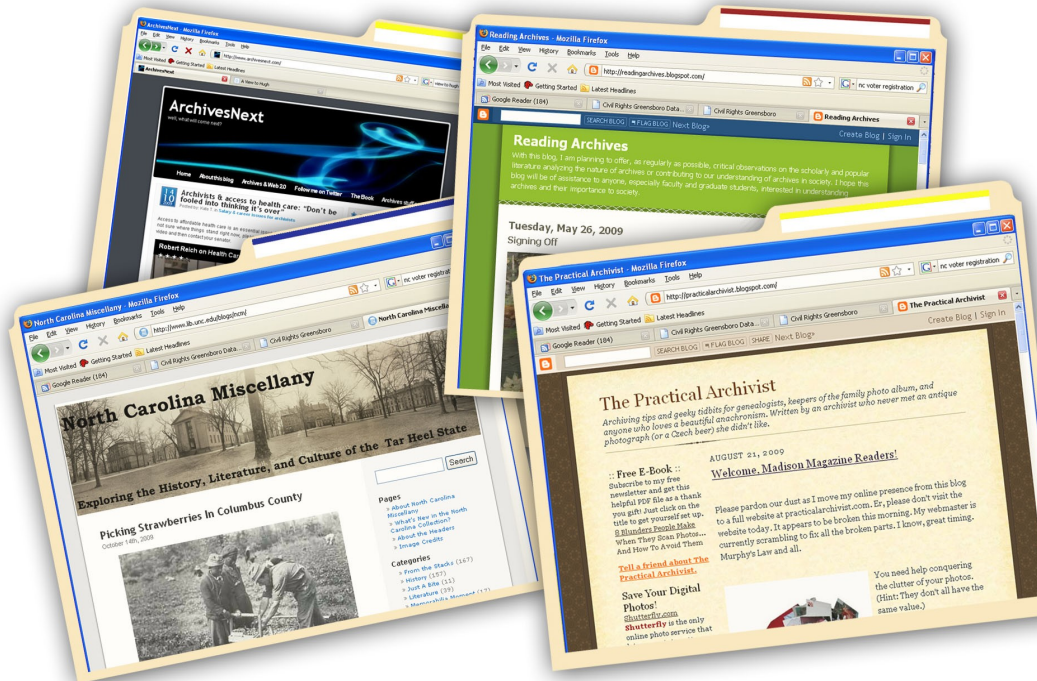


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About the Cover

The cover illustration features four blogs analyzed as a part of Michelle Belden's "Archives and Archivists in the Blogosphere" article. It was designed by David Gwynn, Digital Projects Manager at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

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The Society of North Carolina Archivists: Twenty-Five and Growing!

In 2009, SNCA will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary. Some SNCA members who were there at its inception in 1994 remember that first year of unfolding promise and excitement. Since then we have traveled a long and happy road, with many semi-annual meetings held across the state, in Raleigh, Wilmington, Fayetteville, Burlington, Asheville, Durham, Chapel Hill, Charlotte, and many places in between. Who can forget the meeting at the Outer Banks, just weeks after Hurricane Isabel? Or in Asheville in October? In those annual assemblies as well as in SNCA workshops and working group meetings, distinguished archivists and authors have addressed our members, long friendships have been cemented, and thorny archival problems shared and sometimes even resolved. Being human, however, we have finite memories of these moments. Or do we? Through the archives we care for, and the essays by SNCA's past presidents that you will read here, we keep memories alive--of organizations as well as the individuals who make them flourish.

Paula Jeannet Mangiafico

The Society of North Carolina Archivists: Reminiscences on Its Beginnings

by Catherine J. Morris, President, 1984-1985

When Jan Blodgett emailed me about putting to paper some of my memories related to SNCA, I did what retirees often do. I left the email to be answered later and I

promptly forgot to do so. Only when Ed brought home an envelope addressed to Jan did I remember that I needed to respond as well. Fortunately, some diligence in searching through stored boxes revealed comments that I had made on March 11, 1994, on the occasion of SNCA's tenth anniversary. The remarks that follow are in great measure adapted from those.

It is amazing how much one forgets with the passage of time that can be brought back to mind by the written word. There are probably only a few current SNCA members who remember well the factors leading to the formation of SNCA. Although there had been interchange between archivists in North Carolina prior to 1984, most of it was informal or through infrequent encounters at SAA or SARC (South Atlantic [now Southeastern] Archives and Records Conference) meetings. But in the early 1980s, several circumstances set in motion events that led to SNCA's formation. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission had reserved funds for studies to assess states' needs. The Department of Cultural Resources, on behalf of the Historical Records Advisory Committee, applied for and received a grant in 1981 to study archives and records programs and historical records repositories in North Carolina. One of the major recommendations of the 1983 final report was the formation of a statewide archival organization whose primary mission was to help address the training needs of archivists throughout the state. Surveys to the state's repositories had indicated support for such a group.

Representatives from nine colleges and universities and three religious archives as well representatives of the State Archives and the North Carolina Historical Commission attended an organizational meeting held October 24,

1983. A steering committee, composed of Bob Byrd, Jerry Brooks, Michelle Francis, Jane Odom, David Olson, and Madeleine Perez, was elected to address organizational issues such as by-laws, nomination of officers, and planning for a subsequent meeting. That committee did its work well and planned the first meeting that was held in Chapel Hill. In the "Final Report to the Steering Committee," dated March 23, 1984, Michelle Francis reported that 103 people registered for the March 9 meeting with only two "no shows"; sixty-two people paid dues. Michelle, who always rode herd on the society's finances, noted proudly that, "All expenses for the meeting have been met, leaving a balance of \$432.54. This amount added to the dues leaves the society's treasury with \$742.54. We're solvent. Thanks go to every one of you for a job well done." I reiterate those comments even now; the steering committee and the society's leadership have served well over the years. It should be noted that the Friends of the Archives, the nonprofit support group for the State Archives, loaned the fledgling society \$250.00 in seed money to help with initial activities. Although the Division of Archives and History led in efforts to facilitate the society's formation, it was never the intent of the division to chart the course of the organization, since the government agency could not and should not dictate to the broad constituency represented by SNCA. Over the years, the leadership of SNCA has been composed of archivists from across the spectrum of repositories and organizations with archival holdings.

I was fortunate to serve on the first SNCA board along with Morgan Barclay, Michelle Francis, Ellen Gartrell, and Dick Shrader. We met frequently to discuss the common interests and needs of archivists in various repositories

across the state as well as to arrange for programs and meetings. Having served on many boards and planning committees over the years, both as an archivist and in other areas, I can say to this day that rarely have I met a more dedicated group. Each member of that initial board made attendance at meetings and responsibility to the newly-formed organization a very high priority. I think that group helped establish a solid base from which so many other archivists have built an organization that over the past twenty-five years has served the archival community in ways we never could have envisioned.

So what do I remember most from those first years? Foremost, I recall real, solid interest and commitment from members and board members, increased interchange with colleagues across the state who were always willing to share information and provide assistance, and the development of lasting friendships, both professional and personal. The one negative that stands out to this day was chairing a discussion over a proposal to raise dues from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per year. That business meeting was a Robert's Rules of Order nightmare even though the dues increase eventually passed. I can laugh about it now!

It is difficult to believe that SNCA is now more than one quarter-century old. Much has changed in the archival profession in such areas as technology, archival education, and archival standards, yet the importance of a statewide professional organization that seeks to address the needs and interests of a diverse group of people involved in archival pursuits still holds true and cannot be overstated.

Catherine J. Morris served as North Carolina State Archivist from 2000 to 2004.

Reflections on a SNCA Presidency

by William E. King, President, 1987-1988

My tenure as president of SNCA was so long ago and I have been retired enough years that I can only share lingering impressions, which is hard for an historian. In addition, several of us worked for SNCA in various capacities over a period of years, so isolating a single year as president is tricky at this late date.

My overriding memory is laboring to define and establish the organization. Many believed there was a real need for something different than the southeast archival gathering in place at the time that was dominated by the state archives and archivists. Also at SAA meetings, we observed regional programs reporting exciting developments and some of us subscribed to their publications and attended their nearby meetings. I seem to recall overtures to Tennessee and South Carolina for a cooperative venture, but obviously nothing came of that. North Carolina had a dedicated, hard-working founding group that persevered in establishing an organization that could assist the many varied types of archives in the state. Older experienced archivists provided wisdom and the younger ones had the requisite idealism and enthusiasm in abundance.

The one accomplishment I recall as president was creating the Michelle Francis Endowment Fund. Michelle was an indefatigable worker for our cause, and early on it was apparent that financial support of any kind would be an ever-present need. The executive committee approved naming an endowment after her, and we surprised her at our annual meeting (I hope I am recalling that correctly). She clearly deserves any credit that might come her way. I

would maintain that she was the most effective one at keeping up with the details and “herding the cats” during the initial formative years.

I do have one vivid recollection that reflects the nuances inherent in putting together the organization. Historically, North Carolina had a tradition among organizations of rotating officers and meeting places between the east, west, and piedmont sections of the state. We followed that religiously in the beginning to garner support for the new organization. However, after utilizing as many volunteers as we could muster in this way, we ran up against the proverbial brick wall one year. Time and time again the nominating committee was turned down for quite valid reasons. Hence, we ended up with a slate of officers skewed geographically and by gender, male to be exact. There was no other way. As a consequence I received the most blistering letter of complaint and accusation of bias I have ever been party to. The writer was new to the state, unaware of the tradition we had followed, and a committed ideologue according to the tenor of the times. Ever since I have respected nominating committees and assumed that in a professional organization those with that responsibility act in a professional manner. There were a few challenges in launching a new organization with as varied a constituency in as large a state as North Carolina. But the endeavor was never daunting. In fact, it was much fun.

William E. King was the Duke University Archivist from 1972 to 2002.

packet of the unfiltered Camels that he chain smokes in his coat pocket. He studies the diary's first page with a magnifying glass. He caresses the paper. He holds it up to the light. He wets a finger and dampens a tiny ink stain. He mulls over the syntax and the vocabulary. He eyes the shape of the letters, the way the Ts are crossed, the cursive Ls looped. (He will tell me later, by the way, that he recognized from what primer the diarist had learned his penmanship, a crucial part of establishing its authenticity.) I feel as if I am watching Rembrandt paint.

Act 2

I am going through burial records at the Pine Forest Cemetery in Wilmington. I am realizing that recovering Galloway's story will not be easy. He is an elusive figure. There is no official record of his birth. His name never appeared in a census, city directory, tax list, deed, estate record, or will. He never owned property and never learned to read or write. He also lived nearly all his life under threat of being hunted as a fugitive, hung as a spy, or assassinated, which often left it in his interest not to leave a paper trail. Then, too, his life was brief—he lived to be only thirty-three years old—and his death was sudden and unexpected. And, as I discover in Wilmington this day, even his grave has mysteriously vanished.

Act 3

Here at Duke, downstairs at the Manuscript, Rare Book and Special Collections Library, I first discover that Galloway was a Union spy who undertook missions deep inside the Confederacy. In the same letter that identifies him as a spy, dated November 1863, Union Brig. Gen. Edward

A. Wild reports that Galloway has infiltrated Wilmington, one of the most heavily guarded cities in the Confederacy, in order to rescue his mother from slavery. Galloway had successfully carried her inside Union lines in New Bern, but sought the general's help in sending her to Boston for the rest of the war. "*I would like to do all I can for Galloway, who has served his country well,*" the general writes.¹

Act 4

I am talking to a medical archivist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Winston-Salem. She is helping me search for a pension claim for Galloway's widow. The problem is that Galloway was a Union spy, not a soldier, and Civil War spies were not entitled to federal pensions. To make matters more confusing, there was another man of the same name—Abraham Galloway—who actually was a black Union soldier *and*, like my Galloway, hailed from Brunswick County, North Carolina. I know the National Archives master index that led me to the VA Hospital is probably referring to the other fellow, but I feel obliged to follow the lead just in case.

The medical archivist finds the claim file. It is dated 1926. I have already told her about the issue with the other Galloway. After scanning the file's documents for a few seconds, she tells me that, no, this does not seem to be the right Galloway. My heart sinks. I thank her for her troubles and I am halfway out the door when she calls me back. "Wait a second," she says, "this file is unusually thick."

Turns out that this other Galloway's widow filed a Civil War veterans claim, but the pension office clerks denied her claim because they believed that she was trying to

Too Short a Time!

by John Woodard, President, 1993-1994

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you a few thoughts that have come to mind since I was contacted about this article. I have always considered it a highlight of my career to have been present at the beginning of SNCA at the State Archives twenty-five years ago. It was seemingly both a long time ago and a short time ago. I soon realized after working a short time that a mechanism or organization was needed for information exchange and continuing education in the profession.

As for my term as president of this organization, that can be summed up in two words: too short! A year is too short a time in any voluntary organization for an individual to accomplish anything or even begin projects. Presidents have to depend on others and on the organization's committees to accomplish anything.

During the earliest years, SNCA presidents were primarily selected from the "top" of administrative ranks. These are the very people that are too heavily involved in their day-to-day job and do not have the time to devote to the organization. I would propose that nominated officers come from the middle layer of active archivists--those who are collecting, sorting, describing, and assisting researchers with the use of materials, those individuals who delight in the smell of a recently filled Hollinger box, and those who are laboring in the trenches. They know the current problems and needs of the profession.

