

Research Update on “Reappraising Appraising the Records of Modern Science and Technology”: Scientists Speak about “Doing Science”

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Abstract:

At the 2022 Research Forum, the research team presented their initial progress on a research project to reexamine *Appraising the Records of Science and Technology: A Guide*, a foundational text for documenting modern science, written in 1985 by Joan K. Haas, Hellen Willa Samuels, and Barbara Trippel Simmons. At the Forum, the team stated that their purpose for undertaking this research project was to evaluate the ways in which the scientific enterprise has evolved in significant ways since 1985 — including the emergence and evolution of big (digital) data, the open science movement, data management, citizen science, #sciencetwitter and scientific exchange on social media — with an eye towards updating the *Guide* to make it more reflective of twenty-first century science and therefore more relevant to curators and archivists tasked with documenting this important aspect of the human endeavor.

Since last year, the team has made substantial progress on their research. Among their activities in the past year, the team members have refined their gap analysis identifying areas for potential expansion of the *Guide* to reflect twenty-first century science and have also conducted structured interviews with scientists, engineers, and medical professionals at their respective institutions (University of Illinois, JHU/APL, and UCSF) to gain deeper insight into what scientific research looks like in the contemporary era and what records are created in support of that activity. The team will present on new findings as a result of these activities and provide the audience with information about where the research will next lead.

About the author:

Jordon Steele is Archivist at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, where he directs the Lab’s acquisition, management, and delivery of records of enduring value. He is speaking on behalf of his fellow research team, which includes Bethany Genn Anderson, Natural and Applied Sciences Archivist and Assistant Professor at the University Archives at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Polina Ilieva, AUL for Collections at University of California San Francisco.

Bethany Anderson is the Natural and Applied Sciences Archivist and Assistant Professor in the University Archives at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In her research, she draws on anthropology, history of science, archival studies, and feminist theory to explore scientific archives, women and gender in STEM, computational archival science, and oral history. She holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, an AM in Near Eastern Art and Archaeology from the University of Chicago, and a MS in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Bethany serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Comma*, the journal of the International Council on Archives, and as Co-Editor for the Archival Futures Series, which is co-published by the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association

Polina E. Ilieva is an Associate University Librarian for Collections, UCSF Archivist, and an Assistant Professor with the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of California, San Francisco. Polina serves or served as a PI for several collaborative multi-institutional grant projects funded by the Sloan Foundation, National Archives, National Library of Medicine, NEH that support expansion and digitization of holdings related to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, women scientists, and history of health sciences. Polina partners with community health organizations in California on issues related to records' preservation with the goal of creating a more inclusive and equitable historical record. She is the current President of the Librarians, Archivists, and Museum Professionals in the History of the Health Sciences (LAMPHHS) and serves on the board of the Medical Heritage Library. Polina also serves as the UCSF Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Repatriation Point of Contact.