

Promoting Transformative Encounters in Archives

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Abstract

Transformative Information Encountering (TIE) is a sub-phenomenon of Information Encountering (also known as serendipity) in which an unexpected encounter with information becomes transformative. In my 2023 article in the *Journal of Documentation*, "Promoting Transformative Encounters in Libraries and Archives," I define TIE, deriving its definition from an application of Transformative Education theory to existing understandings of Information Encountering. Since publishing this article, I have conducted 14 interviews with a diverse set of individuals who tell stories of their own transformative experiences with information. In this presentation, I will share my preliminary findings on the potential for archivists to promote transformative experiences through everyday practices.

About the author:

Carli V. Lowe is the University Archivist at San José State University. Her work is focused on studying and developing practices that shift collecting strategies, expand archival audiences, and improve the sustainability of archival institutions, with the goal of ensuring that archives are relevant to present needs and prepared for future challenges. With education as her first profession, Carli saw firsthand the power of information to impact individuals and communities. In 2019, Carli received her MLIS from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, studying as both an ALA Spectrum Scholar and ARL Kaleidoscope Scholar. An early internship at the [Freedom Archives](#) cemented her commitment to using historic documents to amplify marginalized voices. Her recent projects include "[Black Spartans: 1907-1948](#)", "[Promoting Transformative Encounters in Libraries and Archives](#)" in the *Journal of Documentation* (2023), and an entry on "Archival Activism" in the [Handbook of Archival Practice](#) (2021).