Show Me Archives and the Community Engagement Legacy of Aurora Davis

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Outline

• History of Archival Education:
  • Guidelines of the 1970s-80s and Aurora E. Davis
  • 1979 emergence of SAA’s affinity groups
  • At Mizzou: integrating archival education in the School of Library and Informational Studies, est. 1966
Archival Education 1930s-70s

- Focused on apprenticeship and training
  - Arrangement
  - Description
  - Reference and Use
- “Workshops, institutes, and adjuncts” (Cox, 1997: Janus)
  - Not enough advocacy and public relations, and appraisal
- But – and this is key – arguably no “wall” between archival researchers and practitioners. (and not much research…)
Aurora Elisa Davis (1947-1998)

- Trained as a historian (MA 1972, U of Miami, FL)
- Left Miami for Missouri to pursue a second master’s degree in library science (MA 1978, Mizzou)
- Course paper written for LS 450 Research
- 75 graduates, Class of 1977

The Development of the Major Commercial Airlines in Dade County, Florida: 1945-1970

*By Aurora E. Davis*

The prosperity of Dade County is built in a large measure around tourism. In fact, tourism is Greater Miami’s largest single source of income, as it contributed, by 1970, over $1 billion dollars a year to the economy of the county.

\*\*This paper is based upon a Master of Arts thesis in history written in 1972 at the University of Miami.

\*\*This designation of “Miami’s big four” is not to be confused with the four largest domestic trunk carriers (American, Eastern, TWA, and United) the so-called “big four.”
Aurora Davis

- Beginning 1978-79, was Instructor in Library Science
- Taught LS 447 Archive Administration (+-LS 327 Preservation and Restoration)
- Infused with gov docs, copyright, news-gathering — and community engagement
1979: SAA affinity groups

- SAA made a number of initiatives to recruit women in the 1970’s
- 1978 introduced PAGs (volunteer, not appointed)
- Ms. Davis: active in the Reference Access and Outreach PAG, created 1981 “Archivists and Copyright Law” bibliography
MU School of Library & Informational Science (1966-1996)

- SLIS began with library skills courses in 1912, dept in 1950
- Inaugural Dean Ralph Parker known for automation work
- Dean Edward Miller (1974-84) elevated Ms. Davis’ Archive Administration teaching
- Dean Mary Lenox (1984-96)
Future Work

- Hidden Figures in the history of archival education
- More research on course syllabi, skills transferability, GPAS integration
- Evolution of archival science in iSchools and LIS programs