

Diversifying the Historical Record through Digitization: Insights and Recommendations from the Assessment of the Digitizing Hidden Collections Grant Program

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This poster summarizes research and findings about a recent assessment of the Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant program (DHC). In 2021, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) significantly revised its Digitizing Hidden Special Collections and Archives program into “Amplifying Unheard Voices” (AUV), with a new focus of the grant program that aimed to diversify the applicant pool to encourage less frequent grant-seeking organizations and aimed to move focus toward digitizing materials that document underrepresented groups. As part of this program change, we gathered input from AUV stakeholders through surveys and interviews, including potential applicants, applicants, recipients, reviewers, and program staff. We present an overview of the assessment and offer findings including strategies for grant seekers, interpreting proposal feedback, and a snapshot of how the AUV program serves community-based archival projects.

About the authors:

Jesse Johnston is a consultant and researcher who has recently led the project to assess the Council on Library and Information Resources' Amplifying Unheard Voices grant program. In the fall of 2022, Jesse will join the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Information and teach archives and digital curation courses. He previously served as a senior librarian for digital content at the Library of Congress, senior program officer for preservation and access at the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland iSchool and George Mason University.

Ricardo Punzalan is an associate professor in the University of Michigan School of Information. His research and teaching focuses on archives and digital curation. He conducts community-based, participatory research to understand access to digitized anthropological archives and ethnographic legacy data by academic and community users. He currently codirects ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan, a project that develops the framework for, and the practice of, reparative work for Philippine collections acquired by the university during the US colonial period. His work has been published in *American Archivist*, *Archival Science*, *Archivaria*, *International Journal of Digital Curation*, and *Library Quarterly*.