



THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW

Archives Responding in
Times of Upheaval

Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting 2021

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Archives Responding in Times of Upheaval

Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting 2021

May 10-14, 2021
#NWA21



President's Message

Welcome to Northwest Archivists first online conference!

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic threw us into a world of many unknowns. The planned Western Archives Meeting in San Francisco was cancelled as we adjusted to work from home managing collections, teaching, serving researchers, handling archival climate control and preservation issues, hiring and training new archivists, students, and support staff, as well as serving on committees and continuing work within our professional associations, and more. All remotely. And while experiencing the pandemic in different and challenging ways.

As the country and the world called for action in the wake of the brutal murders of George Floyd and countless other Black persons, members of the Board came together because we believe that Black lives matter and Black histories matter. As archivists, curators, and records managers, we recognize the relevance of our work and where our collections and work fall short. Our collective values state that archives "serve as evidence against which individual and social memory can be tested." We can and must commit to preserve primary sources that are inclusive, to better serve future generations. We commit to reach out, listen, and be a resource when asked.

We adopted the NWA 2021 Conference theme *"The Fierce Urgency of Now" - Archives Responding in Times of Upheaval* to collectively explore and present work related to anti-racism as the country reckons with its history of white supremacy, a deadly pandemic, economic strife, and increasing threats from climate change.

Join me in celebrating the work of the conference planning committees who have crossed many technical barriers to launch this much-anticipated event to bring us together to discuss professional struggles and successes and unite to make our collections and institutions more equitable, diverse, and inclusive. Thank you, Charles Hilton, and Alex Bisio, for leading the charge! And thank you, Dana Bronson, Adriana Flores, Liza Harrell-Edge, Anna Trammell, Alison Sielaff, Josh Smith, Conor Casey, Steve Duckworth, Anne Foster, Zoë Maughan, Gena Peone, Sara Piaseki, and Amy Thompson.

I look forward to the week's fascinating addresses, sessions, meetings, and opportunities to learn and connect.

Anne Jenner

Curator of the Pacific Northwest Collection, University of Washington Libraries
Northwest Archivists President 2020-2021

Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting May 10-14, 2021

Schedule at a Glance *(All Times in PST)*

Monday, May 10, 2021

Webinar

9:00am-11:15am **“Liberated Archives for Black Lives,”** Teresa Raiford, Don't Shoot Portland

Welcome and Opening Plenary

3:00pm-5:00pm **“We Are Each Other’s Business: Archiving with Intention in Ever Changing Times”**
Tracy Drake, MA, MSLIS; Archivist, Reed College; Co-Founder, Blacktivists

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

9:00am-10:00am **Session Block 1**

10:00am-10:15am **Break**

10:15am-11:15am **Session Block 2**

11:15am-11:30am **Break**

11:30am-12:15pm **Session Block 3**

12:15pm-3:00pm **Break**

Reception

3:00pm-5:00pm **Native American Collections Roundtable Networking Mixer**

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

9:00am-10:00am **Session Block 4**

10:00am-10:15am **Break**

10:15am-11:15am **Session Block 5**

11:15am-11:30am **Break**

11:30am-12:15pm **Session Block 6**

1:00pm-2:00pm **Native American Collections Roundtable Business Meeting**

Event

6:30pm-8:30pm **NWA Second Annual Film Screening Night**

Schedule at a Glance *(All Times in PST)*

Thursday, May 13, 2021

9:00am-10:00am **Session Block 7**

10:00am-10:15am **Break**

10:15am-11:15am **Northwest Archivists Annual Business Meeting**

11:15am-11:30am **Break**

11:30am-12:15pm **Session Block 8**

3:00pm-5:00pm **Native American Collections Roundtable Panel on the NARA Seattle Closure**

Friday, May 14, 2021

9:00am-10:00am **Session Block 9**

10:00am-10:15am **Break**

10:15am-11:15am **South Sound Repository Tour Reflections**

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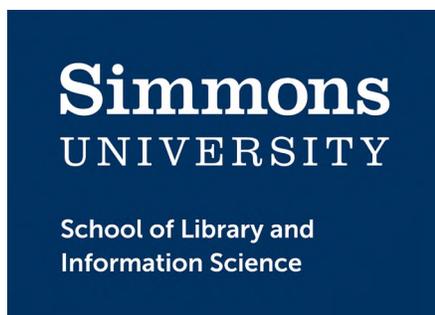


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Northwest Archivists Statement on Anti-Racism

Northwest Archivists stands with our Black community members and grieves for the social burden, pain, and ongoing oppression of Black people and groups not defined as white in the Pacific Northwest, throughout the nation, and around the world. We believe that Black lives matter and Black histories matter.

As archivists, curators, and records managers, we recognize the relevance of our work and where our collections and work fall short. Our collective values state that archives “serve as evidence against which individual and social memory can be tested.” We can and must commit to preserve primary sources that are inclusive, to better serve future generations. We commit to reach out, listen, and be a resource when asked.

We understand that confronting racism and social injustice is not a passing phase. Educating ourselves and reforming our practices will require ongoing work and reflection. We must look to each other and to resources offered in our field and in our communities to begin to live up to the shared values of our profession. We must act where we can.

In 2020, we continue to lean on the wisdom of civil rights leaders from earlier generations. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., in his 1967 speech at Riverside church in New York City spoke of the “fierce urgency of now,” stating,

“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late.”

It is time to act.

We adopt the NWA 2021 Conference theme “The Fierce Urgency of Now: Archives Responding in Times of Upheaval.” This action encourages members to come together in a virtual forum to collectively explore and present work related to anti-racism as the country reckons with its history of white supremacy, a deadly pandemic, economic strife, and increasing threats from climate change.

Monday, May 10, 2021

9:00am-11:15am **Webinar** **Liberated Archives for Black Lives**



Liberated Archives for Black Lives centers education and documentation for preservation, art and history. Through our partnership with the City of Portland Archives, Don't Shoot Portland has been able to gain access to informational archives and relate them to our current systems - these educational assets are vital to sustaining social change. Participants of this webinar will learn how to connect with communities to build dialogue regarding the importance of local preservation of Black Civil Rights. They will learn from our workshop the types of events, materials and community partnerships we have used and ways to develop these relationships for the direct benefit of community access. The intended audience for this webinar would be archivists, historians, librarians, artists, activists, community educators and organizers.

