

RBMS 2021 Virtual Conference Schedule

Power. Resistance. Leadership.

RBMS Pre-Conference Social, Hosted by Membership & Professional Development Cmte.

Time: 6/7/2021 2:00:00 PM - 6/7/2021 2:50:00 PM

Format: Social

Please join your fellow RBMS members for an informal, preconference social hour prior to Conference Orientation, sponsored by the RBMS Membership & Professional Development Committee (M & PD)! The social will take place using wonder.me, a platform (outside this platform) that uses peer-to-peer technology allowing attendees to move an avatar around a virtual "room" and start video chats with each other based on avatar proximity.

RBMS Conference Orientation

Time: 6/7/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/7/2021 4:00:00 PM

Format: Social

Sponsored by Liber Antiquus, Early Printed Books & Manuscripts -

This session is highly recommended for first-time attendees and is also a nice refresher for past participants. You will learn about the history and structure of RBMS, hear pointers about how to navigate the conference, and find out how to get involved in the organization.

Booksellers' Showcase

Time: 6/8/2021 10:00:00 AM - 6/8/2021 5:00:00 PM

Format: Social

Open continuously 10:00 a.m. Central on Tuesday through Thursday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m. Central -

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America (ABAA) is presenting a Booksellers' Showcase throughout the conference. Checkout the event in the Showcase tab and enjoy meeting booksellers and browsing books and other materials on display. It's easier than ever to check out all the incredible incunabula!

Opening Plenary: Power, Resistance, and Leadership in our Profession

Time: 6/8/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/8/2021 12:15:00 PM

Format: Plenary

Sponsored by Lux Mentis, Booksellers -

Join leading practitioners in the rare books and archives field for part one of this two part plenary series. Drawing from their own careers, research, and life experiences, the speakers will share key insights on power, resistance, and leadership in our profession; engage in thought-provoking and a stimulating conversation; and leave the audience with framing thoughts and questions for the conference ahead.

Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab American Book Prices Current Exhibition Catalogue Awards

Time: 6/8/2021 12:20:00 PM - 6/8/2021 12:28:00 PM

Format: Social

These awards are given annually in recognition of excellence in the publication of catalogues and brochures that accompany exhibitions of library and archival materials, as well as for electronic exhibitions of such materials. They are administered by the Exhibition Awards Committee of the ALA/ACRL Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), whose operating expenses are covered by a generous endowment from Katharine Kyes Leab and Daniel J. Leab, editors of American Book Prices Current.

My Favorite Mistake: Technical Services Edition

Time: 6/8/2021 12:30:00 PM - 6/8/2021 1:30:00 PM

Format: People's Choice

*Due to the nature of this presentation, this session will NOT be recorded.

Under the guiding principle that we can learn as much (if not more) from our failures as our successes, this participant-driven session gathers special collections technical services librarians from various stages in their careers to give brief lightning talks on an elucidating error from their career. Presenters will explain how strategy, tragedy, luck, exasperation, effort, colleagues and collaboration enabled them to recover from or survive the outcomes of their mistake.

Modeled after a similar session at SAA 2018, this panel aims to normalize the inevitability of and recognize the resulting value inherent in the mistakes we make throughout our professional careers, rather than focusing exclusively on highly successful, completed projects. This is particularly relevant given the session's technical services focus, where a culture of perfection is somewhat prevalent.

After the presentations, there will be a brief Q&A session, then participants will break into discussion groups to discuss their own elucidating mistakes.

Organizing for Power

Time: 6/8/2021 12:30:00 PM - 6/8/2021 1:30:00 PM

Format: Seminars

Making change in an organization requires building the power necessary to get a seat at the table. The first step is understanding the power we have and the power we don't, the power we need and how to build it. Labor organizing principles and practices are one way forward. But what do those practices look like when everything changes overnight due to a global pandemic? Whether we need to advocate for the PPE necessary for a safe return to onsite services or need to keep our space closed entirely, we can't do it alone. Achieving shared demands relies on the thick connections we build through organizing with each other, working through inevitable setbacks, and scoring wins. In this seminar we'll discuss the structural antagonism that pits workers against managers, develop a shared analysis of power, and gain practice in using that power to get things done. This won't be a "burn-it-down" discourse; we will focus on the possibilities for power and not just the problems we face, and we will strive to impart achievable strategies to bring back to your organization.