Personal time to do anything worthwhile is another consideration. At the time I was president of SNCA, I also was serving as university archivist, director of the North

Carolina Baptist Historical Collection, and private collections curator, with only one assistant and a horde of student assistants--all of whom kept my head above the photographs, collections, and clippings, but just barely. I did not have time to devote to the activities and problems of this organization. I would suggest that nominating committees should write to the supervisor of the proposed officer and request that time and travel be allowed for SNCA business.

The second thought that comes to mind has to do with a change in the terms of office in the society. A two-year or three-year term would probably allow most of our officers to get initiatives going and to accomplish projects of lasting value.

One aspect of our work that I think has done a lot for the profession and that was one of my chief interests at the time, was posting online finding aids for the collections in our custody. What a boon for researchers! I have personally benefited from this growing mass of information. Now researchers can plan their visits or remote "no-visits," save both time and expenses, and work much more efficiently. Instead of placing a showpiece collection or a visually appealing collection online, I think that creating adequate finding aids for resources of interest is of much more long-range value to the institution. The collections' thrust or interests are highlighted not only for the researcher but also for prospective donors. I hope this form of publicizing our holdings continues. Collection-specific blogs are also extremely useful in publicizing the contents of our archives and manuscript collections.

I would close by saying that I am quite willing to discuss, advise, answer questions, and assist any one of you over the phone or by e-mail. We are all in this together, and

I hope always will be. HAPPY BIRTHDAY SNCA!

John R. Woodard was the University Archivist and Director of the North Carolina Baptist Historical Collection in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University.

SNCA at Sweet Sixteen

by Ed Morris, President, 2000-2001

Like any teenager, SNCA was faced with growing pains and trying to “find itself” during my presidency. Under Tim Pyatt, SNCA had celebrated fifteen years of growth, excellent programming, and increasing membership. Under the long and capable guidance of Michelle Francis, the fall and spring meetings had been the vehicle by which the fledgling organization was able to grow its treasury and remain solvent during its years of early development while keeping its annual dues amazingly low. By the year 2000, finding free or cheap places to hold meetings and offer a good meal (archivists have always liked to eat) while turning a profit were a thing of the past century. If SNCA was to continue to offer quality programs that were to benefit the professional growth of archivists, it must find a way to keep meeting cost affordable.

President Tim Pyatt asked me to chair a committee to review SNCA’s finances and take a hard look at our dues structure and programming cost while also considering what role SNCA would take in continuing education for archivists in North Carolina. I was fortunate to have two colleagues, both of whom would serve as SNCA presidents and who I had the pleasure to hire and mentor some years earlier, to

work with me on that committee. Rusty Koonts and Jason Tomberlin and I would spend a good bit of time considering the options. We did not just consider what it would mean to the organization, but what our recommendations would mean to the membership. After looking at the fifteen previous years with no increase in dues, the committee recommended a new dues structure. For the first time, it allowed for professional membership, student membership, and institutional membership. After some discussion and a hard sell by the executive committee to the membership, the recommendations were adopted and dues substantially increased.

Just as the new higher dues came into play, I took over the reins as SNCA president. Despite fears that membership would decline, it actually grew, and SNCA's finances remained strong. The new dues structure also allowed SNCA to look at ways to increase its educational mission and to offer increased benefits to members, especially to students in the archival management and library science programs at North Carolina's universities.

When I assumed the role of president of SNCA, I found myself at a professional crossroads. After twenty-five years as an archivist, the very month I became president of my professional organization, I changed professions. My wife and SNCA's second president, Cathy Morris, became State Archivist of North Carolina. As such, I could no longer work in the state archives. I was fortunate that I was able to find a position in the Division of State Historic Sites and began in a totally new direction. I am sure some whispered, "Why, he is not even an archivist anymore!" Nevertheless, I was given the full respect of my former archival colleagues and I hope I helped foster a closer relationship with our colleagues in the museum world. As a former ar-

chivist now in the museum field, I gained a new appreciation for all of my fellow archivists who found themselves with artifact collections. Perhaps the two areas were not so far apart as I had feared.

I retired from the State of North Carolina after thirty-two years. During that time I saw SNCA born, struggle, and grow. I sat in the meeting in the Archives Search Room in 1983 when the idea of such an organization was originally conceived. The next spring I attended the inaugural meeting of the Society of North Carolina Archivists in Chapel Hill. I also had the pleasure of serving two separate terms on the board of directors, four years as SNCA treasurer, and one year each as president-elect, president, and immediate past president/development chair. Altogether I served on the board for eleven of the society's twenty-five years. I saw a lot of changes; I believe every one of them were for the betterment of the organization. Today, I work for Wake Forest University as director of the museum where that university began 175 years ago. We are currently building a new 7,000 square foot state of the art facility and it will include an archives. No offense to Thomas Wolf, but it seems that you can "go home again."

Congratulations, Society of North Carolina Archivists, on twenty-five years of growth and serving the archival profession in our state.

Ed Morris is employed by Wake Forest University as Executive Director of The Wake Forest Birthplace Museum, Archives, & Gardens.

SNCA Goes Digital

by Janis Holder, President, 2002-2003

The months approaching retirement should be a time of reflection, but in reality they end up being a flurry of manic activity as unfinished business draws to a close, files are organized (including the electronic ones), and desks and offices are cleaned. As I worked, I chastised myself for failing to be a good archivist and keeping things organized all along. In truth, the last six and one-half years have been entirely too busy to keep up with all the paperwork. Jan Blodgett's request for a contribution to a *J-SNCA* article arrived in my email inbox during the month of June. June 30 was my last day as university archivist at UNC-Chapel Hill and my last day as an employee of the state of North Carolina. I began writing this article on July 1 (two days before deadline) while waiting for my car to be serviced: my first day of retirement and I was thinking only of getting in the car and heading for the western North Carolina mountains where I will make my new home. Reflecting on my year as president of SNCA from 2002 to 2003 was an effort, and I'm sure that my memory is far from perfect.

One thing I clearly remember, however, is the phone call from Rusty Koonts in the early spring of 2001 asking me to serve as SNCA vice-president/president-elect and program chair. At the time, I was working in University Archives at UNC Greensboro, and university archivist Betty Carter warned me that Rusty was actually asking for a four-year commitment to SNCA. We both agreed that it would be worth the effort in a number of ways, including bringing more exposure to UNCG's archival collections. In fact, being a SNCA officer reinforced my commitment to the archi-

val profession, introduced me to an amazing network of colleagues across the state, and probably influenced the search committee at UNC Chapel Hill to invite me to apply for the university archivist position there in the fall of 2002. When I was subsequently offered the job, my husband and I sold our home in Greensboro, left Jackson Library (where we first met in 1972), and moved to Durham. I had spent most of my adult life working in one library, and in spite of the fact that the people at UNC-Chapel Hill welcomed me and helped me during this transition to a new job, it was a most unsettling time for me. SNCA proved to be the glue that held it all together.

It was an exciting time for SNCA and for archivists across the state. We had just recently purchased our Web domain name: www.ncarchivists.org. Steve Hensen of Duke University completed his term as president of the Society of American Archivists in August 2002. NC ECHO was awarding LSTA grant money for a variety of exciting digitization projects, NHPRC had funded the “Managing the Digital University Desktop” project at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke, and many of us were either using EAD or planning to use it to encode our finding aids for greater access to our collections. Collaboration was then, and still is, a word heard whenever ideas for new projects emerged. Not only were we aware that grant proposals were more successful when institutions collaborated, but I think we were truly becoming a community of archivists who had learned to rely on each other to advance our profession. I loved that spirit of cooperation, and I felt energized by our SNCA board meetings during that time.

When I was still vice-president/president-elect, we held a board meeting in the Special Collections Reading

Room at Jackson Library, and I will never forget how impressed I was when publications chair Laura Clark Brown advanced the notion that SNCA would be better served and more respected if it published a *real* scholarly journal as well as a newsletter. The *Journal for the Society of North Carolina Archivists* was born. The first issue of *J-SNCA* appeared in the summer of 2002 and included articles by Steve Hensen, Rusty Koonts, Jill Katte, and John Foster as well as book reviews by Paula Jeannet Mangiafico and Kathy Wisser. Though Laura was initially disappointed with the imperfectly-trimmed edges of the first run, I think we were all proud of SNCA's accomplishment. The publications committee developed standards, policies, and guidelines to govern the journal's publication and today, *J-SNCA* is an impressive journal with slick covers (no more staples), neatly-trimmed edges, and a professional look to match its scholarly content.

Another development within SNCA that year was influenced by the digital world that both surrounded us and existed within our archives. Recognizing the need for increasing expertise in this area in order to manage our Web site, our membership database, and the need to automate some of our processes, we created the position of electronic resources chair and asked the membership to vote on its approval before the spring 2003 meeting in Raleigh. Jill Katte was elected at that meeting as the very first electronic resources chair.

Throughout my year as president of SNCA, and certainly in the year before and the two years after, I felt that the organization was particularly vibrant, energetic, and forward-thinking. I know that I established relationships that have lasted throughout my career as an archivist--and will

hopefully continue now that I am retired. I'm still a SNCA member, and maybe now I'll have time to attend more meetings. You'll recognize me by my graying hair and relaxed, happy smile. See you next spring!

Janis Holder was the University Archivist at UNC-Chapel Hill until her retirement June 30, 2009. Janis is currently serving a second term on the North Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board.

SNCA at Twenty-Five

by Jason Tomberlin, President, 2004-2005,
and Gwen Gosney Erickson, President, 2005-2006

The two of us were most active on the SNCA board as the organization began its third decade. Jason was program chair for the twentieth anniversary celebration, which was held in Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. David B. Gracy II, Governor Bill Daniel Professor in Archival Enterprise and the director of the Center for the Cultural Record at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information, spoke at the inaugural meeting of SNCA in 1984 and fittingly offered the plenary talk in spring 2004 for our anniversary program.

While the focus is on service as president, the real work usually occurs while serving as vice-president/program chair. As already noted, Jason coordinated the twentieth-anniversary celebrations, which included an expanded two-day program along with pre-conference workshops. Jason also led planning for a meeting at our eastern extreme-- the

fall 2003 workshops and meeting in Manteo. SNCA returned to the west for the fall 2004 session in Asheville, meeting at the Pack Memorial Library. Both the 2004 meetings had record high attendance. SNCA hosted a Society of American Archivists workshop on grants in conjunction with the Spring 2005 meeting at Fayetteville State University. The tradition of a Thursday evening reception continued with an event at the Museum of the Cape Fear. Another programming trend that evolved during this time period was the tradition of having a researcher give the keynote address, for example, historian Kevin Duffus's presentation in Manteo and author Sharyn McCrumb's address at the Asheville meeting. This has proven to be a popular option and gives SNCA members a chance to hear how others view our work and learn how materials are being used by our researchers.

SNCA has a long tradition of offering excellent program and workshop opportunities, all close and affordable enough for most members to attend. Opportunities to partner with other initiatives led to an increased number of workshop offerings connected to both fall and spring meetings. Key to this was collaboration with NC ECHO (North Carolina Exploring Cultural Heritage Online). Many SNCA members have served as instructors for NC ECHO's continuing education initiatives and agreed to offer workshops in conjunction with SNCA meetings. This was a win-win situation as we were able to increase SNCA program options by building on existing initiatives, and it brought new members to SNCA who learned about us through NC ECHO. With the development of the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) Boot Camp series, basic workshop opportunities were also increased, which offered archival training to non-archivists who have control of or responsibility for ar-

chival collections. SHRAB developed the program and later turned it over to SNCA as the host organization for future requests and workshop opportunities. Once again, SNCA members were active on SHRAB and played a frequent role as workshop instructors.

Both of us focused on updating documentation begun by our predecessors and institutionalizing several new initiatives. We inherited a “board book” that assisted greatly in keeping up with our particular duties and insuring continuity. As a mature organization, SNCA acquired an established record group at the North Carolina State Archives. Outgoing president Janis Holder led an effort to create record retention schedules for SNCA to ensure regular deposits of our permanent records. The record retention schedules were approved by the board in May 2004, so we were among the first board members to use them as a guide to the disposition of our records. We also investigated and followed up on suggested improvements and initiatives that were documented in a SNCA membership survey coordinated by past president Kathy Wisser.

During our terms as president, SNCA established two notable awards to recognize key contributors to archives in North Carolina. We established the Thornton W. Mitchell Service Award in 2003 “to recognize an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to the archival profession in the state of North Carolina by promoting public awareness, appreciation, or support of cultural heritage institutions, preserving historical and cultural resources, providing leadership in archival organizations or associations, or teaching, training, or mentoring new members of the archival profession.” The first award was presented to Catherine J. Morris of the North Carolina State Archives at the spring meeting of

March 2004, and the award continues to be presented each year to deserving recipients. The award honors the late Thornton W. Mitchell, who served as North Carolina State Archivist from 1973 until his retirement in 1981, and members of his family were present for the inaugural awards presentation. SNCA also established the Treasuring North Carolina Archives Award, which was first presented in March 2006 to recognize people outside of the profession who have supported the archival efforts of North Carolina's cultural and heritage organizations.

The board itself grew as needs and tasks expanded beyond the duties of the original board structure. Newly added positions were the development chair and the electronic resources chair. The education chair provided leadership for SNCA's first celebrations of Archives Week. Kathy Wissner and Jason Tomberlin worked on the inaugural North Carolina Archives Week celebrations and created guidelines for future years, and an ad hoc Archives Week committee was established as a sub-committee of the education committee for several years. This initiative has since evolved into a separate permanent committee with an Archives Week chair serving as a full board member.