Teresa Raiford is the founder of Don't Shoot Portland, a Black-led community driven nonprofit in Portland, Oregon, that advocates for social change in the spaces of racial justice and law enforcement accountability. Don't Shoot Portland has been a leading force in the Black Lives Matter movement and protests for racial justice in Portland since 2014. Since George Floyd's murder and the following uprising, Teresa has been on the forefront, filing a class action lawsuit against the city of Portland and suing the Trump administration for the federal response of those defending the general populace's right to protest. Don't Shoot Portland also published an in-depth report on Riot Control Agents in June, illustrating the irreparable harm caused by RCAs during the COVID-19 respiratory pandemic. Don't Shoot Portland has been archived into the Library of Congress as a significant documentation of anti-racism work in American history.

Monday, May 10, 2021

3:00pm-5:00pm Plenary Session

**We Are Each Other's Business:
Archiving with Intention in Ever Changing Times**

In this heightened time of social injustice, librarians, archivists, and curators are collaborating with communities and organizing groups to select and preserve materials related to the uprisings and COVID-19 in real-time. However, a lack of communication may lead to a disconnect between the records and items archivists choose to historicize and the materials valued by the creators themselves. With the move towards both critical information literacy and community-centered archives, cultural heritage and information professionals have been called to further interrogate our role as collectors and catalogers of materials. We know that the preservation and description of objects, records, and ephemera ascribe historical meaning, are culturally bound, and impact understanding beyond our lifetime. As such, archivists have a responsibility to work with intentionality. Using examples from my personal archival experience, from my work as a Blackivist and from the work of other cultural heritage professionals I will highlight the ways we can contribute to social justice in archival work by practicing an ethics of care, considering environmental concerns, responsibly documenting marginalized communities and showing radical empathy.



Plenary speaker **Tracy S. Drake (she/her)**

is an archivist, historian, researcher and co-founder of the Blackivists, a collective of trained Black memory workers who provide expertise on archiving and preservation practices to communities in the Chicagoland area. She is the inaugural archivist at Reed College, focused on acquiring, preserving, and providing access to the historical and cultural records of the college. As an information professional, Tracy strives to provide equitable access to the counter stories of the Black experience thereby challenging the dominant narratives present in many U.S. archives. She believes collecting such counter stories, confronting difficult topics in our collective historical record and encouraging community archival practice is a tool to counteract the symbolic annihilation of histories of people of color.

A graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a BS in African American Studies, an MA in history from Roosevelt University, and an MS in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In 2018, she was chosen as a member of the American Library Association class of Emerging Leaders. She currently serves as the Co-chair for the Archivists and Archives of Color section of the Society of American Archivists. Her scholarship and research interests include radical empathy, Black cultural heritage preservation, community archives and African American history.

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Tuesday, May 11, 2021

9:00am-10:00am Session Block 1

Session 1.1

Documenting, Sustaining, and Teaching from the COVID-19 Pandemic

Documenting COVID-19 at MSU and Integrating into the work of Archives and Special Collections

Jodi Allison-Bunnell

When Missoula, Montana first went into lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a group of cultural heritage workers from a diverse set of institutions came together determined to document Missoula's experiences throughout the pandemic. The documentation effort was meant to be as inclusive as possible of the many different people and experiences of the residents of Missoula City and County. This inclusivity was across organizations affected by the pandemic like hospitals, the school systems, and religious institutions. We also tried to focus our outreach on the different populations in Missoula like the homeless, white residents, indigenous residents, university students and others. The focus of this presentation will be on the success of the collaborations between the different cultural heritage professionals, the difficulties experienced in communicating with and actually gathering documentation from individuals outside of our home institutions, and the ongoing efforts to find funding for a sustainable, collaborative online archive of the project.

The Advantages and Pitfalls of a COVID-19 Community Documentation Effort

Erin Baucom

Like its counterpart in Missoula and many other campuses, Montana State University began a COVID-19 documentation project in spring 2020. However, MSU focused its project wholly on the campus community. The result is the COVID-19 Special Collection: Documenting the MSU Experience, composed written and visual works about the pandemic experiences of students, staff, and faculty. Collecting efforts are ongoing. The presenter will focus on the ways in which Archives and Special Collections has integrated this documentation project into its normal work so that it is accessible, sustainable, and a model for similar future projects.

Writing In and For the Archives

Jan Zauha

The COVID 19 collection at MSU began in mid-March 2020 with an inquiry from a faculty member teaching Advanced Writing, who found that, unbidden, his students were starting to write to him about their experiences. He found them "harrowing and fascinating and important, and also deeply reflective of the weirdness we're all traveling through," and these narratives became their final projects. He wondered if we would like to include them in the Archives. From this kernel, the collection has evolved to include student materials across disciplines, cohorts, and semesters. It has inspired a new course, WRIT 491 Writing in the Archives, offered in fall 2020 and team taught by the Humanities & Outreach Librarian and the faculty member whose students were the first contributors. In WRIT 491, student writers both analyzed and contributed to the COVID 19 collection while immersed in yet another difficult and uncertain semester. Reading other student voices in the archives and knowing theirs would also be included provided these students with a sense of purpose. This inclusive approach encouraged exploration of broader archival issues, concepts, and content, and resulted in final projects that entwined personal and public memory.

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Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Continued)

9:00am-10:00am Session Block 1 (Continued)

Session 1.2

Redrawing the Roadmap: Perspectives from Indigenous Professionals on Working with Federal Repositories

Presenters:

Raynella Fontenot

Lotus Norton-Wisla

Selena Ortega-Chiolero

Monique J. Tyndall

Indigenous communities across the world are engaged in efforts to maintain, protect, and revitalize their histories, cultures, languages, and ways of life. Communities face these urgent needs while contending with the historical and present day impacts of violence, white supremacy, colonization, assimilation, environmental injustice, and systemic racism. Indigenous information professionals, Tribal citizens, and Elders often represent their sovereign Nations to carry out intensive archival research and complex digital projects to bring knowledge, documentation, and digital copies home from non-Indigenous institutions to share with their communities.

