

Beyond the Las Vegas Strip: Assessing Archival Diversity at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Abstract:

In 2020, a global pandemic and numerous acts of violence across the United States highlighted the persistence of racism and white supremacy in all areas of American life - including in the archival record. To that end, staff at UNLV Libraries Special Collections and Archives (UNLV SCA) asked themselves: if our goal is to protect and preserve stories outside the traditional narrative (white, cisgender, heteronormative, etc.), then how do we know if we are making objective progress towards that goal? In 2020, staff began conducting an internal audit of collection data in order to find the answer. They explored different methods of internally assessing how diverse, equitable, and inclusive the collection descriptions, grant projects, and special programs are at UNLV SCA. This poster will outline the methods used to conduct the internal audit and present findings from data analysis conducted in the following areas: descriptive metadata practice; strategic plans and acquisitions; special projects, exhibits, and events. In addition to highlighting major findings, this poster will also present future steps and further areas of potential research.

About the authors:

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