

Leaving Home: archivists teaching outside the archives

CLAIRE DU LANEY AND LORI SCHWARTZ

Abstract

Archivists at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Criss Library conducted research to gather and evaluate information about experience and opportunity for librarians and archivists to teach outside their home departments. The initiative for this research came from our own experience preparing to co-teach a new public history course for the history department at our university. Existing literature is comprised of two areas of study. There is significant research about both public history pedagogy and archivists teaching instruction sessions in the archives with primary sources. There are studies about collaborations between teaching faculty and archivists in ideating, creation, and implementing course assignments with specific literacy learning outcomes. However, there is a dearth of information and research about archivists teaching credit-bearing courses outside the library or archives, for example teaching a history course through the history department.

To help fill this gap in the literature, we created a survey, “An exploratory survey of archivists teaching outside the archives,” to gather opinions and preferences about teaching credit-bearing courses as part of, or adjacent to, professional responsibilities in academic libraries and archives. We asked respondents about teaching experience in both public history and library and information science, course development, institutional support, and compensation. We released the survey through professional listservs from March-June 2025. We will present the need for this research, our preliminary results and findings, initial questions answered by the data, and new questions emerging from it.

About the authors:

Claire Du Laney (she/ her) is the Outreach Archivist and Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). She earned her MA in Public History from North Carolina State University in 2018 and her MSLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2019. Her work at UNO includes exhibit creation, archival instruction sessions, grant writing, and research consultations. Claire has published two book chapters on archival research and practice in the classroom, successfully applied for eight grants to support archival projects, and presented at several conferences for state, national, and international organizations. She is an active member of several professional organizations including the American Association for State and Local History, National Council on Public History and the *Journal of New Librarianship*.

In the fall of 2023, she and her colleague Lori Schwartz taught the first Public History class offered at UNO. Their research on archivists teaching credit-bearing courses, and specifically Public History courses, was inspired by their experiences teaching at UNO for the History department.

Lori Schwartz (she/her) is the Hagel and Technical Services Archivist and Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). She earned her MA in Public History and MLIS from the University of South Carolina in 2004.

At UNO, she directs arrangement and description for the department and manages all aspects of the U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel Archives. Lori is an active member, and has served in the leadership, of the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress and the Society of American Archivists Congressional Papers Section. She has also been a member of the federal Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress (congressionally appointed) and the Society of American Archivists Committee on Public Policy. Prior to 2015, Lori was Special Projects Archivist and Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina's South Carolina Political Collections.