Stories from the Margins: Inspiring Social Justice Activism and Empowerment within Marginalized Communities through Exhibits and Programming

Time: 6/8/2021 12:30:00 PM - 6/8/2021 1:30:00 PM

Format: Panel

Sponsored by Bromer Booksellers, Inc. -

In this session, panelists from three institutions will discuss their efforts to inspire and empower marginalized communities to engage in social justice activism through exhibits, programming, and storytelling.

#1: "Out of the Closets and into the Archives! Empowering Queer Activism and Community through Archival Exhibits and Programming." LGBTQ+ archives, although few and far between, are the keepers of their communities' stories. By sharing these stories through exhibits and programming, these community archives have the potential to educate and empower LGBTQ+ patrons to become engaged citizen activists through interaction with traditional and non-traditional primary sources. In this session, volunteer exhibit curators from the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, the largest LGBTQ+ archive serving the Midwest, will discuss their experiences producing community-led exhibits and accompanying programs that have energized local LGBTQ+ communities and helped to establish the library as a catalyst for social justice activism. From drag shows to zine making workshops to a queer punk rock show and more, presenters will share examples of non-traditional, community-inspired library programming and how these and the exhibits they accompany have led to empowered citizenry, increased outside partnerships, and strengthened the library's presence in the community.

#2: "Zine Scene: Engaging Students in Power and Resistance Narratives Through Zines." Zines, from Punk and the Riot Grrrls to contemporary zines created by people of color and the LGBTQ+ community, are inherently intertwined with social action and countercultures seeking to subvert and resist authority. This session will begin by examining the history of zines and how the spirit driving their creation makes them an excellent tool for teaching and engaging students with social justice issues. Then, it will detail how the Arts and Humanities Librarian at an academic university has collaborated with faculty and other campus departments to facilitate dialogues about social justice, activism, power, and resistance on campus through zine workshops, held both in and outside the classroom, where students interact with zines from the Art and Architecture Library's newly established zine archive as well as create their own zines dedicated to social justice issues. Finally, this presentation will provide practical advice and best practices for those interested in starting social justice zine workshops at their own institutions.

#3: "Curating Community: Active Collaboration & Storytelling." Two of the University of California Irvine's Special Collections' most recent exhibits, "Queering the Orange" and "We Are The Witches You Couldn't Burn," have gained notable media coverage and a positive response from the local communities they represent. The exhibits have gone on to be repurposed for local conferences, outreach events in their respective communities, and community led curatorial tours. Refocusing the exhibits program away from simply highlighting collection strengths to an active collaboration tool and meta-storytelling device has been critical in developing opportunities for engaging with marginalized communities on campus and beyond. This session will provide an overview (and framework) of how UCI Special Collections is leveraging their exhibits program to catalyze community interest and representation in the archive by making the exhibit about more than just the material, and instead focusing on the curators who have been empowered to tell their own stories via practical skills in curation, collection development, and media partnerships.

Active Learning for Paleography Instruction in Special Collections and Beyond

Time: 6/8/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/8/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: Seminars

Sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America -

Whether needed to decipher a 16th-century letter, marginalia in an early printed book, or the address on a 20th-century envelope, the ability to read handwriting is a vital tool for special collections professionals and the communities we serve. Paleography is not only a technical skill necessary to navigate many collections but also has broader implications when integrated into historical and literary research. While published editions of archival material offer educational and research benefits, manuscript research (through physical or digital methods) offers further avenues of analysis, including study of contextual physical clues and the ability to uncover voices missing from most editorial selections. As elementary schools increasingly forgo the teaching of cursive and many doctoral programs in History or English do not require coursework in paleography, students across disciplines are turning to archives & special collections professionals to provide expertise and instruction in paleography. In this seminar, four presenters—with experience teaching in special collections settings as well as in the English and history classroom—will introduce a range of methods to engage learners with paleography, with a focus on early modern English scripts. We will first give a brief presentation on the history and importance of paleography instruction in enabling researchers across disciplines to access and use unpublished sources. Then, we will break into groups to demo instructional modules, from the traditional to the complex, with an emphasis on active-learning approaches that encourage students to become invested partners in skills development. These will include the unique opportunities that gamification brings to paleography instruction. Finally, we will encourage a broad discussion on different pedagogical approaches, challenges, or successes of teaching paleography in a special collections setting, whether developing stand-alone workshops or partnering with faculty. Questions to be considered might include the following: In an academic setting, whose ‘job’ is it to teach paleography (the librarian, the faculty member, the students themselves)? Is paleography an integral component of primary source literacy? How can paleography instruction be effectively integrated into instructional sessions or courses whose focus is not skills-based? How can librarians and archivists partner with faculty in paleography instruction? How can institutions use paleography-based events to foster community? Attendees will leave the seminar with ideas and resources to host events and workshops to introduce or add to paleography instruction at their home institutions.

Diversifying the Narrative in Special Collections: From Inventories to Metadata (and Everything In-between)

Time: 6/8/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/8/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: Participant-Driven

Sponsored by McBride Rare Books -

Libraries were always created to serve the public, but if we are being honest, we have left out much of the public from our narratives. Like most cultural heritage institutions, libraries have excluded much of the population by creating classification structures that favor white, Eurocentric male narratives. With the acknowledgement that diversity is a strength and boon to research and scholarship, how can libraries tackle bringing representation to diverse communities that were excluded from acts such as publishing and researching during the time most of the collections were created, and how should we address the biases inherent in our collections while appraising, arranging, and cataloging books and archives?

After a short introduction, small groups will be moderated and centered on the various ways institutions are working towards replacing power structures with more inclusive dynamics. Examples of projects include user-generated metadata projects, inventorying rare books with the specific intention of identifying gaps in the

collection, leveraging “star power” of authors to highlight the women associated with their success, determining how to diversify for unique collections, and forming alliances with local institutions. It is our hope that discussing these more specific projects will lead to robust discussion and questions about collection development, metadata, outreach, and research that will be relevant to all participants. The intention of this session is not to solve the problem of the lack of diversity in collections, but to spark ideas that are actionable, achievable, and can be brought back to participants’ home institutions.

Making the Invisible Visible: The Operational Impacts of Collection Building

Time: 6/8/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/8/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: People's Choice

Sponsored by McBride Rare Books -

In 2018, the OCLC Research Library Partnership (RLP) convened a Collection Building and Operational Impacts Working Group (CBOIWG) and charged it with developing resources for helping repositories make better-informed collection development decisions. Informed collection development requires a strong understanding of available resources and institutional capacity for taking on the work necessary to acquire, describe, store, preserve, and make available collection material. In many repositories, however, those tasked with building collections are siloed from those responsible for ongoing stewardship and other collections-related work. This, coupled with a lack of accurate and practical information regarding resources and capacity, can make applying a holistic approach to acquisition, appraisal, and stewardship decision-making especially challenging.

Released in March, “Total Cost of Stewardship: Responsible Collection Building in Archives and Special Collections” puts forward the concept of Total Cost of Stewardship, which is defined as all of the costs associated with building, managing, and caring for collections so they can be used by and useful to the public. The report is accompanied by an annotated bibliography and a suite of tools, including forms and templates for collecting and sharing information with a variety of stakeholders and an Operational Impact Estimator that uses repository-supplied data to categorize and calculate the costs associated with bringing in and making available a particular collection.

In this session, members of the CBOIWG will share their experience piloting some of the tools, with the goal of providing context for participants to consider the opportunities and challenges associated with implementing, at their own institutions, one or more of the elements of the Total Cost of Stewardship framework. Four presentations, in the form of case studies, will be followed by a structured Q&A in which participants will have an opportunity to reflect on and share -- in small groups and with the larger group -- their thoughts on a variety of implementation implications, especially those having to do with making invisible labor visible, professional and paraprofessional relations, power dynamics, and management, leadership, and empowerment of others.