Jason Tomberlin serves as Archivist for the North Carolina Collection at UNC-Chapel Hill, and hosts the collection's blog, North Carolina Miscellany.

Gwen Gosney Erickson is the Librarian and College Archivist at the Friends Historical Collection at Guilford College.

My Reflection on Serving as President of the Society of North Carolina Archivists

by Monika Rhue, President, 2006-2007

My most momentous reflection as president of the Society of North Carolina Archivists was standing before the members on March 24, 2006 as the first African American president. It was special to have the members select me to become their leader. I would say this was a historic moment for SNCA. Throughout my term, the changes that took place were more about the issues I brought to the table, challenging the members' minds. My first article, "Archivists, History and the Community," discussed the changing roles of archivists and the role SNCA could have in preparing future archivists by providing professional training to keep up with the latest trends in digitization; providing networking and an exchange program for hands-on training; hosting seminars for ongoing dialogue and research; hosting forums to support those organizations whose funding is threatened; building partnerships among diverse cultures and organizations; and creating opportunities for more collaborative projects with non-archivists and other institutions. These suggestions that I wrote about in spring 2006 are still as relevant and imperative today.

In the fall 2006 issue of the SNCA newsletter, I spoke about "Diversity in the Archival Profession." In this article, I challenged the members to think about why there is a lack of minority participation in SNCA. This is a major concern on a national level, and the Society of American Archivists conducted a study, *A*Census-Archival Census and Education Needs Survey*, to look at the archival profes-

sion in its totality when it comes to race, gender, and age. I wanted SNCA to look at this issue and begin a dialogue. As president, I addressed this issue by working with and encouraging members of the North Carolina African American Archives Group to actively participate in SNCA meetings. SNCA's fall program was hosted on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University. One way to implement diversity is to learn about what other archival communities or associations are doing in their perspective locations. The fall 2006 program raised the level of awareness of diversity through sessions representing different cultural interests: a presentation on hidden treasures found in the archives of religious organizations, a presentation on the history of North Carolina's oldest and largest African American-owned mutual funds organization, and a session on historical societies. Diversity is not an easy issue to discuss; however, it is a topic that should not be ignored or suppressed in our profession. Why? Because as archivists we are pledging to preserve all cultural heritage, therefore our organizations should reflect the rainbow and beauty of all ethnicity.

After leading a group or a program, it is one's hope that a legacy was imprinted and that a change for the better occurred. It is my hope that the words I shared and the friends I made are my legacy. What we do as archivists is a wonderful contribution to society. "History connects people to community, whether the community is a family, a neighborhood, a city, a state, or nation. Connections to the past are essential to sustaining our democracy, educating our youth, enriching our sense of place in family and community, supporting information needs in our business and legal affairs, and making reasoned decisions about our nation's future direction." We preserve the visions and stories of

mankind; we protect it and share it despite the small budgets, small compensations, and hard work. My reflection ends with applauding SNCA for its continued support of the archivists of North Carolina.

Monika Rhue currently serves as Archivist at the Inez Moore Parker Archives and Research Center, Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina.

One Last Reflection...

by Chris Meekins, President, 2008-2009

A few noteworthy changes marked the twenty-fourth year of SNCA (2008-2009). First among these was the loss of elected vice president Suellyn Lathrop. Suellyn's career opportunity in another state created a vacancy for president. I was serving on my last term on the board as treasurer. The board asked that I consider filling the president position and, seeing an opportunity to continue to serve SNCA, I agreed. I was hesitant to do so--what did I know about being president? But I am grateful that I had the opportunity to learn and a chance to challenge myself.

As an organization, SNCA is still struggling with several issues. We have a volunteer board and no permanent office space; this presents challenges to every new board. Not having an office makes for some strange arrangements. We are lucky, however, to have committed board members who serve more than a single term and thus provide stability. In the future, as we offer more services to our members, SNCA will still have to grapple with the issue of being an all-volunteer organization and having no set office location.

One change during this year in office was that the board agreed to finally disband our lending library of books and videos. It was always small and had basically been forgotten by our membership. The few holdings went to collections willing to take them. Also during that same year, the board provided the funds for a data storage device (stand-alone hard drive) for all of SNCA's digital images of events and individuals. Photographs had been stored on the hard drive of Stephen Fletcher's office and on sets of CDs given to him by SNCA members. We hope that by providing one location for the storage for all of SNCA's images, their arrangement, storage, and access will be improved. The next challenge will be to identify people in the images.

My presidency centered on asking the membership to vote on one of the largest changes in the organization's history. As treasurer of SNCA, I was able to meet and speak with a large number of members. I attended almost every meeting for six years. In those meetings I heard concerns about having two meetings a year, ranging from the cost to membership (multiple registrations and hotel fees) right on down to the quality of programs. Time and again I heard any number of members, new and old, express such concerns. I felt it was important for the membership to vote on whether or not to continue holding two meetings a year or to change that to one per year.

The board decided first to ask the membership if they wished to proceed with the proposed change in the SNCA constitution and bylaws. The board wished to measure reaction to the proposal; due to the extent of the changes it would require the secretary to suggest amendments to the constitution and or bylaws. The electronics chair set up an electronic survey. On the whole, the feedback was in favor

of seeing such a proposal, but an unexpected twist was a split in the membership between having an annual meeting in the spring or the fall. The board struggled with this issue for several meetings. The board did not wish to appear dictatorial by deciding in advance, but in the end decided in favor of offering the amendment as a spring option. Secretary Dawne Howard did all of the legwork in setting up the constitutional and bylaw changes and the board approved them as presented. Preparations were made to offer the amendment at the spring 2009 meeting.

At that gathering the membership decided in favor of one meeting a year. Discussion at the spring 2009 meeting ranged from suggesting the move was long overdue to stating that SNCA was making a big mistake and right on into challenging the incoming program chair with having a knock-out program for the first annual meeting. Despite such varied and divided comments, a chapter has been completed and, at twenty-five, SNCA is opening yet another new chapter in its organizational life. We have made a major change and we will move forward by means of this kind of membership involvement.

SNCA will meet the challenge of maintaining and raising membership. Archival education programs seem to be moving into the library science field rather than archival management and SNCA would be wise to watch this trend closely. How do we make SNCA applicable in light of these trends? One of the strengths of SNCA is certainly in networking, outreach, and education. Our *Journal for the Society of North Carolina Archivists* is one possible way to attract new professionals. A question we might ask ourselves is how do we harness the knowledge of retiring professionals? SNCA might look at expanding membership by offer-

ing membership opportunities such as lifetime memberships (as do many other organizations, such as the Southern Historical Association).

The change to one meeting a year may result in creating additional opportunities for the educational chair. Perhaps the educational chair could organize a workshop and or small regional meetings for the fall. The chair currently organizes workshops but coordinating regional get-togethers might serve a need in the wake of our reorganization.

The 2008-2009 board managed a big change in SNCA's organizational makeup. The shift to one meeting a year opens many possibilities. I am sure the membership will embrace those possibilities and continue to give SNCA their steadfast support. I look forward to working with the membership to make SNCA a continued success for the next twenty-five years and more.

Chris Meekins serves the North Carolina State Archives as archivist in the Public Services Branch, Correspondence Division.

**Love in the Archives: A Historian's Journey
through America's Great Libraries**

by David S. Cecelski

I have recently finished a book that is tentatively titled *The Fire of Freedom: Abraham Galloway's Civil War* about a young fugitive slave, renegade abolitionist, and Union spy who rose out of slavery to become perhaps the most important African American leader in the Civil War South. His name was Abraham H. Galloway. Born into slavery in Smithville, North Carolina, (now Southport) in 1837, he escaped to Canada in 1857 but returned south as a Union spy at the beginning of the war. He became a cherished leader of the South's freedpeople, played a decisive role in organizing one of the first regiments of ex-slaves to fight in the war, and led his people toward an independent political course committed to destroying the Confederacy but always wary of the Union.

During the Civil War, Galloway led a delegation of ex-slaves to an historic meeting with President Lincoln. He was a founding member of the National Equal Rights League in 1864 and, also that year, organized what were arguably the first civil rights groups below the Mason-Dixon Line in American history. After the war, he convened two landmark political conventions of former slaves, led a black militia that fought the Ku Klux Klan, and was in the first class of black men elected to his home state's legislature. Bold and defiant, he burned with an incandescent passion against slavery and injustice in a way that served as a beacon to the lowly across America.

Seen against the backdrop of both popular lore and

even most of the fine scholarship on the Civil War, Galloway remains an unimaginable black man in the nineteenth-century South. He presented an almost swashbuckling figure. He swaggered and primped, wore a pistol where all could see it, and gave ground to no man. When he led a landmark delegation of former slaves to the White House in the spring of 1864, the nation's other black leaders waxed poetic about President Lincoln's charity at meeting with former slaves from the American South. Many expressed gratitude simply that the White House's butlers had allowed black men in the front door. Galloway shared none of their appreciation for good hospitality. Instead of counting his blessings, he challenged the Great Emancipator to extend the full rights of citizenship to former slaves and then went on a national speaking tour in which he repeatedly took the president to task for the softness of his commitment to African American political equality.

Galloway's bearing was more like that of the mysterious hero of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* or one of Alexander Dumas' flamboyant musketeers than the conventional portraits of good soldiers and staid leaders that have so often been drawn of African Americans in the Civil War period. Galloway was at once a saint and a sinner, brazen and steadfast, vain and enormously charming. He was renowned for his severe sense of honor and his hair-trigger quickness in defending it, traits that endeared him to former slaves for whom honor had always been a white man's prerogative. The son of a white planter and a slave woman, he boasted of his mixed-race heritage and, while serving in his home state's senate, challenged legislators who made maliciously racist remarks to duels. Unschooled and unlettered, Galloway cut a remarkable swath through the

great events of antebellum slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Instead of saying more about Galloway's life today, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the research behind my book and a historical journey that ultimately led me to more than fifty archives in fourteen states, the District of Columbia, and four countries. In a way, every work of historical scholarship has two planes of existence. One is the book that we all recognize, with a dust jacket, chapters, table of contents, maps, and illustrations. You can purchase it at your local bookstore or borrow it at your local public library and you can put it on your shelf.

An historical work's other reality is less palpable. It is more private and more personal and behind the scenes. I am referring to the web of experiences, relationships, and even travel stories that go along with the research that a scholar undertakes in archives, libraries, and museums in order to create a new work of history. That web has many strands, and they all lead back ultimately to archives and to the individuals, mostly archivists like you, who are our guides. Today, I would like to share with you that *other* book, that *hidden* book, the one that the general public will never see but which, for me, at least, will always be as real as the one that collects dust on a library shelf.

I also want to tell this story a little unconventionally. I am a little nervous about it, because I have never done this before. But instead of writing this lecture as an essay, I have borrowed a page from my daughter's favorite radio show, National Public Radio's "This American Life." On that show, the host, Ira Glass, provides a brief thematic introduction, much as I just did, and then he and his colleagues present several short

segments, vignettes really--they call them "acts"--around that theme. In my case, I am not seeking so much to relate a step-by-step accounting of how I investigated Galloway's life. Instead, I hope that these acts add up to a mosaic of stories that reveal something of the community of scholars and archivists that are behind every work of history, and of the camaraderie, struggle, joy, adventure, and passion that are at the heart of our pursuit of the past.

This story has fourteen acts.

Act 1

I am at the New Hanover County Public Library, in Wilmington, North Carolina. I am a guest of Beverly Tetterton, the driving force behind the library's wonderful, lovingly-rendered collection of North Carolina books and manuscripts. I am watching George Stevenson, the private manuscript archivist at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh, analyzing a Civil War diary to determine if it is authentic. We have both raised questions about its authenticity, but if real, it is a one-of-a kind American treasure: a diary begun by an American slave the day after he escaped to freedom in 1862. We have gone to Wilmington to settle the issue of the diary's authenticity and to examine the original for the first time. The slave's great-grandson is there. I am there. Chris Fonvielle, a Civil War historian from UNC Wilmington, is there. Beverly is there, along with a crew of volunteer research assistants. We are all watching George Stevenson.

Stevenson picks up a single sheet of the diary. He's in his sixties by this time, his skin dark and leathery, his bearing one of quiet dignity and great wisdom. He has the finest historical mind that I have ever encountered. He has a

represent herself as the widow of the Abraham Galloway whom I am seeking. To right matters, she hired an attorney to prove that her deceased husband and my Abraham Galloway had been two different men.

To my astonishment, that attorney tracked down several individuals who had known my Abraham Galloway during the Civil War and took depositions from them. Those depositions are in the VA Hospital's file. Most remarkably, one of them is from Galloway's widow, who at the time was eighty-one years old and living in Beaufort. Her deposition is priceless, an unimaginably lucky discovery: an account of her deceased husband's physical bearing, how they met, his family, his activities during the Civil War, and his death, all in her own words.

Act 5

I am racing across New York State after a blizzard. On this trip, I have already visited the New York State Archives in Albany, the Omar Bradley Special Collections Library at West Point, the Schlesinger Library at Harvard, and, also in Boston, the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Archives. The whole region got sixteen inches of snow and as much as six inches of solid ice while I was at my first destination in Albany and the whole rest of the trip has been a frantic dash across New England trying to stay ahead of the storm until I reached Boston, where, I figured, at least I could always take the subway if the storm closed the roads. I drove fast, worked frantically, and rarely took time to eat so the storm did not catch me.