In February 2020, a group of twelve Indigenous archives, museum, and cultural heritage professionals participated in a coordinated visit to several U.S. federal repositories in Washington, DC over one week as part of the Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort Program (TDSCP) at Washington State University (WSU). In this moderated panel discussion, three TDSCP Cohort members: Raynella Fontenot (Director of Cultural, Historical, and Natural Resources at the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana), and Selena Ortega-Chiolero (Museum Specialist at the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council) and Monique Tyndall (Tribal Archivist at the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin), will speak about their experiences visiting federal institutions, meeting staff, and conducting research. The speakers will address the needs and priorities of their communities, successes and challenges of their research and collaboration, barriers to access, and a call to action for non-Indigenous institutions and the archival profession. Lotus Norton-Wisla (Digital and Community Outreach Archivist at the WSU Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation and coordinator of the TDSCP program) will introduce the structure of the TDSCP visits and prompt the speakers with questions to guide the conversation along the timeline provided through the Program and beyond.

To confront long overdue issues of racism and social injustice in archives, non-Indigenous archivists must listen to Indigenous voices and educate themselves in the histories and needs of Indigenous Nations and individual users. Proactive steps are needed at many levels from cataloging, to hidden collections, to digitization procedures, to creating a welcoming and inclusive space. As Indigenous Nations, citizens, scholars, and organizations share their perspectives and issue calls to action in the Northwest region and across the world, non-Indigenous institutions and individuals can take the opportunity to learn and to act in this critical moment. Institutions must consider how to use their power, capacity, and resources to make changes to policies and procedures and to begin to build reciprocal relationships, engage in consultations that are founded upon allyship, and provide equitable access to Indigenous Nations and peoples.

As Jennifer O'Neal wrote in 2019: "It is time archival repositories and archivists stop wondering about how to address the recommendations of Protocols for Native American Archival Materials and simply begin doing the work. Information professionals must now listen to repeated requests from those in the Indigenous communities who are pleading for proper care of these collections and for implementation of stewardship changes in repositories containing Indigenous materials."

10:00am-10:15am Break

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Continued)

10:15am-11:15am Session Block 2

Session 2.1

Remote Recording and Corrective Collecting:

Oral History Projects as a Responsive EDI-Centered Documentation Strategy

Presenters:

Conor Casey

Tiah Edmunson-Morton

Alisha Babbstein

Ryan Donaldson

What gets collected matters. Social power and implicit bias influence the writing and framing of history, and the creation and collection of archives that enable that history. “Corrective collecting”, an EDI-centered documentation strategy is meant to remedy omissions in these areas and can be an important component of equity and anti-racist work in libraries and archives. Presenters representing a cross section of repositories and oral history programs aimed at collecting the stories of particular occupational communities, frontline workers, racial and ethnic groups, and women’s history. The presenters will examine how remote oral history projects can help address representation gaps and emphasize the contributions that history too often relegates to sidebar narratives. The session will also examine how oral history collections can represent a dynamic, responsive mode of “Documenting the Now” by curating stories from recent events, especially grassroots and community activism and protests.

Opportunities and Challenges of Remote Interviews:

COVID-19 has been both a barrier and an enabling condition to performing remote oral history interviews. Some practitioners were forced to a remote format to continue their work due to the pandemic, while others sought to document the impacts of the pandemic itself via remote interviews. This session will examine the challenges and opportunities relating to remote collaborative oral history projects, including remote interviewing tools, workflows, methods, and practices. Because of the virtual environment interviewers had a broader range of options in who to interview as they were freed from budgetary and time limitations. At the same time, remote interviewing brought new considerations to the forefront relating to inequalities in access to technology, internet connectivity, enabling computer or phone hardware and software tools, and comfort or familiarity with remote interviewing or meeting platforms; further considerations relating to interviewing underrepresented communities include considering if narrators had their own space without background noise in which to be interviewed or had a private space to share personal information. However, the limitations of the situation also freed oral historians to experiment. Untethered by the burden of aiming for perfect recording conditions allowed for more improvisation since best practice oral history archival standards in terms of the recorded products of the interviews were almost impossible to achieve.

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Continued)

10:15am-11:15am Session Block 2 (Continued)

Session 2.2 **Pivoting During the Pandemic: Using Digital Tools to Process & Provide Access to Archival Collections Remotely**

Presenters:

Crystal M. Rodgers

Vakil Smallen

Dustin Kelley

Abbey Maynard

Diana Rocha

Elizabeth Routhier

Yael Horowitz

Garland Joseph

With the sudden shift to working from home due to COVID-19, archivists had to quickly adapt their practices beyond the physical processing table to continue arranging and describing collections and meet their ongoing commitments to their donor and research communities. In this session, panelists from the George Washington University's International Brotherhood of Teamsters Labor History Archive, the Labor Archives of Washington at the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, and the Lewis & Clark College Special Collections & Archives will present on their efforts to advance processing projects in a remote environment and continue providing valuable professional growth opportunities to students and interns. Topics discussed will include creating a web-based 'vertical file' to provide remote access to materials; onboarding and training archives students and interns remotely; prioritization of editing tasks and digital marketing; and using digital tools to manage processing projects, develop and implement intellectual arrangements, and update EAD finding aids, including incorporating bilingual translation for records documenting non-English speaking communities. Each presentation will feature a supervisor and intern/student processor's perspective, panelists reflecting on how working from home has redefined the workplace and helped us reimagine where and how the work can get done. They will also provide suggestions for projects, workflows, and tools that other archivists can use at their repositories, even after onsite operations fully resume. Following three brief presentations from each repository, panelists will facilitate an engaging Q&A discussion with attendees, hoping to learn about how others have approached archival processing in a remote environment since the pandemic.

