

Providing Access to Community Archives Within Government Archives

PATRICIA GALLOWAY

Abstract:

Since 2010 I have been part of the Central State Hospital Digital Archives & Library Project to digitize psychiatric records from the first state hospital designed for African-Americans, founded in 1870 in Virginia at the instance of the Freedman's Bureau. The records have been digitized and we are now working on a set of tools for lawful access, including one that can be used for automated redaction to protect sensitive data and suit the needs of different stakeholder groups. For archives, I used a Qualtrics questionnaire to gather data from state archives about their preferences. We achieved a relatively good spread across the US, with responses from 18 states; plus 3 from publicly available information.

We were especially concerned about the treatment of communities that have grown up around psychiatric hospitals. Discussions about community archives have made it clear that communities are very much interested in being treated fairly with reference to records kept by others about them and held by archives, while historians and medical researchers have different concerns. According to HIPAA, medical records can be opened after at least 50 years, or longer if the state requires it. We decided to ask especially about whether archives would even be interested in redaction for this application, which might make it possible to limit access to specific stakeholders, and found our respondents nearly unanimous. The proposed presentation will address this issue and the details of our findings.

About the Author:

Patricia Galloway joined the University of Texas at Austin School of Information's archival program, where she is now Professor, in 2000. She teaches courses in digital archives, archival appraisal, and historical museums. From 1979 to 2000 she worked at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, where she was an editor, historian, museum exhibit developer, and manager of archival information systems, and from 1997 to 2000 directed an NHPRC-funded project to create an electronic records program for Mississippi. Her academic qualifications include a BA in French from Millsaps College (1966); MA (1968) and PhD (1973) in Comparative Literature and PhD in Anthropology (2004), all from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was an archaeologist in Europe in the 1970s and supported what was then called humanities computing in the University of London 1977-79. She served on the Society of American Archivists Continuing Education and Professional Development committee 2005-2009, when the groundwork was prepared for SAA's current Digital Archives Specialist certificate program, and has served on the Executive Board of the Society of Southwest Archivists. Her recent publications include a book of essays, *Practicing Ethnohistory*; an article on "Digital Archiving" in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*, articles on "Intrinsic Value" and "Principle of Respect for Original Order" in the new *Encyclopedia of Archival Science*; and articles in *American Archivist*, *Archivaria*, *D-Lib*, *Library Trends*, *Information and Culture*, *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, and *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*.