Now I am on my way back to the Albany airport, the storm has passed, and the snow is beautiful, though some

of the roads are still icy. I am feeling relaxed for the first time. I pass the Hancock Shaker Village, the historic “City of Peace,” near Hadley, Massachusetts. If you have not been there, you would still recognize the incredibly beautiful round stone barn, one of America’s most famous vernacular buildings. The whole village looks picturesque in the deep snow and I have never been to a Shaker settlement: I cannot resist stopping. I get so caught up in the story of the Shakers that I lose track of time. I miss my flight home and have to spend another night in Albany.

Act 6

My friend Steve Kantrowitz is spending a year as a visiting professor at Harvard. One day he calls me up—*I found Galloway!*—he shouts over the telephone. Turns out that, while doing his own research on black abolitionists in Boston, Steve encountered Galloway in a secretive abolitionist society’s financial ledgers preserved at the Boston Athenaeum. Most remarkably, the ledger entry, dated January 1861, indicates that Galloway was on his way to a clandestine voyage to Haiti. I soon join Steve and several other close friends on a frontal attack on Boston-area archives—we have a group we call the “Harmony Bar Writers Collective,” which is always ready to pitch in when one of us needs help. (From the name you might gather that we do not limit ourselves to historical research.)

Over the course of a week, we follow that single lead from the Boston Athenaeum and an extraordinary, never-before-told story unfolds: just prior to the Civil War, Galloway—only twenty-three at that point—is part of a conspiracy, along with surviving members of John Brown’s inner circle, to launch a second armed assault on the

American South, this time aimed at the Deep South and executed from a base in Saint-Marc, Haiti. Galloway, we discover, is enmeshed in a dangerous world of Spanish spies, West Indian abolitionists, and militant revolutionaries.

Act 7

I am at the Ohio State Historical Society in Columbus. In a pamphlet published in 1864, I find a rare letter from Galloway. The letter describes a sunny afternoon in New Bern, where he is watching the black soldiers in the 5th Rhode Island Regiment on parade. It is one of the first letters to give me a sense of his rhetorical gifts. He is illiterate, but dictated the letter, which he ends by writing: *None can witness such a scene, and observe their soldier-like bearing, without being impressed with the conviction that this people will cut their path to freedom through the most stubborn obstacles that can beset it—though every step be drenched in rebel blood, in which they will write with the point of the bayonet, on the tablet of this nation, liberty for themselves and their posterity.*²

Act 8

At the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center in the Founders Library at Howard University in Washington, D.C., I find files of letters written by a remarkable African American woman in Union-occupied New Bern. Though a slave only a few months earlier, she was a boardinghouse keeper, a determined civil rights activist, and one of Galloway's closest collaborators, at a time when he was a Union spy based in that seaport and operating frequently behind enemy lines. Eventually I

would discover dozens of her letters, and they would give me a perspective of the Civil War rarely seen before: a slave woman's firsthand view of black Southerners' most secretive councils as they dared to thrust themselves onto the world stage for the first time.

The letters also reveal the slave woman's most private thoughts: her fears for her daughter, who is still a slave in Hillsborough when she is writing; her plans, later, for her daughter's wedding; her correspondence with Harriet Beecher Stowe; and much else, including her reaction to Lincoln's assassination: "*There is little heart left for rejoicing [over the war's end] since the sad news of the death of our President,*" she wrote a friend on April 20, 1865. "*It must be alright,*" she continued, "*as God permitted it, but it does seem very hard to us—were it not for the thought that there was one over our nation whom death nor disease can never affect, discouragement would indeed fill our hearts.*"³

Act 9

The research trail is exhausted. I am lost. I have no clues left. I am really at my wit's end and ready to give up. This happens several times to me, that kind of despair. Yet somehow, at every low point, I get help from archivists who reach out to me. This time, your society's president, Chris Meekins at the North Carolina State Archives, is my rescuer: while visiting the United States Military History Institute in Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, he has found a revelatory new document on Galloway, a copy of which he soon gets into my hands.

The document is a brigadier general's report. It describes an incident in Plymouth, North Carolina, in the fall

of 1863, when the city is occupied by the Union army and is a gateway for fugitive slaves coming into Union lines from the Confederacy. Galloway is helping two black Union officers recruit soldiers for one of the early black regiments. Two young naval officers, probably drunk, insult the black men and pick a fight with them because they do not want to serve with blacks or fight a war against slavery—they are only in the navy to preserve the Union, not end slavery. Next thing they know, Galloway is taking off his coat and announcing that he is man enough to take them both on, and they are warily eyeing the revolver in his belt.

The general's report holds a host of promising new leads. Archivists, I am growing convinced, are my guardian angels.

Act 10

I am at the manuscripts department of the Boston Public Library. Founded in 1854, the country's first publicly-supported municipal library houses more than 1.7 million manuscripts and rare books, including first folios of Shakespeare, the personal, 3800-volume library of John Adams, a wonderful anti-slavery collection (that I was using), and too many priceless treasures to count: Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poetry in her own hand, rare Benjamin Franklin pamphlets, the 1536 *Rudimentum novitiorum*, containing the world's earliest non-Ptolemaic maps and, not least of all, scrapbooks on the career of "Smoky Joe" Wood, a turn-of-the-century Red Sox pitcher, among much, much else.

I am supposed to be investigating Galloway's abolitionist activities in the North, but I cannot help taking a quick look at Browning's poems and Smoky Joe's

scrapbooks. The library is full of such contrasts. I eat my lunch beneath Charles Follen McKim's breathtaking murals, done in the style of the Italian Renaissance. Downstairs, I share a restroom with homeless Vietnam vets and psychiatric patients taking baths in the sinks.

Act 11

I am at the National Archives and it is just a mess: the new security procedures after 9/11 make me feel as if I am going through airport security every time I have to go to the restroom, much less enter or leave the building. Also, it is August and sweltering hot and everybody is cranky in D.C. Much of the building is being gutted and they are doing some sort of major refurbishing project—getting rid of asbestos or something. All I know is that it is a mess. I am also using the manuscript collections at the Library of Congress, on the other end of the Mall. It is crazy over there too—Congress is in session, tourists are everywhere. And we're at war and partisan bickering is rampant and everybody seems, well, it is hardly America at its best.

One afternoon, I wander blurry-eyed into the library's Thomas Jefferson Building. In a side gallery, I find a new exhibit on Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* and take refuge there. There are the handwritten notes that Whitman made for "Ashes of Heroes," his great Civil War poem. I also find his hospital notebooks, from when he was volunteering in Washington during the war, and his corrected pages for his two heart-breaking laments for Lincoln, "Oh Captain! My Captain!" and "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd." There is a lock of Whitman's hair and his walking stick. The exhibit brings tears to my eyes: I am not sure that I realized how much I needed a

reminder just then of America's better self.

Act 12

My family and I are driving across New York and Massachusetts. I am visiting the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts; the Division of Rare Manuscript Collections at the Cornell University Library in Ithaca; the W.E.B. Du Bois Library at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; and a small, but very fine manuscript collection at the Concord Public Library in Concord, Massachusetts. We also detour across the border to a provincial archive in Kingston, Ontario. Galloway escaped from Wilmington and followed the Underground Railroad there in 1857.

The New England summer is beautiful. I am happy in the archives and my family finds joy in exploring the places I am working. While I am at Cornell, they are hiking at Ithaca Falls. When I am in Amherst, they are visiting Emily Dickinson's home. When I am in Concord, they are touring Ralph Waldo Emerson's house. When the archives close their doors at five o'clock, I join them. We visit the graves of Thoreau, Emerson, the Alcotts, and Hawthorne. We swim at Walden Pond in the fading summer light.

Act 13

My friend Maruja Garcia Padilla shares my love for archives. We met in graduate school, and she is now a professor of art and literature at the University of Puerto Rico. Once, when I was doing research at Harvard's Houghton Library, she came all the way from San Juan to lend me a hand. The U.S. invasion of Iraq had just taken place, and what I recall most vividly about that entire trip to

the Houghton is the way Maruja broke down in tears when she heard that the Iraqi National Museum had been bombed and ransacked. The museum, located in Baghdad, was one of the great archival repositories of rare Middle Eastern literature, including the world's largest collection of Phoenician cuneiform texts and Cyprian papyrus scrolls, some of them dating to 5,000 BC.

I remember having tea late one night that week at a cafe in Harvard Yard, just across the street from the Houghton, and Maruja, her mascara smeared by tears, pleadingly looked for me to understand. "And David, I am so, so, so ashamed, because I know people are dying," she told me. "And yet the only thing that has made me cry through this whole dreadful thing is the loss of some books." But of course I did understand. And I knew, too, that Maruja was not shedding tears only for the ancients, but also for us.

Act 14--Final Act

Two weeks ago, I left the completed manuscript at Kinko's to make copies to share with my colleagues. I get home and there is a message on my email: a graduate student at the University of Maryland has found an important document for me at the National Archives. It is an 1866 affidavit from Galloway, accompanied by a letter from a former Union general. These documents indicate that Galloway was captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1862, while he was a Union spy (he escaped soon thereafter). I did not even know that Galloway had ever been in Mississippi. I thought that his spying missions had been limited to North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland. If he was in Vicksburg, he was also in New Orleans, the Union's regional headquarters. Part of me wants to cry, part of me wants to

laugh. Galloway is doing it again. I have chased him across the Western Hemisphere and back again and sometimes I still feel as if he is making me prove my worthiness to tell his story. My journey is obviously not over. I am headed back to the National Archives, I am headed to Mississippi, I am headed to New Orleans....

Historian David S. Cecelski presented this paper as the keynote address at the 13 March 2009 meeting of the Society of North Carolina Archivists. His most recent book is The Waterman's Song: Slavery and Freedom in Maritime North Carolina.

NOTES

1. Edward A. Wild to Edward W. Kinsley, November 30, 1863, Edward W. Kinsley Papers, Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University.
2. *The Freedman's Journal*, vol. 1, no. 2 (March 1864).
3. Mary Ann Starkey to Edward W. Kinsley, April 20, 1865, Edward W. Kinsley Papers, Department of Special Collections and University Archives, W.E.B. Du Bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Archives and Archivists in the Blogosphere

by Michelle Belden

Abstract

This article surveys the library literature for information on how libraries have used, marketed, and evaluated blogs, and surveys the archival literature for what it says about the use of blogs in archives. The article also presents basic information on ninety-nine blogs from archivists and archival institutions and examines the features of the most popular archival blogs. Google Analytics is suggested as a free and easy tool for evaluating blogs. Finally, this article finds that archival institutions use blogs mainly to share news and promote collections and suggests we also could use them to build stronger relationships with our users.

Introduction

In a 2008 survey of the “blogosphere”, Technorati estimates the number of blogs in existence at more than one hundred million and describes these blogs as highly diversified, in terms of both content and mission (<http://technorati.com/blogging/state-of-the-blogosphere>). Survey participants considered self-expression, sharing of expertise and experiences, and connecting with like-minded people to be their main reasons for blogging.

A quick look at aggregator sites such as the Archival and Special Collections Blog Directory (<http://archivalblogs.wikispaces.com/archivalbloglist>) and ArchivesBlogs (<http://archivesblogs.com/category/eng>) shows that, while archives blogs do not number in the millions, there has been a marked increase in their number over the past several years.

This increase reflects calls in the literature for archival professionals to stay current with changing technologies. Randall Jimerson urged a redefinition of archival identity by learning new ways to market our skills and focus on user needs¹; H. Thomas Hickerson advised archivists to devise new methods for description and access²; and Richard Pearce-Moses counseled us to greet new technologies with enthusiasm rather than trepidation.³

This paper will explore what archivists can learn from their library colleagues about blogging, for what purposes archivists are using their blogs, and whether archival blogs perhaps could be used for something more.

Web 2.0 and Blogs: Definitions

Mary Samouelian defines Web 2.0 as “a shared environment... that embraces collective intelligence and participation, and affords previously passive recipients of content the opportunity to engage with, combine, share, and “mash up” information in new and imaginative ways.” Web 2.0 tools include, but are not limited to, blogs, wikis, podcasts, and social networking sites.⁴

Vogel and Goans describe blogs as special kinds of Web sites wherein content is arranged as entries of texts and hyperlinks posted in reverse chronological order, with a time stamp for each entry, and an archive of previously posted content. Blogs can be updated regularly, using Web-based forms and without any knowledge of HTML, and with updates posted by more than one person.⁵ In “Navigating the blogosphere: Towards a genre-based typology of weblogs,” Stine Lomborg writes about blogs as objects of study:

The weblog is a type of online communication that enables self-expression and peer-to-peer interaction,

thereby supporting social relations between media users. It entails a highly complex set of mediated processes blurring for instance professional and private practices and purposes of media users. Further, the weblog is a moving object of study, emerging in a continuous produsage of text. It can change character over time... As a consequence, navigating the blogosphere in a research context is a quite complicated challenge.⁶

If blogs are worthy of our professional time, they are certainly worthy of our attempts at scholarly consideration (however general, preliminary, or imperfect those attempts might be).

Library Literature Review

As Samouelian notes, much more has been written about blogging by librarians than by archivists, as of yet.⁷ Therefore, this review will begin with the library literature.

