

# Sharing More Than Space: The Outcomes of Merging Museum and Archival Practices at Seton Hall University

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**Abstract:** This case study describes the convergence of museum and archival practices taking place at the Msgr. William Noé Field Archives & Special Collections Center of Seton Hall University Libraries to manage complex archival collections comprising traditional archival material, art, and artifacts. As a shared repository for the University Archives, the University Gallery, and the Archdiocese of Newark employing a staff of professional archivists and collections managers, it was necessary to find ways to bridge gaps in collections management practices and professional terminology and to synthesize museum and archival theory and standards in order to facilitate the best possible stewardship over a unique and complex body of cultural heritage. Documented in this case study are the steps taken by the Archives & Special Collections Center to redefine policies, practices, and roles in an effort to create a functional hybrid repository where staff members are cross-trained and possess a deep understanding and appreciation of both archival and museum theory, standards, and best practices. Not only does this case study provide a model for the successful convergence of museum and archival practices within a single institution, but it also brings to light significant gaps in archival theory and education.

## About the Author:

*Amanda Mita* holds a Master of Science in Information and Library Science with a specialization in Archival Studies from Drexel University and a Master of Public Administration with a specialization in Nonprofit Management from Seton Hall University. She currently serves as the Archives & Special Collections Technical Services Head and faculty member at Seton Hall University Libraries in South Orange, New Jersey. Her research interests include the convergence of archival and museum education, digital humanities for public history and cultural heritage, and critical thinking in higher education.