Power, Resistance, and Donor Relations

Time: 6/8/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/8/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: Panel

Sponsored by Patrick Olson Rare Books -

The purpose of this panel session is to generate ideas about how changing the relationships between special collections practitioners, donors, and users can generate new possibilities for both collections and services. Reliance on donors for both materials and funds creates challenging power dynamics between the staff who manage and develop special collections, the users who access collections, and the private individuals who

support those collections through donation. Donors have profoundly shaped the collections and facilities at rare book and special collections libraries in the United States. The first dedicated rare book libraries in the U.S. were built primarily through donations by wealthy white men who collected books that represent the Western canon. Mostly by emulating this model, special collections libraries proliferated and grew rapidly in the early 20th century, and one of the impacts of this early institutional collection building was to cement the relationship between rare book collections and elite culture. Today, many special collections practitioners want to build collections that represent diverse histories and material cultures, and to build relationships with communities that have been marginalized by powerful institutions in the past. Interest in historical collections produced by people of color, women, people from the Global South, poor people, and other historically minoritized groups is not new, but many institutions still have not achieved their goal of robust diverse representation in their special collections. One of the reasons for this problem is that commitments to past and current donors can take precedence over other priorities. This is problematic because it may limit the ability of special collections practitioners to change the nature of their collections. Because collections drive use, choices that donors have made and continue to make on behalf of the institutions they support empower some users while limiting others. Melissa Hubbard will present a paper describing the origins of academic rare book collections in the United States and interrogating the historical link between special collections libraries, wealthy individuals, and cultural elitism. Christine Jacobson will describe cases from Harvard University's history in which creative interpretation of donor bequests has enabled the development of new kinds of collections, and when the institution's power has been used to support politically marginalized people represented in donated materials. Petrina Jackson will discuss how building relationships with diverse donors can help special collections practitioners support new goals and priorities for collections and use. Because this session is intended to be generative, moderator Patrice Green will encourage attendees to share their own thoughts about donor relations and power, with a focus on developing ideas for changing practice.

Extending the Library into DWNTWN: University Libraries and Book Arts Collaborative

Time: 6/8/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/8/2021 4:00:00 PM

Format: Seminars

This presentation addresses community engagement through the history of the book and printing. It represents a collaboration between University faculty, librarians, community business people, and students from all academic programs on a medium-sized campus in a small mid-western city. We engage the public through retail products, community workshops, and free community programming. We encourage everyone to look at books and their production as an enduring local practice. We encourage other libraries to explore this unique and effective way of engaging the public in thinking, talking about, and making books.

Book Arts Collaborative is a community letterpress and hand-sewn book bindery located in the Madjax Maker Force in downtown Muncie. Our mission is to teach these apprentice-taught skills and share them with the community. We accomplish that by offering Ball State University classes in book arts, community workshops, school field trips, and printing services for area not-for-profit organizations. Additionally, we are a student-managed business, consigning handmade books and print ephemera through multiple retailers in Central Indiana. We publish a hand-printed and bound artist's book by a Hoosier author each year and host an annual, regional gathering of book artists and printers called Interrobang Wayzgoose.

Book Arts Collaborative is staffed through shared responsibility of Ball State's Department of English and University Libraries. Because our work draws upon history of the book, history of printing, book conservation and construction, and letterpress printing on a wide variety of historic presses, its subject matter draws upon the academic and vocational expertise of our three faculty members: Rai Peterson, Associate Professor of

English; James Bradley, Head of Metadata and Digital Initiatives; and James Shimkus, Information Services Librarian. Our professional expertise is augmented by the owner/operator of our Community Partner Business: Tribune Showprint Posters, Inc. Tribune is the oldest continually operated letterpress printing business in America and home to one of the ten largest collections of historic wood type and printer's cuts and ornaments in the country.

Ball State University does not offer degree programs in Library Science, but through engagement at Book Arts Collaborative, our library colleagues have the opportunity to teach college students and the public about the history of the book, the history of print, the elements of the book, and to assist with hands-on experimentation regarding the creation and repair of books. Additionally, they assist students in researching various methods of book construction and printing techniques, and they employ and teach the systems they use as librarians to help streamline inventory, shipping, and logistics processes in our student-managed business.

