**Meeting of Privacy and Confidentiality Section, July 26, 2017**

*Joint Meeting with Acquisition and Appraisal Section*

Acquistion and Appraisal business

Began by announcing members. Acq and App has a survey, and also a best practices committee. Encourage new people to join. New bibliography on acquisition and appraisal. Looking for feedback. Intern discussed social media activities. Announced newly elected members.

Privacy & Confidentiality business

Jeremy remarked about the benefits of this joint session and hopes for future partnerships across sections. Also spoke about the importance of protecting privacy and the challenges of this in the present political climate. New microsite for information and bibliography on privacy issues. Announced newly elected officers and acknowledged outgoing officers. Passing of lock and key to Heather.

Incoming Chair – Heather Oswald

Incoming Vice-Chair – Daniel McCormack

Steering Committee – Katie Duvall

Lydia Tang

Nicholas Wojcik

Courtney Chartier, Council Liaison, reported on council meeting. If TX passes bathroom ban, meeting will not be held in Austin in 2019. New Independent Archivists section. Membership survey discussion. Council will be using info to do strategic planning. Revised procedures for funding requests. 2 new principles documents (from ICA)

Julie Graham, chair of Committee on Ethics and Professional conduct asked for archival case studies to be submitted via SAA website.

Speakers

Dalila Mujagic of witness.org

Witness.org founded by Peter Gabriel. Trains people to use video to document human rights violations. Focusing on police violence in Brazil and the US. There is 300 hours of footage uploaded to YouTube every minute. A lot of videos get “remixed” and divorced from context/accurate metadata.

Challenges to get the story out but protect individuals.

Providencia Favela, Brazil, September 2015. Crime scene staged by police, framing teenager. A woman shot the footage of what happened out of her window. She might have been at risk for doing that filming. Witness reached out to her and her family to protect them.

Challenge: informed consent—to a limit. Do people understand what the risks are now and in the future.

A War Crimes Trial (and weed): war criminal in the DRC (Congo) for using child soldiers. Witness uses a checklist: partner with local orgs, informed consent (ensuring understanding), advocacy plan, documentary feature, follow up after video footage was released. Interview with former child soldier said he was glad this footage was out there, but because he was filmed smoking marijuana in this footage, he was isolated from his community. Example of how there are issues that might not be apparent from the outset.

Witness offers guides to protecting identity (silhouette, film hands only, blur in edit). However, certain things (tattoos, scars) can identify people among a community. Also need to think about reflective surfaces in the background. Snapchat can help survivors conceal identity, using filters. However, they are not 100% reliable and voices are still recognizable.

How to train people and conduct organization risk assessments. In a catalog record, a child bride broker’s name was listed by an intern. This could have put him at risk of violence. Emphasizes need for onboarding across staff, because risks remain.

Takeaways:

* Public archives are popular and *public*—require more scrutiny that other kinds of archives.
* Interns/fellows/volunteers are a link in the security chain
* Follow ups are not bothersome—they save lives
* Always re-evaluate. Yearly basis is good.

Rachel Mattson: Audiovisual Documentation of Police and Policing: Appraisal, Access, Privacy

XFR Collective

Footage of policing has always existed, but smaller cameras, ubiquity of cell phones, and body cameras increases the number of such recordings.

Archivists need to think about how they should handle such footage in their institutions. Do the recordings pose risks to individuals? Are there technical and storage resources available?

Especially vulnerable populations require special consideration: people of color, transgender and gender non-conforming, prisoners and formerly incarcerated, Muslims, undocumented immigrants, the homeless, sex workers, street vendors, mentally ill people, people suffering from an addiction.

Some challenging examples:

* Police body worn camera footage: there are numerous questions to grapple with. Example of footage from Baltimore dating from January 2017, in which it seemed to implicate police in improper behavior, and released by public defender’s office. Imagine an institution wanted to collect this footage: what privacy protections should be put into place? There are black dots put over the faces of people the police approach, but it is imperfect (faces show). The police officer’s faces are visible. Cannot rely on police agencies to observe policies on privacy or even have policies on privacy (see bwcscorecard.org)
* Mid-20th century police surveillance footage: recent “discovery” of half million index cards of police surveillance (NYPD’s Handschu Files). Also contains some film, poorly labeled. Provides historical documentation on a number of activist groups—how to provide access for research but protect privacy.
* Citizen video documenting the policing of protests
* Documentary footage: “The Day after Diallo”: material shot by documentary filmmakers. Archive.org/details/WITNESS\_B00015. When made in 2000, people who consented to be included were not aware of how ubiquitous the internet would become. Went back to secure permission from people before digitizing.
* Born digital oral histories: People’s Archive of Police Violence in Cleveland (www.archivingpolice violence.org). Concern about privacy was paramount. Concern about defamation lawsuits, targeting of individuals, etc. Used consent form and sometimes did not use names of interviewees.

We shouldn’t accept material if we cannot do the work required to protect privacy of individuals. However, often documentation can also be very valuable for historical research.

SAA is considering an issue brief on Police Mobile Camera Footage as a Public Record. Will be discussed by Council. Also blog posts about body worn cameras on the SAA Issues and Advocacy blog.