

Inclusive Histories Project: An Analysis of Georgia Archives

CHAUN CAMPOS

This multi-phase, mixed-method research project was inspired by the RepoData Project, conducted by archivists Ben Goldman, Eira Tansey, and Whitney Ray. This presentation centers on the first phase of the Inclusive Histories Project, which focuses on Georgia's digital collections.

This project was designed to better understand limitations to accessibility in digital collections that contained content relating to marginalized communities. This work stems from a problem I experienced very often in my daily life as a student, community member, and now as a researcher—a lack of genuinely accessible and inclusive digital content that relates to members of marginalized communities.

Increased efforts have been made within the library and information science profession to encourage institutions to develop more accessible, inclusive, and diverse collections. In response, archival institutions within the United States aspired to or created digital collections that focused on underrepresented communities' stories. Still, these collections are frequently inaccessible to the very people they represent due to a lack of knowledge, funding, or, sadly, time to ensure that accessibility good practices are adhered to in digitizing and promoting the use of archival collections. My goal is to compare and evaluate the accessibility and discoverability of digital collections using the recommended accessibility practices prescribed by the American Library Association, Americans with Disabilities Act, and other accessibility guidelines commonly recommended to or required of information centers in the United States. This study is a part of a larger research project that will determine what aspects of digital collection creation, publication, and use promote and inhibit accessibility, discoverability, and user interaction with digitized archival collections.

About the author:

Chaun Campos is a Library Technical Assistant at Georgia State University. Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia (and its surrounding neighborhoods), she served in the United States Army for six years and received her B. A in Anthropology from Augusta University and her MLIS from Valdosta State University. As a lover of the arts and material culture, Chaun exhibited and created art in the city of Augusta for three years before pursuing her goals in the field of information science in 2018. Currently residing in Georgia, Chaun has presented on topics ranging from technical photography techniques in archives to applying SMART goal methodology to GLAM equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts and has recently been included in the anthology, *LIS Interrupted: Intersections of Mental Illness and Library Work*. Information about this publication can be found here: <https://litwinbooks.com/books/lis-interrupted/>