Society of American Archivists
Public Library Archives and Special Collections section

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

What's going on in PLASC?

Newsletter

We're excited to launch our first newsletter this month! We will be accepting submissions for future issues and will send out a call for submissions through the discussion board as well as our social media. Our newsletter will be composed of PLASC-related activities, stories about public library archives, and resources for public library archives. We want to hear from you!

Submissions can be sent to PubLibArchives@gmail.com and must meet submission guidelines.

Social Media

If you haven't followed us on Twitter yet, please do! Follow us @PubLibArchives for updates!

Here are some of our most "loved" tweets:

SAA Austin 2019

Are you attending #SAA19 in Austin? Be sure to attend our section meeting on **Saturday, August 3 from 1:45 - 3:00 pm**. The section meeting will highlight community-focused projects by public library archives and special collections.

Presentations will include:

"Class visits to the archives - developing a model we can duplicate"
Abby Hoverstock, Denver Public Library, Western History and Genealogy Department

"Translating archival jargon for a public audience"
Lisa Warwick, DC Public Library, Special Collections

"Community Archiving Workshop, a project of the Association of Moving Image Archivists"
Sandra Yates, Texas Medical Center Library

Section leadership will also present updates on work over this past year, focused on section outreach and advocacy. Add it to your schedule by clicking on this link.

Looking for public library and local history-focused conference sessions at #SAA19?

Look no further! Here's a handy schedule of sessions curated by your PLASC leadership team. #SAAleftbehind? Check out live-streaming options ($99 members / $150 non-members).

News & Updates

Your New PLASC Leadership Team!

Welcome to our incoming members, Vice-Chair Derek Mosley, Secretary Dylan Gaffney, and At-Large Member Johanna Russ! Here is the updated roster for the 2019-2020 term.

- Chair - Angela Stanley, Georgia HomePLACE, Georgia Public Library Service
- Vice-Chair - Derek Mosley, Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History, Atlanta Fulton County Library System
- Secretary - Dylan Gaffney, Forbes Library
- At-Large - Johanna Russ, Chicago Public Library
- At-Large - Heather Lanctot, Yolo County Archives, Yolo County Library
- At-Large - Patricia Delara, Daly City Public Library
- SAA Council Liaison - Petrina Jackson, Syracuse University Libraries

Memory Lab Network

Apply by August 16 to join the DCPL Memory Lab Network's 2nd cohort. Public libraries are invited to apply to receive training, mentoring and financial support for the creation of digitization stations and curricula to build personal digital archiving knowledge and skills in your community.

Advocating for Your Collections

In response to requests expressed in our recent survey of membership, PLASC is building a public library archivists' advocacy toolkit. Available now is a step-by-step guide to giving an effective elevator speech (modeled on SAA's Crafting Your Elevator Speech), as well as free bookmarks that include useful resources for preserving digital memories, family papers, and oral histories. Advocacy toolkit documents can be adapted and shared widely under a CC BY-SA 4.0 licence.

These are just the first of several advocacy resources to come, so stay tuned for more additions to the toolkit!

F-R-E-E Access to SAA Listservs

#ProTip: Did you Know? You don't have to be a member of SAA to join the discussion lists! Joining the lists for free will take you about ten minutes and little know-how. Check our this easy guide for details.

SAA Society of American Archivists
Public Library Archives / Special Collections Section

The Public Library Archives and Special Collections Section of the Society of American Archivists serves to encourage advocacy for and education about archival, manuscript, local history, genealogy, and other historic and special collections within public libraries of all sizes. To learn more about PLASC, or to get involved, please visit our website.

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A public library archivists' guide to

CRAFTING AN ELEVATOR SPEECH

Advocate for your library's archives and special collections by being prepared with a clear and engaging elevator speech. Use the steps below as a guide to building your personalized pitch.

1

Archives and special collections are:

- Records of enduring value that may include ...
- Records of the human experience that may include ...

letters, photographs, sound recordings, books, maps, newspapers, and, increasingly, digital records.

2

Archivists are the professionals who:

- are experts in managing archives and special collections
- focus on collections found in universities, businesses, governments, historical societies, and **public libraries**

3

... In order to:

- move toward a more complete historical record
- explore and learn from the past
- understand our past and learn from it

4

... So that:

We can understand and appreciate our unique local history and culture by engaging with collections and public programs.

5

At your public library, you can:

- Explore and **archives and special collections, including genealogy and local history materials.**
- Find a place where record-keeping, history, and memory **strengthen our communities**.

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