

Teaching with Primary Sources: Building Resources for Success

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Abstract:

Temple University Libraries' Special Collections Research Center has steadily increased its instruction over the last several years, offering over 70 instruction sessions in the 2016-17 school year, with a commitment to effective archives-based learning that enhances student learning, engagement, and performance. For 2016-17, we added to staff a resident librarian with education and experience as a school library media specialist who did a capstone project adapting standard educational pedagogical models to primary source literacy in order to expand the existing instructional program at SCRC. This enabled us to build a coherent set of resources quickly and move forward exponentially with our primary source literacy content. The resources included extensive literature searches and a reading group, and work with SCRC staff to create a tool kit containing instructional modules for planning, design, delivery, and assessment; definitions; scripts; a bibliography; and next steps. Building foundational materials and documentation positions SCRC to continue to grow our instruction program and use the specialized instruction space in our new building (2019) effectively. The process and resulting products may benefit other archives wanting to jump start their instruction programs.

About the Author:

Margery N. Sly is Director of Special Collections, Temple University Libraries, Philadelphia, PA. The Special Collections Research Center holds the Urban Archives, the Philadelphia Jewish Archives, the University Archives, Philadelphia Dance Collections, Contemporary Culture Collections, other special collections including artists' books, and rare books. Before joining Temple in 2010, she was Deputy Director of the national archives of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), College Archivist at Smith College, a member of the library faculty at Clemson University, and served on the staff of the Western Historical Manuscript Collections at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Margery holds a BA in History and German Literature from Dickinson College and a MA in history and a MS in library science with an archival administration emphasis from Case Western Reserve University. She is an SAA Fellow.