All three presenters bring a wide perspective to the development of Book Arts Collaborative and the many different community and university partners involved. Mr. Bradley's undergraduate background is in studio art painting; Mr. Shimkus' is in history; and Dr. Peterson's academic degrees are in literature. Our different backgrounds impact the way we approach the subjects inherent in book arts, and we will explore the ways in which we came together to teach the material culture surrounding books. We will discuss how the program started, evolved, and how it continues to benefit both the surrounding community and students at Ball State while bringing visibility to the Department of English and University Libraries. We'll offer suggestions for how our program may be replicated through collaboration between public or university libraries and academic units on campuses or in high schools.

Implementing Programmatic Anti-Racist (Re)Description at Predominantly White Institutions

Time: 6/8/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/8/2021 3:42:00 PM

Format: Panel

Sponsored by Library Juice Academy -

In this session, archivists representing three large, predominantly-white academic institutions and a regional, grassroots volunteer organization will discuss efforts they are spearheading to address issues relating to harmful, racist, or oppressive language in finding aids and other descriptive records, including bibliographic records. Such description largely stems from the long-held tradition of valuing and upholding neutrality within libraries and archives that has (in)advertently centered hegemonic power structures, white supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalism. Many archivists and librarians have shifted towards dismantling these harmful structures in order to facilitate more inclusive preservation, discovery, and access to cultural heritage materials. The session includes a diverse panel of presenters; white panelists in particular will reflect on their positionality in relation to conducting anti-racist description work.

Building on recent discussions within the archival field about anti-oppressive description, this session will focus on programmatic and project-oriented approaches to addressing harmful collection description. Panelists will talk about inclusive and reparative description work individuals are conducting at predominately white institutions (PWIs), including projects that seek to apply anti-oppressive and anti-racist language to legacy descriptions of collections related to Japanese American incarceration during World War II and stereotypes of African Americans in nineteenth and twentieth century postcards; efforts to establish departmental or library-wide committees and working groups to address harmful description; and resources

or tools archivists are developing to help the community engage in this work in a concerted manner, such as the Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia's (A4BLiP) Anti-Racist Description Resources.

Presenters Kelly Bolding, Shelby Daniels-Young, and Jessica Tai will be presenting about work in which they are engaging at their current institutions. Faith Charlton will serve as the session's moderator and will be representing Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia, presenting on the resources authored by its Anti-Racist Description Working Group.

After the recorded presentation, panelists will be available for a live Q&A session. As a growing number of individuals and institutions begin to engage in inclusive description work, having the ability to connect with colleagues undertaking similar projects as well as centralized resources to refer to becomes increasingly useful. To that end, panelists have created a Google doc to which attendees are encouraged to contribute content such as literature and resources, tools, workflows, case studies, challenges, and lessons learned relating to this work that will be made available to the public.

Live QA: Implementing Programmatic Anti-Racist (Re)Description at Predominately White Institutions

Time: 6/8/2021 3:42:00 PM - 6/8/2021 4:00:00 PM

Format: Panel

Raising Access by Lowering Barriers: the Power of ILL and Special Collections Working Together

Time: 6/8/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/8/2021 4:00:00 PM

Format: People's Choice

Sponsored by UCR Library, University of California, Riverside -

Resource sharing has long been an accepted means of request fulfillment from libraries' circulating collections, but providing digital surrogates and physical loans of special collections materials through interlibrary loan is relatively new. Library administrators have increasingly promoted consortial borrowing to supplement collection development and operationalize the concept of a collective collection. While there is great potential to include access to special collections materials in these endeavors, legitimate questions about preservation, staff resources, workflows, and long-term goals have been raised. What motivates special collections curators to overcome resistance to traditional resource sharing? Who makes the determination on what can be shared? How can a lending institution ensure the safety and security of their materials in transit to/from and at a borrowing library? How can Resource Sharing professionals become familiar with the unique issues raised with the sharing of Special Collections materials? Both interlibrary loan and special collections staff have much expertise to answer these questions and are increasingly working together at and across institutions. This panel will include members from the ILL and special collections communities who have demonstrated leadership in successfully working together to loan or provide digital surrogates of selective special collections materials via enhanced resource sharing workflows. These efforts include:

