

Staff, Style Guides, Support, and No More Reading Groups: Surveying Current Reparative Work

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Abstract

In January-February 2023, a group of archivists surveyed over 400 of their peers regarding challenges and perceived barriers to undertaking reparative archival work. This survey sought responses from those who are and are not currently undertaking reparative work to ask what sorts of projects they are doing, challenges they are facing, and what barriers they are facing. This platform presentation will provide an overview of the results, including what archivists state they need in order to adopt more reparative practices across the profession. It will address how a diversity of archival repositories across the United States are (and are not) able to engage in this work as well as persistent themes emerging from the survey results. This is particularly salient in light of the political backlash since this survey data was collected against diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, as well as being a call to action for supporting this work. As this was the first survey to assess the state of reparative archival work in the United States, this presentation will provide a unique insight into the urgent needs of practicing archivists in order to advance the profession's core value relating to "[respecting] the diversity found in humanity and advocate for archival collections to reflect that rich complexity."

About the authors

Lexy deGraffenreid (she/her) is the Assistant University Librarian for Special Collections Technical Services at Princeton University Library. She previously worked as first the Processing Archivist and later Head of Collection Services for Penn State University Libraries' special collections library (2019-2023) and as a Staff Archivist for History Factory (2015-2019). She has served on SAA's Accessioning, Acquisitions, & Appraisal Section (Chair Elect/Chair), Membership Committee, Mentoring Subcommittee, and Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Section. She has also served on MARAC's 50th Anniversary Committee, Membership Committee, and Mentoring Subcommittee (Chair).

Megan Mummey (she/her) is the Director for Manuscript Collections at the University of Kentucky Libraries Special Collections Research Center. She administers the manuscripts and audio-visual unit, which includes collection development, acquisition, accessioning, processing, description, and preservation of rare and unique collections. She provides strategic leadership over all aspects of the life cycle of archival materials for manuscripts and audiovisual material. She has served as the Project Manager for multiple grants. She has served on the board of the Kentucky Council on Archives in multiple capacities, including as Chair. Additionally, she is active in the Midwest Archives Conference, serving on the Program Committee for 2023 and as an assistant editor for the MAC newsletter. She is the current Vice-Chair for the Society of American Archivists' Collection Management Section. Prior to joining the SCRC in 2011, she

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