Functions of Blogs

According to Laning and others, at the turn of the 21st century, the library literature regarding blogs was focused on the “art and experience” of blog practice. This segued into articles providing case studies such as Laning and others’ study of a library’s professional development blog. Laning and others put forth that the library profession may be one of the fastest changing professions in the world, due to constant advancements in information technology, and that blogs are one way to keep up. They also identify three general types of blogs: personal diaries, bulletin boards of activities, and topical sites.⁸

Blair and Level, on the other hand, discuss the use

of subject-based blogs in libraries while providing insights into library blogs in general. They point out that by blogging, librarians are going to where the information will most likely be read. They also highlight the need for planning your library blog: determining audience, scope, and advertising possibilities, monitoring related sites, and setting evaluation criteria.⁹

Although the previous examples present library blogs used for professional development and subject-specific communications, further perusal of the literature shows that library blogs are most often used to share news and promote library collections and services. In 2008, Draper and Turnage conducted a study of academic libraries using blogs and found that 86% of libraries used blogs to post about news and events, 70% used blogs to market the library, and 35% used blogs for multiple purposes, such as internal communication, book reviews, and patron suggestions. Interestingly, although Draper and Turnage opine that Web 2.0 is all about a more user-centered experience and opportunities for interaction, only one librarian in their survey said his or her library uses blogs to build relationships. The authors also found that only 43% of their respondents gathered usage statistics.¹⁰

Vogel and Goans provide a case study of a library blog used for public relations in their discussion of Georgia State University Library's substitution of a blog for the library newsletter. According to them, blogging "combines the permanence and audience-specificity of newsletters with the ease and immediacy of email," while requiring less time and money to produce. Vogel and Goans also discuss the options for establishing a blog: using a remote hosting service, downloading and modifying third-party software,

and building your own blog in-house.¹¹

Along those lines, Farkas discusses the use of Wordpress, a free and open-source blogging platform, to keep library users up-to-date and solicit their feedback.¹² Free platforms such as Wordpress and Blogger make blogging immediately accessible; in fact, Cooper and May describe how the ease of instituting a library blog for outreach led librarians to further forays into Web 2.0, such as photo sharing.¹³

Creators of Blogs

Vogel and Goans note the importance of distinguishing between library blogs and librarian blogs. Librarian blogs are not sponsored by any specific institution. The librarian writing in a personal blog might refer to his or her employer therein, which can complicate the categorization of blogs as personal versus professional.¹⁴ In “Navigating the blogosphere: Towards a genre-based typology of weblogs,” Lomborg discusses the difficulty of such categorizations and presents a typological framework for the classification of weblogs that works in three dimensions: content, directionality, and style. The content axis runs from internal to topical; the directionality axis from monological to dialogical; and the style axis from intimate to objective. Personal weblogs tend to be confessional, or at least self-disclosing, are written in the capacity of a private individual, and usually engage smaller and more familiar audiences.¹⁵

Marketing of Blogs

Vogel and Goans caution librarians that marketing of their blogs is essential. They suggest using email, word of

mouth, hyperlinks from other Web sites, and submission of blog URLs to aggregator sites as ways to get the word out.¹⁶ In “Making Marketing Work for your Library Blog,” Jill Stover also cautions that blog projects should be undertaken with careful attention to marketing if libraries are to have the best chance of connecting with their intended audience. According to Stover, marketing efforts must take into account patrons’ age ranges, comfort with technology, information needs, preferred sources, professions, and areas of study. Interestingly, while Stover lists the kind of information that librarians can share through blogs (news and events, research tips, and resource reviews, for example), she also urges library bloggers to consider the blog as less of a tool for pushing services and more as a tool for building relationships: “While it can be tempting to view blogs as a means of simply telling patrons about library services, blogs ought to be welcomed as a tool for carrying on two-way communications with patrons.” Blogs can be used in this way when librarians encourage and respond to patron comments on library blogs.¹⁷ Blair and Level pointed out the importance of a link to the library blog from the library Web site homepage.¹⁸ Draper and Turnage agree with this strategy and further suggest working with faculty to distribute subject-specific information on the blog and including the blog in student orientation sessions.¹⁹

Evaluation of Blogs

Laning and others state, “In the blogverse, a good blog is one that is frequently ‘blogrolled’ or linked by other blogs.” They also list several characteristics of good library blogs:

Title or tag lines immediately convey the blog’s

topic or focus
Posts are updated regularly and most recent is no more than one month old
Posts are brief and contain links to further resources
Posts are consistent with the blog's focus
Posts are archived both chronologically and by subject
Site contains a search box
Site uses good graphic design principles
Blog's lifespan exceeds one year²⁰

According to Stover, library blogs also should lead to meaningful and personalized interaction with patrons.²¹

Blair and Level point out the notable lack of professional literature on the assessment of blogs and offer some general suggestions from the business world: track your Web traffic, comments, and Web ranking.²² In "Social Media Metrics: Tracking Your Impact," Fichter and Wisniewski offer more detailed instructions for performing a blog assessment. A library or archives blogger can visit the Web site www.technorati.com to find their "authority score," which is based on how many other blogs have linked to one's blog in the past six months. Bloggers can also utilize the Web site www.delicious.com to monitor how many users are bookmarking a given blog. In addition, Google Analytics is a free service that enables bloggers to go beyond counting visitors to find out how those visitors got to the blog, where they live, how long they stayed, and which entries they liked the most (www.google.com/analytics).²³

Archives Literature Review

There is a dearth in the archival literature of writings specifically about blogs. Catherine O'Sullivan's "Diaries, Online Diaries, and the Future Loss to Archives; or, Blogs and the

“Bloggging Bloggers Who Blog Them” explores the practicalities of preserving blogs rather than the possibility of using them for archival outreach.²⁴ Other authors have addressed the more general topic of Web 2.0 and archives, such as Elizabeth Yakel in her 2006 article “Inviting the user into the virtual archives.”²⁵

In his 2007 article “Machines in the archives: Technology and the coming transformation of archival reference,” Richard J. Cox writes about Web 2.0 tools other than blogs (email, instant messaging, chat, digital imaging, etc.); however, he offers this interesting opinion, applicable perhaps to the use of blogs in archives: “The role of an archivist in the digital age will probably require less focus on research assistance but more on providing and maintaining an online environment in which users can interact, collaborate, contribute and find access tools.”²⁶

Along these same lines, Max Evans’s “Archives of the People, by the People, for the People” argues that archivists can use Web 2.0 tools to make alliances with users in order to keep afloat in today’s information economy--our patrons can help us decide which collections get more involved processing and digitization, and they can even engage in description.²⁷ Although not explicitly mentioned, blogs seem like a good tool for maintaining such alliances.

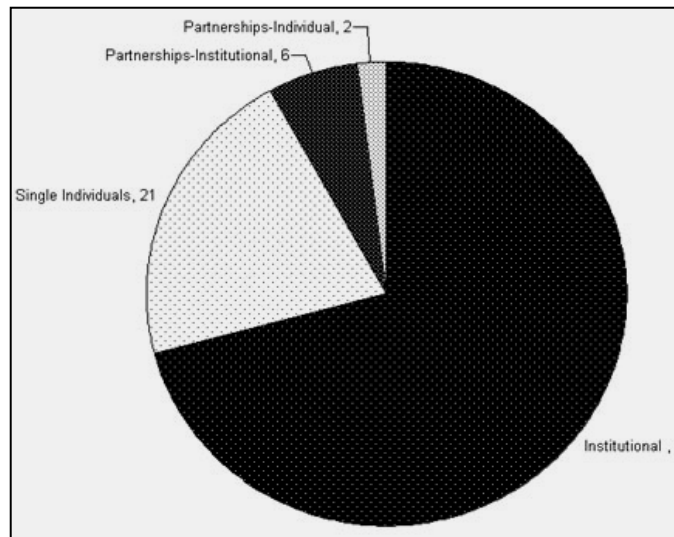
One author who addresses blogs more specifically is Mary Samouelian, in “Embracing Web 2.0: Archives and the Newest Generation of Web Applications.” Samouelian looks at how selected archives Web sites use Web 2.0 tools with respect to digital collections and notes that, while the use of Web 2.0 is not yet widely described in the professional archival literature, many repositories are embracing it to promote digital content and redefine relationships with their

patrons. Twenty-one percent of the sites in Samouelian's study use blogs, but she warns that it is "difficult to infer the number or type of individuals reading and actively participating in these discussions." Her respondents note that users now expect them to utilize these technologies, and although it does require an investment of time to post regular entries, blogs are "perhaps the least technically challenging application to implement." Although seventy-one percent of Samouelian's respondents reported receiving positive feedback and observing increased use (requests for scans, more people wanting to see originals, and more materials donated) after implementing Web 2.0 tools, these observations are anecdotal, as none of the respondents kept relevant statistics.²⁸

Survey of Archival Blogs

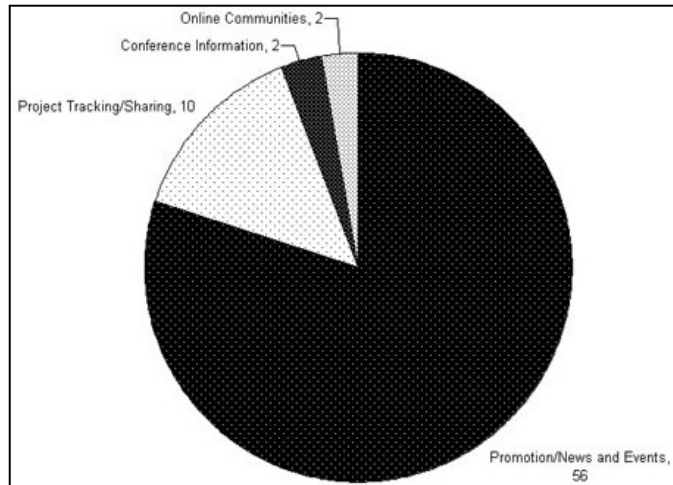
I used the blog URLs listed by the Archival and Special Collections Blog Directory (<http://archivalblogs.wikispaces.com/archivalbloglist>) and the Web site ArchivesBlogs (<http://archivesblogs.com/category/eng>). I combined the lists and eliminated duplicates, blogs in foreign languages, blogs for non-archives (libraries or museums that do not have archives or special collections components), blogs written by individuals affiliated somehow with archival institutions that were not about archives in any substantial way, and URLs that were no longer valid. I was left with ninety-nine blogs to examine (see Appendix A). While this list of blogs is not exhaustive, it should provide a clear enough view into the world of archives blogs as of July 2009.

Figure 1. Types of Archives Blogs



As shown in Figure 1, of the ninety-nine blogs on this list, seventy were maintained by archival institutions. Twenty-one blogs were maintained by single individuals. The remaining eight blogs were maintained by partnerships, of which six were institutional partnerships and two were partnerships of individuals (the Lone Arrangers and Live Journal Archivists).

Figure 2. Uses of Archives Blogs



As shown in Figure 2, of the seventy institutional blogs, fifty-six (80%) existed to promote the archives and/or to share news and events (five of these were subject-focused); ten (14%) were for project tracking/sharing; two (3%) were meant to provide information to professional conference attendees; and the remaining two (Hanging Together and Ephemeral Archives) were aimed at building/nurturing online communities.

Of the twenty-one blogs maintained by individual archivists, most (sixteen) seem to fit Technorati's profile of bloggers interested in self-expression, sharing of expertise and experiences, and connecting with like-minded people. These blogs range from personal reflections on the profession (Geof Huth's *Anarchivist*) to more scholarly reflections on the literature (Richard Cox's *Reading Archives*) to tips for genealogists (the *Practical Archivist*).

Three of the personal blogs are topical and focused on the intersection of archives and Web 2.0: Web Watching for Archivists, Archives*Open and Archives Next. Archives Issues is an archival news aggregator. The remaining personal blog, Mark Harvey’s Anecdotal Archivist, seems to focus on outreach for his institution (the State Archives of Michigan), although it does not seem to be formally sponsored by that institution and serves as a good example of the blurred line between the personal and the professional in the world of blogs.

Both blogs that operate as partnerships of individuals are focused on providing online communities, as were two of the six institutional community blogs. Three other institutional community blogs were used to provide (cooperative) project tracking/updates, and the last, arch.i.vi.us, is an aggregator of news stories and blog entries relating to archives that is modeled after del.i.ci.ous.

After taking notes on the creators and purposes of each blog, I looked up the Technorati authority number for each as well. (The Technorati authority number is determined by the general public’s blogrolling numbers.) Most of the blogs were not yet ranked, though this may be due to their relative age rather than their relative obscurity. Thirty-three blogs received ranks ranging from one to nine. Fifteen blogs had a score of ten or higher. I selected those fifteen blogs to analyze further (see Appendix B):

<u>Blog Title/url</u>	<u>Technorati Authority #</u>
Room 26 Cabinet of Curiosities http://brblroom26.wordpress.com/	65
Guided by History http://blog.wellsfargo.com/GuidedByHistory	36

<u>Blog Title/url</u>	<u>Technorati Authority #</u>
The Practical Archivist http://practicalarchivist.blogspot.com	33
Reading Archives http://readingarchives.blogspot.com/	29
Archives Next http://www.archivesnext.com/	27
Hanging Together http://hangingtogether.org/	21
Coca-Cola Conversations http://www.coca-colaconversations.com/my_weblog	16
Posterity Project http://posterityproject.blogspot.com	14
North Carolina Miscellany http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncm/	14
Sandusky Library, Sandusky, Ohio http://sanduskyhistory.blogspot.com/	13
Historical Notes from OHSU http://ohsu-hca.blogspot.com/	12
Northern Illinois University Rare Books & Special Collections http://niurarebooks.blogspot.com/	12
Poetry at Beinecke Library http://beineckepoetry.wordpress.com/	12
A View to Hugh: Processing the Hugh Morton Photographs and Films http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/morton/	11
The Anarchivist http://anarchivist.blogspot.com/	10

For each of these blogs, I took notes on the platforms used, their age, frequency of updates, presence of taglines or “About” pages, information provided about intended audience, search boxes, subject categories, and outlinks or blogrolls. I also checked the number of times each blog was bookmarked on www.delicious.com, and collected the average number of comments for the last ten posts of each blog.