This panel is sponsored by **Lucidea**

11:15am-11:30am Break

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Continued)

11:30pm-12:15pm Session Block 3

Session 3.1 Combo Sessions: Hidden Collections

The Tension Files:

A 500 Linear Foot Undertaking to Restore and Describe the University of Iowa's Social Documents Collection

Lindsay Moen

Jenna Silver Baustian

The Social Documents Collection, originally named the "Tensions File", was established at the University of Iowa in 1946 and holds print materials produced by both left-wing and right-wing groups. The collecting focus eventually centered on right-wing publications, and now occupies over 500 linear feet, as it is continuously added to. This collection has always been controversial, however until recently, has never been described, and consequently undiscoverable by the public. The need to create accessibility paired well with the need to create more stacks space. This collection was then identified to be sent to offsite storage, and therefore fully described, however within a deadline. In order to accomplish this, a large-scale, year-long project was undertaken, however was interrupted due to COVID-19, and was only just completed within the last couple of months. During this effort, staff were confronted with various challenges, such as facing the vastness of the collection, organizing labor to meet the varying skill levels of staff and students, and addressing various archival issues such as preservation, description, and patron use. All of these challenges presented the need for staff to consider the cultural, social, and archival impact that this collection has on various communities and the wider archival field. While these materials are sensitive, they have proved to be important in documenting the social and political changes of various groups over the course of the past seven decades.

Home is Where the History Is: Mapping the Idaho Bibliography Project

Robert Perret

Originally conceived to support Idaho History Day, the Idaho Bibliography Project was designed to capture every non-fiction book about the state of Idaho. Robert travelled to each archive, museum and historical society in the state to discover every possible monographic historical resource. Originally published as a monograph itself, the Idaho Bibliography Project has recently been transformed into an interactive map that allows patrons to explore by both theme and location. Patrons, especially students, are often totally unaware of the amazing history in their own hometown, and now it is easy to discover the people and events that make every inch of Idaho unique. This presentation will discuss the process of discovering previously uncatalogued items as well as transforming a traditional bibliography into a 21st century resource that increases accessibility of local history for rural communities.

This panel is sponsored by **Polygon Document Recovery Services**

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Tuesday, May 11, 2021 (Continued)

11:30pm-12:15pm Session Block 3 (Continued)

Session 3.2 Combo Session

Reassessing Film Production Elements: 'Farmers of the Sea' Case Study

Valeria Dávila

In mid-2019, the Oregon State University Valley Library began preparations to move the collections stored at an old off-site storage facility, set for demolition, to a new facility. However, the backlog partially-processed audiovisual collections were first moved to the library for reassessment, as identifying materials for further retention and deaccession would help save space and improve access to the collection. In this context, I was tasked with reassessing the 16mm film production elements of the OSU-produced "Farmers of the Sea" (Jim Larison, 1984), a film documenting aquaculture practices in the US and abroad. By focusing on the approach taken pre and throughout the pandemic, the challenges, the findings, and the next steps of the project, this presentation hopes to be informative for those working in similar projects at their institutions and visibilize and ignite conversation on audiovisual deselection.

Dissolving a Museum's Archives and Collections

Katrina O'Brien

In May 2020, World of Speed Motorsports Museum made the decision to close permanently. Over the course of the next six month, Head of Archives & Collections Katrina O'Brien, along with three other remaining staff, went through the process of dissolving the museum. The individual presentation will share the series of steps taken during the dissolution process to rehouse the archives and collections and how previously enacted policies and workflows helped inform and direct the process.

Majors steps covered will include separating out and returning loans during COVID-19 restrictions, unpacking and regrouping collection items based on subject instead of format, identifying and screening donation receiving museums, building collection bundles to be included in a master all-department inventory, and packing and shipping out collection bundles alongside non-collection items.

Each of these major steps included a series of decision-making that ended up relying on policies and procedures already in place. What to do with non-respondent lenders? In line with the collection policy, lenders were contacted three times in more than two formats before defining as a widowed donation to be rehoused. What space can be designated to store collection items in the process of exhibit deinstallation and being bundled? Looking to the disaster recovery plan, classrooms and other secured space were set aside specifically for collection materials. How to create a monetary value for collection donations for each donation recipient as required by the Oregon State Department? Use the annual valuation report schematic to define values at the sub-group level.

Having made the decision to make the archives and collections available for donation in bundles (lots) rather than recipients cherry-picking items and creating a "swiss cheese effect", multiple actions were taken so that all items found a home, such as determining "high interest" items and subjects and grouping in less-popular items, creating quick catalog additions for items not yet or not completely processed, and building an inventory of bundles for prospect recipients with links to cataloged items. Previously prepared catalog-based checklist pages for its triannual item-level collection condition inventory cut the preparation time for creating a tracking system of items during the process. Other subjects to be discussed include differing expectations from the board, staff and state department; decisions and logistics around preserving vital institutional paper and electronic records; bundling exhibit display cases and accessories, along with museum store, educational, and office equipment; de-restricting and allocation of funds; and the impact of COVID-19 in working with donation recipients, lenders, past volunteers, and staff.

12:15pm-3:00pm Break

3:00pm-5:00pm Native American Collections Roundtable Networking Mixer

Members of the Native American Collections Roundtable [NACR] welcome you to come meet, greet, network, and compete for prizes at this social mixer! During this session, participants will meet current members of the Roundtable, hear about our latest initiatives, and have the opportunity to introduce themselves and pose organizational questions to members or one another. Lastly, there will be multiple games, challenges, AND prizes throughout the session to encourage meeting one another and to learn about interesting archival collections throughout the region, as well as a preview to the online NACR 2021 Silent Auction! Hope to "see" you there!

9:00am-10:00am Session Block 4

Session 4.1 Anti-Racism in Mixed Political Company

Presenters:

Eva Guggemos

Mariah Berlanga-Shevchuk

Alanna Colwell

America's political climate is more polarized than ever. While anti-racism work has appropriately taken a central place in archives over the last year, many of us work within institutions where a majority of the staff already tend to support diversity and equity initiatives. How can archivists extend this work to broader communities where much of the public resists change, especially in "red" and "purple" areas of our states? Can we build wider support for addressing historic issues of equity? This panel will discuss: (a) Evidence-based techniques on building real change around potentially divisive topics; (b) Ways that archivists can apply these techniques to anti-racism work in mixed political company through outreach, service and policy change. The panelists will provide practical examples from their experiences as workers at an historical museum, the records department of a county government and a university archives.