· A pilot project started in 2017 to share scans from special collection materials among the Ivy Plus libraries. (<http://www.borrowdirect.org/sharing-special-collections-materials-via-resource-sharing-pilot-project>)

· The Big Ten Academic Alliance's framework of common expectations and responsibilities when borrowing and lending physical items and providing scans of special collections items within their consortium.

(https://www.btaa.org/docs/default-source/library/btaa-principles-and-protocols-for-interlibrary-loan-of-special-collections.pdf?sfvrsn=9bbe4bf3_4)

· The OCLC SHARES Sharing Special Collections Working Group's survey of current ILL-Special Collections practices and promotion of additional collaboration within SHARES. (<https://www.oclc.org/research/partnership/working-groups/shares-sharing-special-collections.html>)

Beyond the Vault: Building Communities and Collections through Innovative Outreach

Time: 6/9/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/9/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: Panel

Sponsored by UCR Library, University of California, Riverside -

As stewards of archives and special collections, we strongly believe in creating welcoming and inclusive spaces within our institutions for scholars, institutional users, students, and the public. Part of this work involves building connections to the communities we serve in order to enhance use of extant holdings, but also to build relationships that will allow our collections to represent previously underserved voices and stories. In this session, four librarians/archivists working with rare and unique materials will discuss outreach efforts launched within the last three years. Our approach, extending from Duff and Haskell's 2015 American Archivist article forwarding a rhizomatic approach to access, suggests that outreach requires collaboration and continuing dialogue, an expansive and creative view of potential partners, and a willingness to reconsider traditional institutional practices. The forms of outreach and relationships we will discuss are interpersonal, rather than technological. As in the metaphor of the rhizome, we aim to decenter our own authority in engaging with community partners and create reciprocal relationships based on trust and accountability. Projects we will discuss include the following: 1) An archivist at a liberal arts college will speak about his work, as part of a campus-wide community based learning and research initiative, to acquire collections from community partners, deposit student work created through community based learning in the archives, and support students completing archival research for community partners. He is planning a course in Spring 2020 focusing on underrepresented voices at the college, particularly student clubs and organizations. 2) A head of special collections and rare books (SCRB) at a public university will discuss the outcomes of a grant-funded initiative that involved investigating the current state of dance legacy in metro Vancouver, providing dance organizations with archival training and resources, and determining next steps of collaboration with dance organizations to build a city-wide dance legacy strategy. 3) A librarian from a denominational library and archives will talk about workshops and other tools developed to support churches in stewarding their records. No mandate requires churches to deposit materials in the central archives; when such deposits occur, it is often during the emotionally fraught time of a church closure, thus requiring that a solid foundation of collaboration and trust already exist. 4) A graduate assistant in a university special collections will speak about an online exhibit they curated to promote activism holdings to undergraduates and their investigation of Indigenous materials classification systems to help the Library to continue to decolonize its descriptive practices. We hope to offer valuable perspectives for under-resourced or smaller institutions, including liberal arts colleges, small universities, and denominational libraries. Outreach takes many forms, and may result in new areas of collection building, instruction or workshops, and programmatic changes to general descriptive practices. We will discuss the challenges and rewards of these outreach strategies. We will also offer practical suggestions and creative ideas that attendees can adapt and implement at their home institutions to foster sustainable collaborations across their institutions and with the communities they serve and hope to serve.