General Observations

- Of the fifteen blogs, five are personal and ten are institutional.
- Of the ten institutional blogs, eight are used for marketing and news (one of these is subject-specific). One (Hanging Together) is meant to encourage community and one (A View to a Hugh) tracks the progress of a specific project.
- Interestingly, two of the institutional blogs are from corporate archives (Wells Fargo and Coca-Cola).
- Four out of five of the personal blogs are of the typical diary and notes genre, and one (ArchivesNext) is a topical (Archives/Web 2.0) blog.
- Most of the fifteen blogs on this list utilize the readily available Blogger or Wordpress platforms.
- The oldest blog on the list, North Carolina Miscellany, began in June 2005. Most started before 2008.
- These blogs are usually updated from one to three times a week.
- All but one had a tag line or “About” page establishing their purpose.
- Only six explicitly describe the audience they are seeking.

- All of the blogs on this list have a search box (it comes automatically with a Blogger blog) and ten featured subject categories.
- About half of the blogs included links to external Web sites; five linked to other archival blogs on the larger worksheet.
- The number of people bookmarking a blog on www.delicious.com does not necessarily correlate with that blog's Technorati authority numbers (which is a phenomenon outside the scope of this study).
- Total number of comments ranged from zero (two blogs) or less than one (six blogs) to five for A View to Hugh.

Perhaps the most striking observation about these fifteen blogs is that only two of them, A View to Hugh and the Practical Archivist, have achieved regular user interaction through commenting along the lines of what is hoped for in the archival literature on Web 2.0. (ArchivesNext and Hanging Together offer more interaction between professionals rather than professionals and users.) On the A View to Hugh blog, readers provide identification of individuals in photographs, refer archivists to other sources, share memories related to the collection or specific blog entry, ask questions about related collections, and so on. The comments section of the Practical Archivist blog offers lively discussions about the use of duplicate versus original artifacts as well as various preservation methods and challenges.

Google Analytics

As part of this study, I signed up for a Google Analytics account (www.google.com/analytics) to see what it

could tell me about UNC Greensboro's Special Collections and University Archives blog (<http://uncgspecial.blogspot.com>). As stated above, this service is free and enables bloggers to find out how users get to the blog, their geographical area, how long they stay on the blog, and which entries they like the most. Below is a screen shot of the homepage of my Google Analytics account:

Our data for June 28 to July 8, 2009, included 53



visits; 115 page views for an average of 2.17 pages per visit; a 56.6 percent bounce rate (users who leave immediately upon arriving at a Web page); and an average visit length of two minutes thirty-one seconds. Nine out of ten visitors were new (not repeat) users. Although most of our users (forty-five) were from the United States, we had four views from Europe, two from India, one from Peru, and one from South Korea. In the U.S., most users (twenty-eight) were

located in North Carolina, but seven were from California and several others were scattered across the country.

Fifty-one percent of users found us through search engines, most of those through Google. Forty percent found us through referring sites, one third of which were from the UNCG library home page. Searches that led to our blog included “roy z kemp,” the creator of a collection we recently received; “wwii triad flight of honor,” which connects to our women veterans collections; and “1968 uncg records,” connects with our University Archives materials.

This is only a very brief overview of Google Analytics. One can also use this software to set and monitor goals such as reducing bounce rate (perhaps by using well-planned keywords), building up a loyal reader base (repeat visitors), and posting about a wide range of collections to increase findability in Google searches.

Conclusions

Blogging is a relatively new tool for archivists, so this survey is both general and preliminary. More extensive qualitative evaluation of archival blogs is required. However, this survey can still offer some general conclusions. Archival institutions are turning to blogs to share news and highlight their collections. To a lesser extent, they are using blogs to share progress on specific projects and to organize professional meetings. Individual archivists use blogs to express themselves, share their experiences, reflect on their profession, and involve themselves in a community of practice. Partnerships of individuals and institutions are using blogs to track cooperative projects and build online communities.

Overall, institutional blogs seem to be more focused

on one-way communication than the two-way communication heralded by discussions of Web 2.0 in the library and archival literature. Very few archival blogs are seeking to change the relationship between archival professionals and their patrons. There are exceptions (in addition to the A View to Hugh and Practical Archivist blogs discussed above.) Albion College's blog, From the Mouth of Britons, was set up to see how blogging "can assist in making an archives or special collections more accessible and interesting" and to "get a better idea of who is interested in the history of Albion College and what different ways individuals or groups would like to utilize or participate in the creation and preservation of historical information." In addition, the Ashes of Waco blog aims to "provide a forum for people to discuss not only the content and presentation of the project but the subject in general." However, neither of these blogs has managed to maintain a high level of comment activity. That said, even the most popular archival blogs (according to Technorati ranking) do not receive more than a few comments per entry. Archivists should try to learn from librarians about marketing our blogs. We should also link to each other's blogs much more than we currently do.

In addition, we can learn from our library colleagues about best practices for blogging. The most popular blogs utilize popular, free platforms like Blogger and Wordpress, feature easily identifiable topics and missions, are searchable by keyword and browseable by subject, and are updated one to three times a week.

If we can build up the patron audiences for our institutional blogs, we can use them for much more than online newsletters. As a means for communicating with new

users, blogs could also be used to further Yakel and Torres's idea of "archival intelligence."²⁹ We could help users understand our rules and procedures, explain how our finding aids work and ask for feedback on them, and discuss the time it takes to process collections at different levels. Archivists could also use blogs to involve our patrons in archival processes. The ALA/SAA Joint Statement on Access to Research Materials in Archives and Special Collections Libraries holds that a repository "should inform researchers in a timely manner of the collections in its custody... and make them available for research as quickly as practicable following their acquisition."³⁰ In addition to announcing new collections on our blogs, we could ask users how they would like to see those collections organized, which items they would most like to see digitized, and what metadata will be necessary to enable their searches.

Finally, for whatever purpose an institution chooses to blog, it is important to establish and track specific goals using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Furthermore, future research delving further into archivists' goals for their blogs, their marketing efforts, and their evaluative practices will help us establish best practices for blogging specific to our profession.

Michelle Belden received her MLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006. She worked at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro from December 2006 to August 2009, first as manuscripts curator and interim curator of the Women Veterans Historical Project, then as technical services archivist. In September 2009, Ms. Belden assumed the post of access archivist at Pennsylvania State University.

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 19. Draper.
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 21. Stover.
 22. Blair.
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Appendix A: # = Technorati Authority Number as of 7/3/09

<u>Title</u>	<u>URL</u>	<u>Creator Type</u>	<u>Function 1</u>	<u>Function 2</u>	<u>#</u>
36 Pages or Less: The California Ephemera Project blog	http://36pagesorless.wordpress.com	Partnership	Project tracking/ sharing		x
Academic Health Center Archives Project, U. of Minnesota	http://blog.lib.umn.edu/moore144/ahcarchives	Partnership	Project tracking/ sharing		x
African American Studies at Beinecke Library	http://beineckejwj.wordpress.com	Institution	Subject	PR/outreach & news	2
Alone in the Archives	http://lcb48.wordpress.com	Personal	Diary		8
Anarchivist	http://anarchivist.blogspot.com	Personal	Diary		10
Anecdotal Archivist	http://anecdotalarchivist.wordpress.com	Personal	Outreach		3
Archivemata	http://archivemati.ca	Personal	Diary/notes		x
Archives Found	http://archivesfound.com	Personal	Diary/notes		7
Archives Issues	http://archivesissues.org	Personal	News		9
Archives Next	http://www.archivesnext.com	Personal	Topical/web 2.0		27
Archives*Open	http://archivesopen.blogspot.com	Personal	Topical (web 2.0)		x
Archivius	http://archivius.blogspot.com	Partnership	Information aggregation		4
Around the D	http://blogs.davidson.edu/aroundthed	Institution	PR/outreach	Diary elements	x
Ashes of Waco	http://alkeklibrarynews.typepad.com/ashesofwaco	Institution	Project tracking/ sharing		x
AT @ Yale	http://atatyale.blogspot.com	Institution	Project tracking/ sharing		x
Austin Is for Archivists	http://www.archives2009.org	Institution	Conference		x
Ball State University Archives & Special Collections	http://bsuarchives.blogspot.com	Institution	News and Events	PR/outreach	1
Bancroft Survey Project	http://blogs.lib.berkeley.edu/bancosurvey.php	Institution	Project tracking/ sharing		1
Belk Library Blog	http://idd.elon.edu/blogs/belklibrary	Institution	PR/outreach	News and Events	1

<u>Title</u>	<u>URL</u>	<u>Creator Type</u>	<u>Function 1</u>	<u>Function 2</u>	<u>#</u>
Brandeis Special Collections Spotlight	http://brandeispecialcollections.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		2
Butler Center for Arkansas Studies	http://butlercenter.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	2
Carolina Curator	http://carolinacurator.blogspot.com	Institution	Subject	PR & News	x
Charles Babbage Institute News and Information	http://blog.lib.umn.edu/horow021/cbi/	Institution	News & Events	PR/outreach	x
Charleston History Advocate	http://charlestonarchive.org	Institution	PR/Outreach		x
CMC Archives Processing	http://cmcarchives.blogspot.com	Institution	Project tracking/sharing	News and Events	x
Coca-Cola Conversations	http://www.coca-colaconversations.com/my_weblog	Institution	PR/Outreach		16
Connecticut Historical Society Library	http://manuscripts.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		3
Cool at Hoole	http://coolathoole.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	3
Curious Child's Library Wanderings	http://curiouschild.wordpress.com	Personal	Diary		2
Duke Digital Collections	http://library.duke.edu/blogs/digital-collections	Institution	PR/outreach		x
Early Modern at the Beinecke	http://beineckeearlymodern.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
Ephemeral Archives	http://ephemeralarchives.wordpress.com	Institution	Community		2
F&M Archives & Special Collections	http://fandmarchives.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
Fresh Pickins	http://doddecenter.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
From the Mouths of Britons	http://albioncollegebritons.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		x
George Mason SC&A News	http://specialcollections.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
Guided by History, Wells Fargo archives	http://blog.wellsfargo.com/GuidedByHistory	Institution	PR/Outreach		36
Hanging Together	http://hangingtogether.org/	Institution	Community		21
Haverford College Libraries, Quaker & Special Collections	http://trilogy.brynmawr.edu/mt/hcspecial/	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x

Historical Notes from OHSU	http://ohsu-hca.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	12
History for All the People	http://history4all.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	3
infoSpace blogs	http://thomas.kiehnfamily.us/blog	Personal	Diary		x
Kansas Archives	http://kansasarchives.wordpress.com	Institution	Project tracking/ sharing	[Software evaluation]	x
Keeping Time	http://forkeepingtime.blogspot.com	Personal	Diary/notes		1
L/Archivista	http://larchivista.blogspot.com	Personal	Diary		x
Lawrence Archives	http://blogs.lawrence.edu/library/archives	Institution	News and Events	PR/Outreach	x
LiveJournal Archivists	http://community.livejournal.com/archivists	Partnership	Community		x
Lone Arrangers	http://lonearrangers.ning.com	Partnership	Community		x
M.E. Grenander Dept. of Special Collections and Archives	http://liblogs.albany.edu/grenander	Institution	PR/outreach	News and Events	x
Mary Comes to the College with William	http://womenatwilliamandmary.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		x
MIT Archives + MIT History	http://news-libraries.mit.edu/blog/category/subject-areas/archives-mit-history	Institution	News and Events	PR/Outreach	x
Modern Books and Manuscripts, Houghton Library, Harvard	http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/houghtonmodern	Institution	PR/Outreach		x
Movable Archives	http://amovablearchives.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton	http://blogs.princeton.edu/mudd	Institution	News and Events	PR/outreach	x
Museum Archives Section	http://saa-museum.blogspot.com	Institution	News and Events		x
National Anthropological Archives/ Human Studies Film Archives	http://www.nmmh.si.edu/naa/whatsnew.htm	Institution	News and Events		x
NeoArch	http://neearch.wordpress.com	Personal	Diary/notes		3
North Carolina Digital Collections Collaboratory	http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/collaboratory	Partnership	Community		x
North Carolina Miscellany	http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/ncm	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	14
North Carolina Room	http://northcarolinaroom.wordpress.com/news-events	Institution	News and Events		x