Session 4.2 DV Rescue! Lessons Learned and Outcomes from Battling DV Obsolescence

Presenters:

Libby Hopfauf

Dave Rice

Andrew Weaver

MiniDV tapes are made to be tiny and cheap. These factors enabled many cultural, journalistic, and humanities organizations to create unique audiovisual documentation for the first time. This format, however, was not commonly used for media distribution, thus a collected DV tape is very likely a camera original or a unique recording rather than a copy. While cheap and tiny, DV tape is far more susceptible to contamination, damage, decay, and environmental factors than other videotape formats from the same time period and there are few resources or tools to support the migration of data from DV tapes. Due to abandonment by market forces, the major software options for migrating DV tape are all now unavailable. This poses a tremendous preservation risk, as DV contains a wealth of metadata (including validation checks) allowing the results of a data transfer to be easily assessed. If captured digitally, the DV videodeck leaves thorough documentation within the resulting DV file regarding the success and failure of its transfer. Falling in between the substantial eras of analog video tape and digital audiovisual files, DV tape was a transitional format which has not been sufficiently addressed by research and development in audiovisual preservation. Whereas preservation communities bring substantial expertise on the digitization of analog videotape and on the preservation of digital files, there are few resources or tools to support the migration of data from the surfaces of DV tapes into digital files. DV Rescue, a NEH-funded project, is an attempt to address this need via research and tool development focused specifically towards rescuing the content of DV tapes. The panelists, all participants in the DV Rescue project, will share findings, discuss the challenges and strategies of building software upon obsolete technology, and workflows to take advantage of the potential automation abilities of DV tape preservation. Panelists will seek to demystify the entire process of planning, maintaining and troubleshooting in-house DV digitization projects. The audience will gain a clearer understanding of open source development, DV digitization objectives, as well as, how and where many practices achieve or miss the mark.

This panel is sponsored by **NEDCC**.

10:00am-10:15am Break

Wednesday May 12, 2021 (Continued)

10:15am-11:15am Session Block 5

Session 5.1 **Coming up for AiR: Advocating Value and Building Opportunities for Paid Archival Labor**

Presenters:

Rachael Cristine Woody

Laura Cray

Erin Passehl Stoddart

Crystal Rodgers

Abbey Maynard

Rachel Thomas

Sara Piaseki

One of the most important conversations within the archival profession in the last few years has centered around fair and ethical archival labor practices. The discussion around the value of archival labor has increased with urgency through presentations at professional conferences; the work of professional committees such as the DLF Working Group on Labor in Digital Libraries, Archives, and Museums; and through professional advocacy work such as the SAA Issues and Advocacy Section's blog posts and temporary labor survey. Archival internships remain an essential industry labor source that can be prone to exploitation through low wages or unpaid opportunities.

In response to these conversations, Northwest Archivists created an ad hoc committee to develop a new paid internship pilot, the Archivist-in-Residence (AiR) program. The goal of the program is to advocate for the value of internships as archival labor and to effectively steward the next generation of archivists into the profession through the creation of productive, self-initiated, and funded internship opportunities. The AiR program aims to help fill the financial gap at regional repositories while encouraging them to build pathways to sustainable paid internships and helping the AiR recipient to build professional connections and archival experience. This session will offer a transparent view into the AiR program formation and decision-making process, review critical program elements and how they can be replicated, and address the sustainability of the program by reviewing fundraising strategies. Included on the panel will be the first host institution and AiR recipient who will provide helpful takeaways for institutions looking to adopt new and ethical paid internship opportunities, how to structure grant projects for early-career professionals, and how to adapt to working remotely.

Session 5.2 **Case Studies in Amplifying Hidden Voices: Reflecting on the Impact of EDI-Centered Access Activities**

Presenters:

Anne Frantilla

Conor Casey

Catherine Powell

In this session, the Seattle Municipal Archives, the Labor Archives of Washington, and the Labor Archives & Research Center will speak to the ways in which they have leveraged the work and words of more diverse voices in their archives, sometimes using innovative descriptive archival practices.

Anne Frantilla from the Seattle Municipal Archives, will speak to the challenges of making diverse voices in audio and textual records visible as well as the benefits which include enhancing the transparency of decisions made at the local government level.

Conor Casey, Head of the Labor Archives of Washington, University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, will discuss LAW's outreach, processing, collection development, and advocacy efforts--complementary programs that seek to foreground historically marginalized individuals and communities within labor history and to place labor history within larger regional and local historical narratives. As a community archives, LAW frequently coordinates with records creators to empower them to participate in the construction and interpretation of public memory from their own perspective.

Catherine Powell from the Labor Archives will discuss efforts to recognize marginalized individuals and communities in an already marginalized history. One example she will share is a recent digitization project of United Farm Worker photographs that brought to the fore participants in the union beyond one or two well known leaders, as well as recognizing the diversity of farm workers involved in the fight in the fields. She will also look at how this effort impacted the Labor Archives' ability to build additional photography collections in that subject area.

The Fierce Urgency of Now: Archives Responding in Times of Upheaval

Wednesday May 12, 2021 (Continued)

11:15am-11:30am Break

11:30am-12:15pm Session Block 6

Session 6.1 Building and Sustaining the Northwest's On-Ramp to DPLA

Presenters:

Maija Anderson

Jodi Allison-Bunnell

Evan Robb

The early years of Digital Public Library of America saw hubs quickly emerge from existing state and regional digital library programs, and sparked the start or renewal of others. But the last five years have seen a slower growth in the hubs network. In the Northwest, we took an approach unlike any other region in the U.S. How can this approach inform the present and future of aggregation of digital collections? And as we consider sustainability, how can a recent pilot project between DPLA and the Big Sky Digital Network inform those efforts in the long run? The Northwest Digital Heritage (NWDH) service hub was established to provide a DPLA on-ramp for public libraries and small cultural heritage institutions. Building on several years of planning, collaborative training, and grant-supported digitization, the hub will go live in 2021 as a jointly-managed program of the OR and WA state libraries, and the Oregon Heritage Commission. Evan Robb, Digital Repository Librarian for the Washington State Library, will describe the hub's role as both a metadata aggregator and a digital platform for partners. Hub services will also include metadata remediation, digitization training, technical support, and K-12-targeted curriculum development. The Orbis Cascade Alliance relaunched its DPLA hub initiative in fall of 2020. Anticipating that the hub will go live in the near future, the Alliance is now taking a close look at sustainability and impact. The presentation will identify challenges with re-launching stalled digital initiatives, and propose solutions that are broadly applicable to other collaborative digital projects. It will also present strategies for establishing sustainability and measuring the impact of a major digital initiative.

