

Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting 2024

Theme: Seeking Balance: Sustainability and Adaptation

[Submission Form](#)

Conference Overview

Northwest Archivists' 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in Spokane, Washington, from May 8-10. In 2024, the Spokane community will observe and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Expo '74, Spokane's World's Fair, the first such exposition to focus on the environment. Taking inspiration from the Fair, our theme is ***Seeking Balance: Sustainability and Adaptation***. This theme invites consideration of how issues related to the environment, sustainability and adaptation intersect with archives and allied professions. While we seek balance, we are frequently required to adapt and react to changing circumstances. We must also be responsive to the changing climate, to different resource allocations, to new staffing models, and much, much more.

Session Proposals

The Program Committee is seeking Session Proposals related to all aspects of archival practice, theory or research that is broadly related to the theme. Any and all ideas are welcome! We especially invite those in allied professions as well as graduate and undergraduate students to participate.

Proposals might focus on:

- Collections or research related to conservation, natural resources, waterways, forestry, agriculture, natural disasters, environmental justice or any other issue related to the environment.
- Sustainability and balance in archival practices: developing sustainable workflows related to processing, digitization, instruction, collection development, donor relations, outreach, records management, reference, public services, disaster preparedness, administration, preservation, accessibility, or any other related topic.
 - This can include innovations and successful approaches, but also ongoing challenges, unresolved problems, or stories of failure and what was learned from the experience.
- Adaptation: how do we make things work, practically, in our archives as we face change and uncertainty? How have you changed or modified workflows to address new circumstances? How do we make archival processes more environmentally sustainable? What are the impacts of a changing and increasingly unpredictable climate on our work?
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: how do topics such as reparative description, addressing legacy biases in collecting practices, or building inclusive workplaces require adaptation? Or, how do issues of diversity, equity and inclusion intersect with any of the above topics?
- Any other proposal that fits within the theme of ***Seeking Balance: Sustainability and Adaptation***. All ideas and creative approaches to the theme are welcome and encouraged!

Session Formats:

In your proposal you will be asked to indicate the format of your session. With the exception of workshops, all sessions will be 60 minutes.

- *Panel Session:* Two to four speakers present together in a 60 minute session on a common theme. This may include a moderator to steer discussion and/or introduce the speakers and topic. Panelists may choose to engage in questions or dialogue with attendees. Panel Sessions must be submitted as a group. You may use the [Panel Collaboration Spreadsheet](#) to find interested folks to partner with on a panel.
- *Case Studies:* three to five speakers present individually in a 60 minute session on topics focused on recent projects, workflows, ideas, problems, or other topics related to their work. Case Study presentations are shorter than the standard presentation (around 10 minutes for each speaker) and designed to serve as examples of archival theory in practice. Case Studies must be submitted individually and will be combined by the Program Committee.
- *Poster Session:* One or two presenters design and present a poster based on research related to archives or allied fields. Note: poster submissions will have a later deadline in Spring 2024, with the deadline and submission form to-be-announced.
- *Workshop:* Consists of a full-day (8 hours), half-day (4 hours), 60 minute or 120 minute session. Two to four workshop leaders will design a lesson plan to teach about an archival topic, practice, program, technology, technique, lesson plan, or software. The lesson plan may be followed by smaller breakout or hands-on sessions to try things out. Note: full or half-day workshops must be pre-conference workshops held on Wednesday, May 8, and there will be a limited number of pre-conference workshop proposals accepted. 120 minute sessions will be held in two consecutive 60 minute slots during the conference.
- *Alternative Format.* Propose a format that best fits your topic! In your proposal, provide enough information for the evaluators to understand both the format and how the format will support the topic or presentation of the material. Additionally, include how much time the format requires.

Evaluation Criteria

- Is the proposal description clear? (5 points)
- Are the proposal outcomes explicitly stated and achievable in the proposed session? (10 points)
- Will attendees be introduced to a new practice, practical application and/or be encouraged to think in a new way about an issue or topic? (10 points)
- Does the proposal demonstrate that the presenter(s) have the requisite knowledge / experience to present on the topic? (10 points)
- Does the session provide an addition to the field in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion? (10 points)
- Is the topic relevant to a variety of settings and institutions? (5 points)

- Does the proposal align clearly with the conference theme? (5 points)
- How unique is the proposal compared to other proposals? (5 points)

Deadlines

Session proposals for the NWA 2024 Annual Meeting are due on **Friday, December 8 by 11:59pm Pacific Time**. Acceptances will be communicated to presenters in January 2024. [Submission Form](#).

Poster proposals will be due at a to-be-announced date in Spring 2024.

If you have any questions, email Program Committee chair Ben Murphy: murphybp@uoregon.edu

Program Committee Members

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