<u>Title</u>	<u>URL</u>	<u>Creator Type</u>	<u>Function 1</u>	<u>Function 2</u>	<u>#</u>
Northern Illinois Univ. Rare Books & Special Collections	http://miurarebooks.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/outreach	News and Events	12
NWA 2008-Anchorage, AK	http://library.uaf.edu/blogs/nwa2008	Institution	Conference		x
Owl Droppings	http://www.owlsarchives.blogspot.com	Institution	News and Events		x
Owl's Workshop	http://woodsonresearch.wordpress.com	Institution	Project tracking/sharing		x
PACSCL Blog	http://pacscl.blogspot.com	Partnership	Community	News, Promotion	1
PACSCL Consortial Survey Initiative	http://pacsclsurvey.blogspot.com	Institution	Project tracking/sharing		2
Patriarchive	http://patriarchivewordpress.com	Personal	Diary		6
Pauling Blog	http://paulingblog.wordpress.com	Institution	Subject	PR/Outreach	3
Peeling Back the Bark	http://www.peelingbackthebark.org	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
Poetry at Beinecke Library	http://beineckepoetry.wordpress.com	Institution	Subject	PR & News	12
Pondering Archivist	http://ponderingarchivist.wordpress.com	Personal	Diary		4
Posterity Project	http://posterityproject.blogspot.com	Personal	Diary		14
Practical Archivist	http://practicalarchivist.blogspot.com	Personal	Diary/notes		33
Processing NYCC	http://processingnycc.blogspot.com	Institution	Project tracking/sharing		x
Processing the Chew Family Papers	http://chewpapers.blogspot.com	Institution	Project tracking/sharing		x
Reading Archives	http://readingarchives.blogspot.com	Personal	Diary/notes		29
Records Junkie	http://recordsjunkie.blogspot.com	Personal	Diary		x
Rhode Island Historical Society	http://rihs.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	1
Room 26 Cabinet of Curiosities	http://brblroom26.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		65
RPI History Revealed	http://rpiarchives.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		1

Sandusky Library, Sandusky, Ohio	http://sanduskyhistory.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		13
Secret Mirror	http://thesecretmirror.com	Personal	Diary/notes		6
SJSU Special Collections & Archives, San Jose State Univ.	http://sjsuspecialcollections.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	1
Southern Sources	http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/shc	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	1
Special Collections at the U. of Montana's Mansfield Library	http://content.lib.umt.edu/spcoll	Institution	PR/outreach	News and Events	2
Special Collections Research Center, U. of Chicago Library	http://lib.typepad.com/src	Institution	PR/outreach	News and Events	x
Special Collections, Louisiana State University Library	http://hill.blogs.lib.lsu.edu	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries	http://www.lib.umd.edu/blogs/special	Institution	News and Events	PR/outreach	1
Square	http://carolinaroom.blogspot.com	Institution	News and Events	PR/outreach	x
Top Shelf	http://libtmp.lib.uisa.edu/blogs/index.php?blog=7	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
Troup County Court Records Scanning Project	http://troupscanning.blogspot.com	Partnership	Project tracking/sharing		x
Twin Cities Archives Round Table	http://www.tcartmn.org	Institution	News and Events		1
UNC-Greensboro Special Collections and University Archives	http://uncspecial.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
University of Houston Libraries, Special Collections	http://weblogs.lib.uh.edu/weblogs/speccol	Institution	PR/outreach	News and Events	x
Curiosities and Wonders, University of Kentucky Archives	http://www.ukyarchives.blogspot.com	Institution	PR/Outreach	News and Events	x
University of Pennsylvania Museum Archives	http://pennmuseumarchives.wordpress.com	Institution	PR/Outreach		x
View to Hugh: Processing the Hugh Morton Photos and Films	http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/morton/	Institution	Project tracking/sharing	(Also PR)	11
Web Watching For Archivists	webwatchingforarchivists.blogspot.com	Personal	Topical (web 2.0)		4
WITNESS Media Archive	http://archive.witness.org	Institution	Subject	PR/Outreach	8

Appendix B: Highly Ranked Archives and Special Collections Blogs, July 2009

Title	Platform	Began	Latest	Freq.	Tech-norati	Delicious	Comments	Tagline/About	Audience	Search box	Subject categories	Blogroll/Links
A View to Hugh	Wordpress	11/1/2007	7/2/2009	1-2xwk	11	49	5	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	YES
The Practical Archivist	Blogger	11/1/2006	11/9/2008	sporadic, 1xwk, gaps	33	72	4.4	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	some links to archives-related sites
Reading Archives	Blogger	10/23/2006	5/26/2009	1-2xwk	29	107	3.2	Yes	Yes	yes	no	No
Coca-Cola Conversations	?	10/21/2008	7/3/2009	2-3xwk	16	163	2.7	Yes	No	yes	yes	No
Archives Next	Wordpress	3/21/2007	2/7/2009	2-3xwk	27	122	1.7	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	YES
Guided by History (Wells Fargo)	? Probably internal	3/13/2006	7/3/2009	2-3xwk	36	47	1.4	Yes	No	yes	yes	Red Cross, FEMA, Americorps
Hanging Together	?	8/7/2008	7/1/2009	1-3xwk	21	156	1	Yes	Yes	yes	yes	No
Posterity Project	Blogger	7/9/2008	6/28/2009	avg is 9xwk, recently 2xwk	14	8	0.8	Yes	No	yes	yes	YES

North Carolina Miscel- lany	Wordpress	6/13/2005	7/3/2009	every day	14	8	0.7	Yes	No	yes	yes	Only to other UNCCCH
The Anarchivist	Blogger	1/1/2006	11/2/2008	(fluctuated) approx 3xmo	10	21	0.5	Yes	No	yes	no	YES
Sandusky Library	Blogger	6/6/2006	7/2/2009	1-2xwk	13	19	0.3	No	No	yes	no	No
Northern Illinois Uni- versity RB&SC	Blogger	8/1/2007	6/30/2009	1-3xwk	12	7	0.2	Yes	Yes	yes	no	YES
Historical Notes from OHSU	Blogger	8/20/2006	7/2/2009	1-2xwk	12	14	0.1	Yes	No	yes	no	No
Poetry at Beinecke Library	Wordpress	Aug-06	5/1/2009	seemed to avg 3xmo	12	8	0	Yes	No	yes	yes	New Haven literary stuff
Room 26 Cabinet of Curiosities	Wordpress	7/18/2007	7/2/2009	1-3xwk	65	130	0	Yes	No	yes	yes	Internal links to Yale

REVIEWS

Jean Dryden, ed. *Respect for Authority: Authority Control, Context Control, and Archival Description*. Binghamton, N.Y.: The Haworth Press, 2007. 183 p. Bibliography and index. \$75.00 (cloth); \$45.00 (paper). Co-published simultaneously as *Journal of Archival Organization*, volume 5, issue 1 & 2, 2008.

“Context control” is not a theory one regularly encounters in the archival literature. This does not seem surprising as it is a complex, occasionally abstruse idea that is still gaining a foothold in the realm of archival description. A term introduced by Adrian Cunningham in 2007, context control expands on the concept of archival authority control, which focuses on the creation of unique terms to represent either the names of records--creating entities that serve as provenance access points--or topics that serve as subject access points. Whereas authority control concentrates on establishing a preferred form of a heading, context control aims to describe the records creator and the functions and activities that produced the records, to show the relationships among records creators, and to show relationships between records creators and records for use in archival description. In other words, by providing information about the creator of the records and the *context* in which they created those records, one can gain a better understanding of the essential meaning and value of those records. But how does one determine what context control is and go about implementing this new type of authority system?

In *Respect for Authority*, Jean Dryden seeks to answer these and other questions by assembling a volume of

published articles with authority and context control as the predominant themes. She divides the book into two parts: “Issues” and “Case Studies.” The three articles in the “Issues” section attempt to define the broader concept of context control within the framework of standards and the separation of descriptions of records and records creators. The remaining four articles in “Case Studies” describe some of the challenges and successes when implementing practical solutions to a complex theory in a variety of institutions.

The strength of this book lies in its efforts to introduce readers to the concept of context control by assembling a group of contributors who are well-versed in archival description. It is to be commended as the only text thus far to address an emerging topic that has received relatively little attention in the archival profession. Dryden acknowledges in the introduction that in many ways the book barely scratches the surface “of a very complex and evolving topic” (p. 2). She hopes, however, that it is the “first word” on the subject of archival authority control, and that “as more people work with separate but linked descriptions of records and records creators, very practical implementation issues will continue to emerge and be addressed in various ways” (p. 9). Dryden herself is no stranger to archival description. She has been active throughout her career in archival descriptive standards, including her key membership on the team that laid the foundation for RAD (*Rules for Archival Description*) and in her role as the editor and project manager of CUSTARD, the task force that produced *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*, published by the Society of American Archivists in 2004.

Dryden does a fine job introducing the origins of the volume, discussing the main themes of the articles, and

identifying the topics that are missing (mainly the needs of users and how best to educate archivists in authority and context control). Her selected articles address authority and context control from an international perspective--with representation from Canada, Australia, the United States, and Italy--that compels the reader to appreciate that the complexities associated with developing and implementing archival description standards and theories go beyond the oftentimes narrow confines of his or her own institution or country.

Perhaps the most effective contributions to this volume are the case studies, those articles from archival professionals who are in the trenches. Two in particular--Lydia J. E. Reid and C. Jerry Simon's "Authority Control at the National Archives and Records Administration" and Maurizio Savoja and Stefano Vitali's "Authority Control for Creators in Italy: Theory and Practice"-- candidly address the unexpected problems and challenges confronted when implementing authority control at their respective institutions. One can easily relate to their attempts to overcome these hurdles, sometimes with solutions that were less than desirable, only to discover another issue they had not anticipated. Both articles highlight using technology as a solution to put into practice the theories on the relationships between the materials and their creators. This serves to emphasize the importance of providing users with a way to "retrieve related descriptions and create virtual groupings of materials that best fit their research needs" (p. 117).

Unfortunately, the strengths of the book also tend to be its weaknesses. With her selection of articles, it is occasionally unclear who Dryden is targeting as her audience. The authors of the case studies work for large

institutions and seem to have the time and resources to experiment with a variety of solutions, including using the latest technology. This may leave those readers working for smaller institutions wondering how they would have the means to adopt and implement a new descriptive system. Additionally, it became clear while reading through the articles that the volume is not a basic reader. Dryden warns that “it [context control] is clearly a complex area that may not be well understood within the broader profession,” and she is right (p. 9). Some of the content is so esoteric that it would have helped to have a broader understanding of archival description standards and theories before reading this book.

Dryden’s choice to include an international viewpoint of authority control, while an interesting approach, was at times difficult to relate to within the context of U.S.-based archival practices. The authors did their best to explain the international standards and national archival theories that influenced the decisions in their home institutions, but the impact of the articles was diminished due to the lack of a more comprehensive knowledge behind the histories of these standards and theories.

It is difficult to be too critical of a book that is leading the effort to break new ground by drawing a distinction between authority control and context control. Overall, *Respect for Authority* accomplishes what Jean Dryden set out to do: introduce this complex area, raise awareness of the issues, and point out where we, as archive professionals, need to learn more.

Mary Samouelian
North Carolina State Archives

**“North Carolina Maps.” www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps.
Hosted by the Carolina Digital Library and Archives at
the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
Reviewed May 28, 2009.**

Historic maps are simultaneously attractive candidates for a digitization project and some of the most difficult materials to digitize successfully. Their visual appeal, interest for many different types and levels of users, relative simplicity to scan or photograph, and (in general) the ability to view and describe them as single, discrete objects all argue in favor of digitizing maps. However, maps can also be very large and irregularly shaped, and are often quite detailed, requiring high-quality digital images and sophisticated tools for zooming and panning. They can also be quite challenging to describe, featuring archaic place names and spellings and little or no information on titles or creators, and metadata at the level of common search terms for towns or geographic features is difficult and time-consuming to create.

Navigating this difficult terrain, the Web site *North Carolina Maps*, in beta release in May 2009, presents more than 1,200 digitized maps of the state and region, with more than 1,500 total planned by June 2010. Drawn primarily from the collections of UNC-Chapel Hill and the North Carolina State Archives, with some important additions from the Outer Banks History Center, the maps range from the sixteenth century to the 1970s, and from the continental to the single plat level. In addition, the site presents resources for teachers interested in using the maps in their classrooms and other contextual materials.

North Carolina Maps provides a variety of

browsing access points, facilitating use of the maps by a wide variety of users from cartographic collectors and enthusiasts to genealogists to scholars and students. Especially useful is the “Browse by Location” feature, allowing users to click on a county or region of the state to see all maps for that area. Extensive abstracts and “Details” (tag-like descriptors) of features shown by the maps also facilitate searching and browsing, especially in the mention of particular geographic features and town names. “Subject headings,” “Details,” “Creators,” and many other fields are hyperlinked, allowing searchers, for instance, to browse all maps that show “Places of Worship” after finding a map listing that descriptor. The basic keyword search is quite effective due to the extensive metadata included for each map. The advanced search option may confuse some users, as it defaults to searching across all UNC Library digital collections, not just *North Carolina Maps*, but it does provide the requisite options for refining searches.

The maps themselves are represented in beautiful, high-quality images at the appropriate resolution to zoom in to see details even in complicated maps. There are the necessary features for students and scholars, such as persistent reference URLs for citing specific maps and the ability to easily clip and save, print, or email images of maps or parts of maps. A note on the beta release of the site notes that “An improved image viewer, enabling easier zooming and panning of the map images,” is planned for the finished version, and I hope this is true (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/beta.html>). While panning and zooming features in the current version are a great improvement over many earlier map resources such as *Digital Durham* (<http://digitaldurham.duke.edu/>) and the map collections in

American Memory (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>), they are somewhat cumbersome, and a viewer allowing more precise control, especially for panning, would be welcome. (The viewer in the *David Rumsey Map Collection* may be a good model (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/>).