Session 6.2 Documenting the Personal Records of the Modern Soldier in the Times of COVID-19

Presenters:

Edward Benoit, III

Allan A. Martell

Gillian A. Brownlee

The Virtual Footlocker Project (VFP) is an IMLS funded research initiative aimed at understanding and supporting active members and veterans of the US army forces in capturing and preserving their experiences of service. The VFP team has conducted 22 focus groups with 99 members of the different branches of the US military who served during the past 15 years. Originally conceived as a face-to-face endeavor, data collection switched to virtual focus groups due to COVID-19, thereby broadening participation to the entire country. Preliminary findings suggest that record-keeping practices among active service members and veterans were informed by two fears: 1) the fear of losing their records during regular bureaucratic operations and 2) the fear of losing materials during relocation between deployments. The session will discuss these findings and proposed guidelines for working with contemporary military members in both repository and community driven approaches.

1:00pm-2:00pm Native American Collections Roundtable Business Meeting

6:30pm-8:30pm NWA 2nd Annual Archival Screening Night

MIPoPS will host the second annual *NWA Archival Screening Night* this year at the virtual annual meeting of the Northwest Archivists. Please join us for an evening of entertainment and awareness for archival moving images, with a screening of film and video recordings from archival collections.

9:00am-10:00am Session Block 7

Session 7.1

Reflections on Adaptive Responses to the COVID-19 Shutdown at the UW Libraries Special Collections

Presenters:

Allee Monheim

Conor Casey

Crystal Rodgers

Emily Dominick

The State of Washington issued the “Stay Home - Stay Healthy” order at the end of the University of Washington’s Winter Quarter. Soon after, university leadership made the decision to move all instruction online for Spring Quarter, and the UW Libraries closed down public operations indefinitely. Following this major disruption, Special Collections staff (like everyone), tried to imagine how they would carry on their work remotely. With six major curatorial areas (Book Arts and Rare Books, Historical Visual Materials, the Pacific Northwest Collection, University Archives, the Labor Archives of Washington, and the Washington State Jewish Archives) and approximately 20 staff members and more than 40 student workers, this shift to remote work without access to physical materials necessitated finding creative approaches to remain connected and continue providing care and access to collections. Through the collective efforts of staff, online projects were developed with available remote resources, and staff were able to focus on projects such as data clean-up, transcription and enhancing finding aids, and social media outreach, to name a few. Staff also had to figure out how to move traditionally in-person services to an online environment, such as collection development, instruction, exhibits, and outreach. All of these remote activities have provided staff with the opportunity to think more deeply about current practices and advance the norms they had been operating under. Some of these changes have worked really well and will likely continue to some degree even after we resume normal operations. This session provides an overview of these efforts through short presentations, followed by an interactive/moderated discussion with attendees. The session will leave a significant amount of time for discussion so participants may learn from each other, as well as from the presentation.

Panelists will give a short presentation on these efforts following topics:

- Enhancing access and tracking projects in an online environment
- Keeping students and other staff working
- Remote collection development
- Reference, outreach, exhibits, including responses to BLM

Session 7.2 Combo Sessions: Audio-Visual

A Flock of Digital Birds, One Remote Stone: Using Remote Work to Remediate and Advance Transcription Projects

Jennifer McGillan

In March 2020, Special Collections at Mississippi State University began piloting a remote distributed transcription project in order to meet the need for work-at-home projects for archives students, faculty and staff, as well as for staff from other library departments, who were working remotely due to COVID-induced shutdowns. The project enabled the department to both service long-standing digital debt (transcriptions needed to bring our digital collections into line with ADA requirements); bank transcribed material in anticipation of future digitization; and in conjunction with other initiatives, support ongoing and future remote teaching and learning and digital scholarship. This presentation explores the evolution of the planning for the project, training methods, and results.

Remote Control: Lessons learned and reflections on Audiovisual collections in COVID

Andrew Weaver

John Vallier

Unique audio, video, and moving image film are difficult to curate and care for in so-called "normal" times. The fragility of media carriers, dependence on obsolete (and physical) playback equipment, often murky rights related issues, and strained internal capacity to store large preservation format files are but a few of the ongoing challenges faced by AV archivists.

All of these have been particularly compounded by the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent transition to remote work environments. In this talk we will describe how we have consequently attempted to adapt our workflows and practices and put into place solutions that have proven more (and less) successful. Examples will be discussed, both from the perspective of collection management as well as through the lens of non-curatorial preservation work, with the goal of sharing both lessons learned as well as fostering discussion and additional thought around the unique challenges of A/V collection stewardship. Topics will include reallocation of resources towards accessibility work for A/V collections, mass digitization efforts during covid, impacts on physical preservation capacity and attempts at infrastructure development. Particular focus will be given to work around a selection of Indigenous music and language collections stewarded by the UW Ethnomusicology Archives, including the Vi Hilbert Collection of Lushootseed language and culture, recordings of Venezuelan harp combo Los Hermanos Aparicio, and films of blues musicians Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee.

Pre-World War II films of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska: Publishing Archival Film without Fomenting Racial Hatred

