

# Defining High and Mid-Level Competencies for Audiovisual Archiving Education and Professional Development

**DR. KAREN F. GRACY**

**Abstract:** Archives that hold audiovisual materials are at a critical point, with many cultural heritage institutions needing to take immediate action to safeguard at-risk media formats before the content they contain is lost forever. Yet, many in the cultural heritage communities do not have sufficient education and training in how to handle the special needs that AV archive materials present. Concerned archive educators, practitioners, and students have formed a research partnership, the AV Competency Framework Working Group, to help foster “educational opportunities in audiovisual archiving for those engaged in the cultural heritage sector.” This Group’s primary goal is to develop a set of competencies for audiovisual archive training of students in graduate level education programs and professionals in continuing education settings.

As part of this larger research agenda relating to AV archiving competency development, Gracy recently analyzed several sets of data using content analysis methods to generate high-level and mid-level competencies. To determine relevant high-level competencies, she examined thirteen competency sets and educational guidelines from various professional associations to determine their relevance to the audiovisual archiving field. For middle-level competencies, she analyzed several data sets, including program and course descriptions from four graduate programs in audiovisual archiving, two decades of conference programs (including session abstracts) from the Association of Moving Image Archivists, as well as key texts used as course materials in audiovisual archiving courses.

Gracy will present initial results from these analyses and will also explore how her results will be combined with results generated from research of other Working Group members on competencies found in syllabi and employment advertisements. She will conclude by outlining future work to build, test, and refine competencies using interviews, focus groups, and other protocols.

## **About the Author:**

*Dr. Karen F. Gracy* is an associate professor in the School of Information at Kent State University. She possesses an MLIS and PhD in Library and Information Science from the University of California, Los Angeles and an MA in critical studies of Film and Television from UCLA. She is co-editor-in-chief of *Preservation, Digital Technology and Culture*, and recently edited *Emerging Trends in Archival Science*, a collection of research presented by scholars at the 2016 AERI conference held at Kent State. Dr. Gracy’s scholarly interests are found within the domain of cultural heritage stewardship. She is currently investigating the importance of

psychomotor skills development in the education of audiovisual archivists as part of a larger research project to develop competencies for the AV archiving field. She recently published “Holistic Competency Development and the Significance of Learning Domains in Audiovisual Archiving Education,” which appeared in a Fall 2018 special issue of *Education for Information* on nontextual pedagogies in information studies.