

User Centered Conferencing for the Future of the Archival Profession

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Abstract:

User Centered Design simplifies technological engagement by centering the needs of users in a collaborative process of development. The rapid adaptation of information professionals to virtual conferencing has been aided by the feedback of conference attendees and vendors but could be further enhanced by examining the deeper needs of all archival workers. Informed by the 2022 Survey of Conference Attendance Preferences, which investigated in-person, virtual, and hybrid attendance preferences of more than 430 library and archives workers, this presentation highlights needs of diverse archival workers and envisions substantial benefits to the archival profession of broadening access to virtual conferences and other opportunities for professional development.

About the author:

As Associate Dean of Southern Illinois University's Morris Library, *Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm*, PhD, CA, directs the Special Collections Research Center and oversees Records Management and the University Museum and Archives. After earning her doctorate in Linguistics from the University of Georgia, she earned her MLIS from the University of Alabama. She has developed digital and archival collections and exhibits for universities and public libraries across the nation, including the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada, the Digital Library of Georgia, the Center for Oak Ridge Oral History, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Henderson District Public Libraries, the Henderson Historical Society, the General John A. Logan Museum, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. An active member of ALA, SAA, and MAC, she serves on the editorial board of *Archival Issues*. Striving to increase public access to cultural heritage, she pursues education and preservation initiatives in collaboration with diverse institutional and community partners. She is currently working with university and community stakeholders on planning the Center for African American History in Southern Illinois and conducting research to expand access to professional engagement for all library and archives workers.