Angela Schmidt

Michael iqyax̂ Livingston

The Pribilof Islands of St. Paul and St. George, located in the Bering Sea off the southwest coast of mainland Alaska, have a rich and troubling history. During the 1780s, Russian fur traders forcibly relocated Aleut/Unangâ peoples from the Aleutian Islands (Unalaska and Atka) to the Pribilof Islands to hunt fur seals. Control of the islands was transferred to the United States during the Alaska Purchase of 1867, and descendants of the people who had been enslaved by the Russians became wards of the U.S. government until the 1980s. In the 1950s, a news company was allowed to film Pribilof Aleuts harvesting fur seals, which involves killing the seals with long clubs. This film went viral, resulting in the generation of large amounts of racial hatred which continues today in literature. The Alaska Film Archives at University of Alaska Fairbanks, with funding from the National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF), is preserving the Clarence McMillin film collection, depicting life on the Pribilof Islands just prior to World War II. The home movies were gifted to the archives by the family of Mr. McMillin, who was employed as an agent of the U.S. government to manage the islands and its peoples, and to oversee the fur seal harvest. The films cover activities of the Aleut peoples, as well as government employees and their families. While many scenes seem happy and idyllic, they nevertheless illustrate the stark contrast between the living and working conditions of opposing groups operating within a colonialist framework. The films reveal the rugged beauty of the islands and the resilience and tenacity of the people who lived there. Film archivist Angela Schmidt from the University of Alaska Fairbanks will discuss the films and their preservation. Cultural heritage specialist Dr. Michael Livingston from the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association will give an overview of racism against Aleut/Unangâ people, which may date back to the 13th century when Thomas Aquinas announced that "Native people are... perfect slaves to Europeans." This White supremacy racism displayed itself in 1741 when Europeans wanted to kill Aleut/Unangâ men and kidnap the women. It continued after the U.S. purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867, with the goal of American officials being to "take the red out of the Indian." During World War II, racism against the Aleut/Unangâ came from the east (Japan) and the West (U.S.). Forty-two Aleuts were taken prisoner of war to Japan, and 850 Aleuts were forced by the U.S. military to move to southeast Alaska. Both groups of Aleuts suffered horrible living conditions and high attrition rates. Shortly after World War II, the publication of a film about seal harvesting fomented large amounts of racial hatred against Aleut/Unangâ. This racism continues into the 21st century in anti-Aleut hate literature. Thus, archivists must exercise caution with media such as film to make certain that they are not inadvertently pouring fuel on racism, providing ammunition which can be used against indigenous people who might already be beleaguered by centuries of White supremacy.

Northwest Archivists Annual Meeting May 10-14, 2021

Thursday, May 13, 2021 (Continued)

10:00am-10:15am Break

10:15am-11:15am NWA Annual Business Meeting

11:15am-11:30am Break

11:30am-12:15pm Session Block 8

Session 8.1 A New and Improved Oregon Digital

Presenters:

Chris Petersen

Kate Thornhill

Oregon Digital is a heavily used digital collections repository that was jointly developed by the Oregon State University and University of Oregon Libraries for release in 2014, and that presently provides access to nearly 500,000 digital objects. Since 2018, a large group of developers and managers from both institutions have been working intently to enhance and improve the platform, and an anticipated launch date of Summer 2021 is now in sight. This presentation will provide an overview of the new features that will be available to both users and curators by the new Oregon Digital 2, and will also touch upon the processes and milestones that defined the OD2 project over its three-year life cycle.

Session 8.2 Acclimating to Crisis: Tribal Archives Pivoting Amid COVID

Presenters:

Selena Elizabeth Ortega-Chiolero

Zack Ellis

How does an archive manage scheduled projects amidst a pandemic? Additionally, can an archive pivot these projects during this time in such a way where they can also expand on the scope of their work? This session will share how Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC), not only accepted this challenge but increased their archive's capacity to serve their community. In June 2020, the CVTC's Permanent Collections and Archives located in Southcentral Alaska, was awarded an IMLS Native American/Native Hawaiian Museum Services grant. The grant was intended to support the Tribe's veterans' oral history project, Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax Nahwgholnicde (CNV Military Stories Revealed) which included documenting the indigenous veterans experience of 13 of its Tribal citizens, and providing access to those recordings through the Library of Congress' American Folklife Center's Veterans History Project and CVTC's own online digital database Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax Ugheldze Le Cilaes (Chickaloon Native Village Information We Share). For CVTC, the project was deemed a priority as its main intent was to document the personal narratives of Tribal Elders. In a time where Tribal Nations are at risk of losing Tribal Elders to old age, COVID created an additional risk factor that made documenting their stories and cultural knowledge essential. Due to the COVID public health measures of wearing of masks and social distancing, plus the Tribe's own COVID Operations Plan and health measures of limiting access to Tribal Elders, CVTC's IMLS project was confronted with a new problem. How do you conduct oral history interviews amid COVID restrictions? For CVTC, the answer came in the form of TheirStory, a digital platform designed specifically for remote oral history interviews. Due to its easy use, platform design and additional features, TheirStory not only allowed CVTC to successfully continue its project but also discover how they could use the platform to expand the scope of their work.

3:00pm-5:00pm Not So Fast! Responding to the Proposed Closure and Removal of the National Archives Repository in Seattle

Native American Collections Roundtable Panel on the NARA Seattle Closure moderated by Gena Peone
The National Archives Pacific Northwest branch in Seattle was slated for sale and dispersal in 2020 by a little known federal agency without community input or Tribal consultation. This action prompted a broad coalition of stakeholders to take action to save the archives. This panel will explore the significance of the archives, the events that took place over the past year, and the ongoing issues from tribal perspectives.

Friday, May 14, 2021

9:00am-10:00am Session Block 9

Session 9.1

Sins of Omission:

Addressing the Legacy of the Oregon Historical Society as a Pioneer Memorial Association

Presenters:

Laura Cray

Eliza E. Canty-Jones

Nicole Yasuhara

Erin Brasell

Dana Miller

The Oregon Historical Society's roots stretch deeper than most cultural heritage institutions in the Pacific Northwest. With a history of over 122 years of active collecting, it holds one of the largest archival and museum collections in the region. OHS' legacy of acquisition and description is skewed and narrowed by its origins as a pioneer memorial association. It is incumbent on OHS leadership and staff to confront and address the various expressions of this legacy.

As OHS continues ongoing work to meet the professional standards of cultural heritage institutions in the 21st century, staff must grapple not only with what has been written by past members but more dauntingly with what has not. For many collections, vague, misleading, or entirely absent provenance and descriptions create an active impediment to furthering scholarship on the history of Oregon. Often, the contributions and experiences of the people connected to the collections in our care persist unrecognized. And there are significant gaps in the representation of peoples and events in our collections. Addressing these absences is a slow process that requires careful attention to current scholarship and the expertise of colleagues internal and external to the institution. This ongoing work, informed by radical empathy, anti-racist philosophy, and a dedication to fulfilling our mission is taking place in collections management, digital collections, education, outreach, exhibits, programming, and in the editorial direction of scholarship in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.