The site also includes an “Interactive” tab that features more than fifty innovative historic overlay maps: digitized historic maps superimposed over current Google maps of the same locations. This fascinating idea can reveal vivid details about the development of the state--and the country--over the last 250 years. However, it may be an idea before its time: “fading” the historic map over the contemporary Google overlay to see both simultaneously, the most intriguing way of viewing the maps, often leads to a jumble of confusing images, making it difficult to differentiate one map from the other or see the salient details of either. A feature to control the degree of fading may help alleviate the problem.

A “K-12” area of the site features general resources for teachers interested in using maps in the classroom and a set of twelve lesson plans for using maps with students from grades two to twelve in a variety of subjects, from learning to interpret town sizes on maps to analyzing and creating myths based upon sea monsters in maps. Created by a UNC School of Education graduate student, the plans are thoughtful and successfully balance curricular needs with creative uses of the digitized maps.

Other educational resources are available in the “Learn More” tab, which presents a scholarly paper, bibliography, and timeline focused on North Carolina’s geographic history. An especially useful section of the

bibliography contains scholarly works about specific maps, with links to the digitized maps when available; the section is fairly small but I hope it will grow as more secondary resources are found. The timeline also provides another effective access point to view maps chronologically and thematically, working the publication or creation of major maps into a more traditional timeline of state history.

North Carolina Maps has a clean, pleasing, if utilitarian look: built using the CONTENTdm image management software, it foregoes most graphic design bells and whistles for an emphasis on metadata, educational resources, and the look of the maps themselves. Overall, it is an excellent resource for local and regional history and geography. Difficulties with panning across and zooming in and out of the maps and using the historic overlay maps are relatively minor annoyances compared to the wealth of information in the maps themselves and the superior access mechanisms provided by the site. *North Carolina Maps* should prove useful in classrooms from grade schools to universities, and is sure to be a valued resource among genealogists and local historians. Recommended for all ages and all educational levels.

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Duke University

Cynthia Pease Miller. *Managing Congressional Collections*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2008. 130 p. Bibliography, appendices, and index. \$19.95 (nonmember and member).

Whether faced with that tractor-trailer of boxes from a congressional office at your institution's loading dock

(and a sinking feeling in your stomach) or merely thinking about contacting your state's congressional representatives for potential donations, *Managing Congressional Collections* is for you. This easy read is practical and current, and also provides a succinct overview of the major issues archivists must consider when collecting and administering records generated by members of the United States Congress. The manual additionally provides guidelines for donors who are considering donating their collections to archival repositories. This publication emanates from the efforts of the Society of American Archivists' Congressional Papers Roundtable (CPR), behind author and founding member of CPR, Cynthia Pease Miller. Miller's long career as a Capitol Hill archivist, in addition to the CPR Editorial Advisory Board's backing, endorse this slim volume as *the go-to book* for handling congressional collections.

Since 1976, scholars and archivists have discussed and published about issues relating to congressional collections. Of primary concern have been topics such as access to and research in these collections, the unique features and the ensuing challenges of congressional collections, and guidelines for managing these collections. *Managing Congressional Collections* is the culmination of many of these discussions at national conferences and their published reports as well as the efforts of interested parties since the idea for a manual germinated in 1983. Two seminal publications in this field initially put ideas on paper for U.S. politicians and archivists: Karen Dawley Paul, Senate archivist in the Senate Historical Office, published the *Records Management Handbook for United States Senators and Their Archival Repositories* in 1985, and in 1986, the National Historical Publications and Records

Commission published the *Congressional Papers Project Report* (also known as the Harpers Ferry Report). Paul's publication is still updated and regularly published by the Senate Historical Office to provide guidelines for United States senators and their staffs as well as for archivists receiving these collections. There has long been a need for a similar publication tailored for members of Congress. *Managing Congressional Collections* builds on and incorporates the enduring guidelines laid out in the *Congressional Papers Project Report* and parallels Paul's records management book for the Senate.

Managing Congressional Collections alternately refers to itself as "guidelines" and a "standard." The overall intention of the book is to set a standard for all aspects of managing these collections, ranging from minimum standards to best practices, both in the congressional offices and in the archives (p. 6). The manual acknowledges that the degree to which the recommendations in the book can be followed depends upon how well an archive is equipped with staff and facilities. The guidelines can, however, remain as goals.

The chapters of Miller's publication are straightforward and comprehensive in addressing specific aspects of managing congressional collections. Chapter One, "Soliciting or Donating a Congressional Collection," reflects the dual audience for this manual in its discussion of standards for acquiring collections and the elements of a model congressional collections repository. Often congressional members donate their collections to archives that are unable to adequately handle the size of the donation or allow access in a timely fashion. CPR's recommendations for a "model" repository are an effort to prepare donors and

archives for the real challenges of these collections and help eliminate the frustration sometimes experienced on both sides of the agreement.

Chapter 2, “Administering a Congressional Collection,” covers factors that need to be considered before (sometimes long before) the donor signs the deed of gift. Issues such as calculating costs, space, personnel, and budget; adequate deeds of gift; access issues, including restrictions and copyright; and donor relations are a sampling of the relevant topics discussed. An ongoing theme of this chapter is the expense associated with these collections, especially as related to processing staff and collection maintenance. Of particular note in this chapter is the clear and helpful discussion on copyright as it relates to congressional papers (p. 38).

Chapter 3, “Transferring the Papers,” discusses aspects of the physical transfer of the collection. The reader can perceive the collective years of experience behind the words on the pages interwoven into this description. There are not only tips on how to handle moving the variety of formats such as electronic records and artifacts, but also a list of cost-saving strategies and reminders about the sometimes delicate donor (and congressional office staff) relations involved, for example, when members of Congress have been unexpectedly voted out of office.

Chapter 4, “Processing a Congressional Collection,” and Chapter 5, “Reference Services and Outreach,” address the most salient issues and challenges of working with congressional collections in these areas. One of the biggest challenges of processing a modern congressional collection is its vast size and, secondarily, its unique characteristics. Chapter 4 covers pre-processing considerations; obtaining

physical control, including dealing with irradiated mail; invaluable appraisal checklists; and a discussion of classification, declassification, and reclassification issues. Chapter 5 provides an excellent overview of descriptive practices, access tools, and the basics of reference and outreach needs, including a useful list of outreach initiatives. These chapters do not waste the reader's time with a review of basic professional standards in processing and access, but succinctly cover the most relevant features of congressional collections within these spheres.

Adding to the valuable narrative portion of the book are the equally important appendices. Three appendices merit special note, as the information they summarize is not readily available in many other publications. Appendix D, "Congressional Office Staff List," provides a list of the major positions in a congressional office and the files associated with their work. Appendix E, "Guidelines for File Disposition," is similar in its format to the guidelines supplied in Paul's records management book for the Senate. This appendix provides recommendations for retention, review, or disposition by type of record, including Web sites and electronic records. Appendix F, "Frequently Asked Questions," again culls the collective knowledge of Miller and the CPR manual advisory board in an invaluable question-and-answer format. The other five appendices supplement the text with useful reference information as well.

The presentation of the manual lends itself to easy reading. Miller's written style is clear and succinct. The physical layout of the book complements the ready-reference theme, with best practices easily spotted in gray boxes in each chapter and wide margins throughout for note-taking.

The book's index is a necessary and useful feature.

Managing Congressional Collections is an invaluable guide to the various and sundry aspects of handling congressional collections. Practical and laden with seasoned advice, it is a must-read for potential donors, repository administrators, and archivists considering or working with these collections.

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East Carolina University Joyner Library Digital Collections Portal, <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu>, East Carolina University. Reviewed May 10, 2009.

Since the 1990s, digital libraries have become the standard for universal access to human knowledge. From the *Internet Archive* to the Library of Congress on Flickr, digital libraries help make unique materials available for research online and push resources to the public through extensive description and multiple access points. Today's user expects simple and visually appealing design, one-stop searching, and *interaction* with digital collections and digital objects.

Earlier this year, the East Carolina University Joyner Library released its Digital Collections portal, an interactive search and browse site for materials from their Special Collections Department. The Digital Collections portal includes a common database for all of ECU's digital collections and digital objects, arranged by collection and subject, including African American history, agriculture, fine and performing arts, Eastern North Carolina postcards, oral history, naval and military history, industry history, "Seeds

of Change” (post-war photographic negatives from the *Daily Reflector*, a local newspaper), and the history of East Carolina University. Collections of particular interest are the *Daily Reflector* images, the “Eastern North Carolina Postcard Collection,” and the “Staff Pick Collection.” Each demonstrates the depth of material housed at East Carolina University and creative curation by their staff.

One interesting feature of the Digital Collections portal is the use of a subject cloud to create subject-guided collections in addition to the traditional collection-based presentation of other digital libraries. Materials that exist outside of formal collections, as well as some within formal collections, have been brought together by related themes. According to Department Head Gretchen Gueguen, “These things were created on the premise that the organization of physical items in the library isn’t necessarily the best organization for things on the Web.” (see <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/collaboratory>, February 1, 2009). This type of consideration is what makes the portal easy to use.

Collections are accessed easily through multiple points, including a list of tiled icons for each major subject and collection from the “Collections” page (<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/collections.aspx>). Each collection, when clicked, produces a pop-up description of the collection, complete with an option to search or browse and, as is the case with “Seeds of Change,” a link to the collection home page. While the Digital Collections portal displays collections with digital objects only, the “Collections” page includes a link to their EAD finding aid site (<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/special/ead>). In addition, many digital objects that are tied to existing collections have direct links to their respective EAD finding aids, which is of great use to

researchers interested in an image's context.

Users can also search directly from the home page from the "Search Our Collections" box. The resulting hit list is clean and interactive, including hyperlinks within records for subjects and finding aids as well as faceted browsing by subject heading, format, date, collection, and more. Users can search within results or page through resulting image icons using their page-by-page browse feature. In addition, each digital object record includes a section for user comments and suggested subject tags. The portal's metadata appears flexible, including METS, MODS, and Dublin Core records enhanced with LCSH and other subject cataloging, which can be harvested by a union catalog such as OAIster. Linked EAD finding aids could also be shared with ArchiveGrid.

Perhaps most importantly, the ECU Digital Collections portal was designed from top to bottom with the user in mind. The use of a black, navy, gray, and dark orange color scheme is not distracting and keeps the interface clean and simple. Font use is consistent, primarily sans-serif with sparing use of decorative font as well as minimal explanatory text. Users are permitted to jump in and start exploring right away, but a "Site Guide" remains linked at the top of the page for easy reference. Redundancy is a key consideration and can be seen throughout the site. The ease of navigation is apparent from the outset with a prominent search box (simple and advanced) and browse (by collection and subject cloud) available from the home page. The use of theme-arranged collections is a feature that indicates clear foresight into the mind of a general user: faculty, researchers, students, and the public will all feel welcome here. Access is free and available twenty-four hours a day. Finally, the

consistent presence of interactive features, including space for user comments and suggested subject tags, brings the focus back to the end user.

The Digital Collections portal compares well to similar digital libraries, such as *Duke Digital Collections*, *Digital Forsyth*, and UNC's *Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*. Like *Duke Digital Collections*, it has a shared database and simple search tool (<http://library.duke.edu/digitalcollections/>). The portal has visual browsing and encourages user comments and suggested changes like *Digital Forsyth* (<http://www.digitalforsyth.org/>). *The Colonial and State Records* project includes lesson plans to assist teachers with primary source instruction, and the "Seeds of Change" project will include a teacher's guide in late 2009 (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/>). What makes the ECU portal unique is the combination of these features while implementing an appealing interface and smooth navigation.

In sum, the *Digital Collections* portal is not only a great accomplishment by the staff at ECU's Joyner Library Digital Collections unit, but it is also a great inspiration for other digital library portals throughout the state and beyond. It is an example of a functional and elegant interface that puts faith in the user to explore. It encourages user interaction and redundancy to ensure that no feature is overlooked. The portal's greatest feature is its focus on user research and discovery needs. At the time of this writing, no records appear to have been shared with union catalogs outside of the portal. Sharing would be of great benefit to researchers unfamiliar with ECU's holdings. In addition, the portal could be supplemented by lesson plans for teachers to bring these well-presented collections to students. Overall,

the East Carolina University Digital Collections portal is highly recommended both for reference and casual browsing as a digital resource featuring local content with global significance.

Audra Eagle
Forsyth County Public Library

Submissions and Subscriptions

The *Journal for the Society of North Carolina Archivists* seeks to support the theoretical, practical, and scholarly aspects of the archival professions by publishing articles and reviews related to curatorial issues (e.g., collection management and development), technical services (e.g., cataloging, processing, digital collections, EAD, preservation, conservation, etc.), and public services (reference, instruction, outreach) for special collections and archives.

The *Journal* accepts a range of articles related to research, study, theory, or practice in the archival professions. All members of the archival community, including students and independent researchers, are welcome to submit articles and reviews. Contributors need not be members of SNCA or live in the state of North Carolina. The *Journal* will not reprint or republish articles submitted to and accepted by other publications. Full manuscript submission requirements can be found at: http://www.ncarchivists.org/pubs/jsnca/jnsca_manu_prep.html.

Electronic copy will be requested for accepted articles, and may be submitted to Nancy Kaiser, Editor, at nkaiser@email.unc.edu.

Non-membership subscriptions to the *Journal* are \$15.00 per year, and individual issues are \$7.50. A subscription form is available at <http://www.ncarchivists.org/pubs/pubs.html>. For addition information, please contact the Managing Editor, Cat S. McDowell, at catmcdowell@hotmail.com.