Fight the Power: Amplifying Student Histories and Decentering the Archivist

Time: 6/9/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/9/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: Participant-Driven

This participant-driven session will explore methods for decentering the archivist in pursuit of empowering students to manage and preserve their own histories, within or without a traditional university archives. Three archivists from Princeton University will guide the session, briefly sharing their own attempts to collaborate with and empower the Princeton student community through the My Princeton Oral History Project. The bulk of the session will consist of a facilitated discussion with participants based on the following questions: • How can we better empower students to preserve their own histories? • How can we as

archivists build trust with disenfranchised community members? • How can we effectively capture and preserve student stories while maintaining and respecting this trust? Other themes include addressing the power dynamics of traditional archival practice and collecting strategies, building cultural competencies as partners rather than administrators, identifying and addressing institutional roadblocks towards collection development change, and advocacy and outreach to students and other community members. We welcome discussion on other ways of being better partners to our community members without imposing ourselves within these communities. We also hope to hear back from participants about projects at their own institutions that model a decentered-archivist approach. We will facilitate a resource-brainstorm and report-out at the end of the session so that these ideas can be shared with the larger group. 10 minutes for presentation, 10 minutes for discussion set up, 30 minutes for discussion and breakouts for resource brainstorm (each group will focus on one topic and we'll combine into a published resource after the conference), 10 minutes for report out and wrap up.

On the Preservation of Ephemeral Staff: Impacts of the Gig Economy in Special Collections

Time: 6/9/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/9/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: Seminars

Sponsored by Tavistock Books -

In today's "Gig Economy," college-educated Americans are forced to piece together part-time, freelance, and ad-hoc 'gigs' to make a living. The Gig Economy flourished in tandem with the financial crisis of the late-2000s, and has since become the norm for skilled and post-graduate labor.

In the special collections and archival sector, as institutions increasingly rely upon grants, one-time funds, and contracts to deliver human resources, professional opportunities are available as temporary, project-based, or term-limited "gigs." This environment encourages turnover and stunts relationships with collections, researchers, and donors. It necessitates moonlighting and causes stress around personal matters, such as scheduling and healthcare. But it also forces us to be nimble and gain a variety of experience.

What does the Gig Economy mean for our collections and community members? This seminar will critically evaluate how the Gig Economy affects materials, research, institutions, individual staff, and the profession as a whole. Hiring and project managers will learn about the spectrum of ramifications when modeling a position as a "gig." Meanwhile, applicants and learners will learn when to utilize, and when to avoid, the Gig Economy for professional growth.

Overall, attendees will gain perspective on the ways the Gig Economy both hinders and stimulates special collections, and leave prepared to advocate for labor issues in the RBMS community.

Power of New Voices

Time: 6/9/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/9/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: Panel

Sponsored by Auger Down Books -

Lightning round talks by students, recent graduates, new professionals, and/or past RBMS scholarship recipients.

Live Q&A: Power of New Voices

Time: 6/9/2021 11:30:00 AM - 6/9/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: Panel

Exhibition Learning Lab

Time: 6/9/2021 12:30:00 PM - 6/9/2021 1:30:00 PM

Format: Seminars

Sponsored by Liber Antiquus, Early Printed Books & Manuscripts -

At the RBMS 2019 Conference in Baltimore, it became evident during the well-attended session “Exhibits and Loans: what is the future and is it sustainable” that participants needed and wanted help with exhibits. Exhibits allow an institution to share their collections and engage communities. Curating exhibits offer staff a deeper engagement with the collections at their institutions. Moving forward from Baltimore, this session will provide attendees with concrete ideas on how to mount a successful exhibition with a limited budget and staff, barriers that many institutions face today.

During this session, the panelists will discuss best practices and ideas for:

- Exhibit themes
- Create a dossier of rotating exhibits
- Pop-up Exhibits

With competing demands on staff time and resources, it can be challenging to maintain a robust exhibit program. This session will provide participants with ideas on how to mount an exhibit in times of fiscal restraint.

There will be time during the session for discussion and additional ideas from the participants.

