

Designing the Future of Archival Discovery and Delivery: The Lighting the Way Forum

MARK A. MATIENZO, HILLEL ARNOLD, DINAH HANDEL, JOSH SCHNEIDER, and CAMILLE VILLA

Abstract: Lighting the Way: A National Forum on Archival Discovery and Delivery was a national meeting of 70 archives, library, and technology workers held at Stanford University in February 2020. As a part of a project funded by IMLS, the Forum provided an inclusive, practitioner-focused environment for information sharing and collaboration around improving archival discovery and delivery (how people and systems like software, standards, workflows, and forms support finding, accessing, and using material from archives and special collections). The Forum relied on both plenary presentations, and activities drawn from human centered design methodologies and anti-oppressive facilitation frameworks, to address three primary goals: to have participants see, map, and build connections between one another, their work, the systems they rely on, and the communities they serve; to identify and organize around shared opportunities and challenges; and to provide a platform for critical engagement with the project. The Forum was designed recognizing that expertise in archival discovery and delivery work is spread across roles and staff classifications, and that certain participants are often excluded from such conversations. Through the activities, practitioners explored how to surface highly collaborative but often invisible work, how to recognize where they have power, and how to identify concrete actions they can take to help achieve an ethical, equitable, sustainable, and well-integrated future for archival discovery and delivery. Ongoing project activities include a future working meeting to develop a statement of principles for archival discovery and delivery, and written contributions from participants including case studies and position papers.

About the authors:

Mark A. Matienzo is the Assistant Director for Digital Strategy and Access for Stanford University Libraries, managing a team of engineers and designers and a portfolio of services and applications supporting digital library discovery, access, and delivery. Mark currently serves as the Project Director of the Lighting the Way project, an IMLS-funded effort to hold sector-wide conversations on improving archival discovery and delivery, and is co-chair of the International Image Interoperability Framework's Archives Community Group. Prior to joining Stanford, Mark worked as an archivist, technologist, and strategist specializing in born-digital materials and metadata management, at institutions including the Digital Public Library of America, Yale University Library, The New York Public Library, and the American Institute of Physics, and on projects including Hyku, ArchivesSpace, and AIMS (Born Digital Collections: An Inter-Institutional Model for Stewardship). Mark received an MSI from the University of Michigan School of Information and a BA in Philosophy from the College of Wooster, and was the 2012 recipient of the Mark A. Greene Emerging Leader Award from the Society of American Archivists.

Hillel Arnold leads the Rockefeller Archive Center's Digital Strategies Team, which leads the ethical application of technology in all aspects of the RAC's work by connecting people to systems and expertise. He is also a former co-chair of SAA's Technical Subcommittee on Describing Archives: A Content Standard, and in the past has been a member of the Annual Meeting Task Force and co-chair of the Encoded Archival Description Roundtable. Previously, Hillel was a Project Archivist at NYU's Tamiment Library/Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives; Digital Projects Manager for the Foundation for Landscape Studies; and Archives Assistant at the Woody Guthrie Archives. He holds an MA in History from New York University and an MLIS from the Long Island University's Palmer School.

Dinah Handel is the Digitization Services Manager at Stanford University, where she works across their digitization labs to provide quality services to Stanford University patrons and the community at large. Previously, she was the Mass Digitization Coordinator at the New York Public Library, and was a member of the 2015-2016 NDSR-NY cohort, as a resident at CUNY TV. She has also worked on community archives projects in New York and San Francisco. She holds an MLIS from Pratt Institute in New York, and a BA from Hampshire College.

Josh Schneider is University Archivist at Stanford University, where he partners with community members to collect, preserve, and make accessible Stanford administrative records, faculty papers, and materials documenting campus and student life. His case study on appraisal of electronic records appeared in a recent volume of the Society of American Archivists' Trends in Archival Practice series. Josh currently serves on the editorial board of *The American Archivist*, and previously served on the editorial boards of *Journal of Western Archives*, and the blog of SAA's Electronic Records Section (*BloggERS!*). He previously served as Community Manager for ePADD, open source software that uses named entity recognition to support the appraisal, processing, discovery, and delivery of email archives. He received an MLIS from Simmons College and a BA in Philosophy from Brown University.

Camille Villa is a Digital Library Software Engineer at Stanford University Libraries, where she works on rich applications for discovery and access of both physical and digital library materials. She contributes to open source software in the Blacklight, ArcLight, Spotlight, International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), and Mirador communities. She also serves as a project analyst on the IMLS-funded Lighting the Way project, a national forum on improving discovery and delivery for archives and special collections. Before joining Stanford, she supported digital humanities research at University of California Berkeley, where she received her BA in History.