

Creating Wikipedia Pages for Underrepresented Archivists: Project Goals, Outcomes, and Next Steps

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In the Spring of 2019, April Anderson-Zorn and a colleague submitted a grant request to the Society of American Archivists Foundation to create Wikipedia pages for underrepresented archivists. The grant aimed to fill a content gap on the site by including the biographies of female, black, LGBTQi+, and other underrepresented archivists and highlight their accomplishments in the profession. The SAA Foundation funded the grant, and work began that Fall. With some understanding of Wikipedia's well-documented bias in its publishing and editing practices, the grant authors knew there would be difficulty pursuing the project. The graduate student hired to perform the work struggled, experiencing frequent denials and rejections by Wikipedia editors. This presentation will examine the project, difficulties faced, obstacles overcome, and next steps for continuing the work.

About the authors:

April K. Anderson-Zorn is the university archivist for Illinois State University. Anderson-Zorn holds a master's degree in History from the University of Central Florida, an MLIS from Florida State University, maintains a Digital Archives Specialist certificate through the Society of American Archivists, and is a certified archivist. Anderson-Zorn is active in SAA and the Midwest Archives Conference, presenting topics and authoring articles related to university archives outreach projects and tools.

Stephanie Collier graduated from Olivet Nazarene University in 2016 with a degree in Communications and Multimedia before completing her Master's work in History at Illinois State University in 2020. Since 2018, she has worked in archives, research, education, and library settings and is very much looking forward to her next chapter in California.