Despite recent efforts, OHS' role in the construction of the Oregon story is rightly a source of frustration and lost trust for many Oregon residents who do not see themselves accurately reflected in our state's origin mythology. In October 2020, activists participating in an Indigenous Day of Rage committed vandalism against the OHS building and hung a banner reading "stop honoring racist colonizer murderers." Public support for OHS and condemnation of the vandalism that followed noted the publications and exhibits that tell complex, inclusive stories that undermine pioneer mythology. Nevertheless, OHS struggles to truly fulfill its mission to "preserve our state's history and make it accessible to everyone in ways that advance knowledge and inspire curiosity about all the people, places, and events that have shaped Oregon." Exclusion -- including of people directly related to the materials and belongings in our care -- is literally written into our state's founding documents. In this moderated roundtable, OHS staff will offer a window into our internal conversations and ongoing projects to affect change and address past omissions within our respective areas of responsibility. We will also explore the steps being taken to promote our work and build trust with the Oregonians whose histories we seek to represent.

Friday, May 14, 2021 (Continued)

9:00am-10:00am Session Block 9 (Continued)

Session 9.2 Lightning Talks and Poster Presentations

Archival Outreach: Creating an Access Framework for Collections of Women Filmmakers

Sarah Meidl

The Film Archives in the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections contains many collections of moving images, both analog and digital in form, that provide valuable glimpses into communities of the Pacific Northwest. The collection of filmmakers Doris Chase, Ruth Kirk, and Jean Walkinshaw powerfully document and serve as artifacts of Northwest culture and history. Despite their recognized value, these collections have been underutilized and are relatively unknown to the public.

Hannah Palin, the Moving Image Curator in UW Libraries Special Collections, acquired funding from the Friends of the Library in 2020 in order to bring more attention to these collections through the creation of a podcast series titled *Beyond Scope and Content: Hidden Histories from the Film Archive*. Each episode of the podcast series highlights a different collection and includes interview components and biographical details on the filmmakers. The series also includes an introductory episode meant to orient listeners to the work of a film archive and the acquisition of the collections.

For her University of Washington iSchool Capstone project, Sarah Meidl has worked with Hannah on the *Beyond Scope and Content* project with a particular focus on documenting emerging workflows. Sarah is creating a framework for the project so that, as the series progresses, additional collections can be added to the project. Sarah has also contributed to the captioning and uploading of digitized videos from the collections to correspond with the release of the podcast series. We hope that listeners of the podcast series will be inspired to view these videos after learning about them in an episode of the podcast.

In this presentation, Sarah will share her experience creating the podcast series and how she plans to continue the series to highlight additional collections of women filmmakers. The hope is that these insights will be useful to archivists considering creating podcasts as an outreach tool to highlight other “hidden” collections.

Strengthening Inclusion and Staying Connected through Our Grandparents' Names on the Land Multimedia Interactive Table

Kaila Cogdill

In 2018, Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI), whose mission is to perpetuate and enhance Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska, opened its *Haa Léelk'w Hás Aaní Saax'ú: Our Grandparents' Names on the Land* exhibit. The exhibit features a tabletop multimedia interactive with 3,500 Native place names and historical landscapes displayed on satellite image maps of Southeast Alaska. SHI received an IMLS grant (2019-2021) to expand the table's capacity. The focus of this poster presentation is how archives and collections work can lead to a more inclusive environment by including community members whose histories and stories are being displayed, interpreted, and studied. The interactive table is an example of this work. It highlights the work with tribal Elders who are regarded as the foremost authorities on their histories and are paramount to retaining this cultural knowledge. They provided staff with additional archival resources in the form of cultural knowledge of place names, historic photographs, and videos. The presentation concludes with a discussion about how archivists and museum professionals can foster a professional culture in the context of diversity and inclusion that is innovative, adaptive, and connected to its communities, which are more important in the post-pandemic world.

The Fierce Urgency of Now: Archives Responding in Times of Upheaval

Friday, May 14, 2021 (Continued)

9:00am-10:00am Session Block 9 (Continued)

Session 9.2 Lightning Talks and Poster Presentations (Continued)

What Your Librarian Doesn't Know About Archives: Effective Communication with our Colleagues

Robert Perret

Even when working in the same building and serving on the same committees it can often seem that archivists and librarians are speaking two different languages. It can be frustrating that librarians don't seem to "get" how special collections function and that can lead to a lot of misunderstandings. So, how can you talk about archives and special collections in a way that resonates with the other professionals in your organization? Robert spent 15 years as a reference and instruction librarian before transitioning into special collections and has seen firsthand how both groups function and what commonalities and difference they have that can be built upon. This presentation will explore what archives look like from a librarian perspective, what needs librarians have that archivists can meet, and how to communicate what we need from them.

Remote Outreach and Engagement for an Archival Student Group

Sarah Meidl

Adylenne Ascencio

Challen Wright

TBD

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many changes to professional engagement within the archival community. From remote conferences like this one to online networking events, archivists have looked for connections and community virtually. For our University of Washington student chapter of the Society of American Archivists, we have similarly been faced with the challenge of engaging with each other and with professionals in the archival community due to the constraints of the pandemic. We plan to share some of the successes and challenges we have experienced in our efforts to create outreach events, connecting with both students interested in archives and with professionals in the field.

Prior to the ongoing pandemic, as a student organization, we met frequently via Zoom to plan events, and held some online programming due to many of our members being in the online mode of our MLIS program. Our shift to online programming wasn't too difficult, and it gave us the opportunity to potentially host more events, keep our budget at a minimum, and collaborate with our community with flexible time slots to have well-attended events. Building an online community for our members became one of our first challenges. Since we could not engage with our cohort in-person, we had to create ways to reach out to new/potential members while also maintaining our relationships with existing members. We found that it was important to allow our group to create lasting friendships while also growing their professional skill set. We did this by creating a variety of digital events with varying degrees of professionalism. We added monthly happy hours where people could hang out as friends and a "Lunch and Learn" series where members could watch webinars and engage in thoughtful discussion over food. To provide professional archival experience, we reached out to archivists within the PNW to have panel discussions about current events in archives across different professional environments. As members of the UW-SAA chapter, we hope that the work we established during the pandemic has provided stimulating conversations, community, and professional growth. Even as we look to a future when virtual events will not prove to be our sole means of engagement, we appreciate their value and flexibility in creating community for both online and residential students and creating connections with professionals in the field.

10:00am-10:15am Break

10:15am-11:15am South Sound Repository Tour Reflections

END OF CONFERENCE

The Northwest Archivists, Inc. (NWA) is a regional association of professional archivists, users of archives, and others interested in the preservation and use of archival materials in the Pacific Northwest United States, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

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