

Are Academic Archives Championing EDI Initiatives in Digital Collections Metadata Practices?

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Abstract: Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) initiatives for libraries and archives are becoming commonplace as a strategy to address bias, racism, discrimination, oppression, and privilege in the historic record and improve discovery and access to rare and unique materials. SAA's Statement on Diversity and Inclusion and Core Values of Archivists reflect the importance of these initiatives. This poster covers an in-progress quantitative research study that examines academic libraries' application of EDI in digital collections metadata practices. The study will evaluate practices that are aimed at creating equitable, diverse, and inclusive metadata, and measure the impact of institutional policies (library or university) on those practices. The researcher will conduct a survey of academic libraries to gauge the variation of EDI metadata practices for digital collections and whether they are influenced by institutional policies. This research will fill a gap in the literature in which an exhaustive list of EDI metadata practices have not been quantified, and the impact of institutional policies on those practices has not been analyzed. The goal is to present a clearer path for how archivists can engage their digital collections metadata with EDI practices and institutional policies, and whether these approaches are successful. This, in turn, will promote data-informed metadata decisions to move toward more equitable and inclusive digital collections for all. As digital collections audiences grow in diversity, so, too, must the metadata practices that drive those collections' discovery, access, and use.

About the Author:

Jessica Serrao is the Metadata Librarian for Digital Collections at Clemson University. She creates, enriches, normalizes, and maintains metadata for digitized historic materials of the Libraries' Special Collections and Archives. She also develops and implements metadata standards and policies to ensure practices adhere to local and national standards. Jessica holds an MSLS from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Concentration in Archives and Records Management and Certificate in Digital Curation, an MA in Public History from North Carolina State University, and a BA in Anthropology from Binghamton University.