Happily Rarer After: The Radical Act of Taking Popular Romance Fiction Seriously

Time: 6/9/2021 12:30:00 PM - 6/9/2021 1:30:00 PM

Format: People's Choice

Sponsored by johnson rare books & archives -

Romance fiction represents a large part of the market share of fiction sold today and is a genre that is arguably as old as “fiction” itself. While detective fiction, science fiction, and other genres have, since the mid-20th century, come to be taken seriously by collectors and libraries, romance fiction remains on the margins, often mocked and derided as “trashy” or disposable. At the same time, its practitioners and readers remain largely unrepresented in our cultural bastions of “The Book.” In the Romance genre, we can also see the evolution of authorship, readership, and the volatile history of the book, particularly as recent controversies about representation and inclusion have unfolded in the Romance Writers of America. Battle lines seem to have been drawn between those who see romance as a conservative, static genre and those who have fought to bring recognition to writers of color long working in the genre as well as newer voices writing romance featuring LGBTQ+ relationships, disabled characters, S/M dynamics, and a more expansive definition of what constitutes “happily ever after.” With so much at stake in such a vibrant and culturally significant genre, shouldn’t special collections librarians, archivists, booksellers, and collectors consider the radically inclusive act of studying, collecting, selling, and teaching with romance? Steve Ammidown, former Manuscripts & Outreach Archivist at Browne Popular Culture Library of Bowling Green State University, will discuss the rise of popular romance and its correlation with the rise of liberation movements based on gender, race, and sexual

identity. In addition to selling billions of copies, popular romance texts since the early 70s have reflected both progressive and regressive attitudes towards race, class, and gender. Research collections based around romance novels, manuscripts, and other related materials have the potential to be invaluable, especially for those looking to understand the last quarter of the 20th century. Rebecca Romney, Bookseller and Proprietor of the Rare Book firm Type Punch Matrix, will discuss the role and power that dealers have as editorial filters of the market—and therefore a notable percentage of what ends up in institutional collections. There are always visionary exceptions to this: individuals at institutions or with great personal buying power who truly lead with their own taste. Booksellers are tastemakers, though they are rarely acknowledged as such. Finally, Rebecca Baumann, Head of Public Services at the Lilly Library of Indiana University, will discuss how romance fiction can be used to teach the history of the book. Using their teaching collection of romance novels, they will show how close examination of these books as objects, with special emphasis on paratext and evidence of readership, can model the tools of book history that students can use in a variety of ways as well as encouraging students to reimagine what “belongs” in a special collections library, resisting the idea that they themselves may not be special enough for special collections and empowering them to be collectors, tastemakers, and cultural critics.

Under Construction: A Renovation Support Group

Time: 6/9/2021 12:30:00 PM - 6/9/2021 1:30:00 PM

Format: Participant-Driven

Many special collections libraries are currently undergoing, preparing for, or have just completed major renovations. Large-scale library renovation projects tend to lay bare the power structure of organizations. While some administrators may be open to input from librarians, staff, and patrons, others may employ a more “top down” approach to project planning. How do library workers and managers navigate the bureaucratic structures of our institutions to contribute our professional input on renovation projects as our collections are moved and our buildings undergo major changes? As daily priorities shift, how do staff manage their work and their own self-care while trying to maintain a high level of service to their communities during times of upheaval? Discussion will center around: 1) the power dynamics between administrators and librarians with regard to renovation planning and implementation. How have these dynamics helped or hindered your experience with a renovation project? Are there proven methods for communicating the unique needs of a library to administrators or other project partners? 2) strategies for making visible the invisible labor of keeping a library open while collections are moving out the back door. Who did most of the physical and mental work of your renovation? How and to what extent was that work acknowledged? What are effective ways managers can utilize the skills of their staff without burning them out? What resources can managers request to best assist staff (temporary workers, outside experts, flexible hours, shifts in priorities)? 3) managing the expectations of the various communities we serve. How do we accommodate the needs of our patrons equitably? When the expectation from administrators is that a certain level of service will be maintained, what are creative ways library staff have made this work during a renovation? This participatory session stems from the Public Services Discussion Group topic at ALA Annual 2019. We had such a spirited conversation that we wanted to give those attending RBMS a chance to also be involved. This participatory session is a continuation of that conversation with the goal of bringing together librarians at different levels and at different stages in renovation to share experiences, discuss methods of advocacy, offer support and guidance, and hopefully develop productive methods for dealing with the various issues that surface when a library undergoes a renovation.

A Participatory Session on Ugly History: exposing it, confronting it, and navigating the experience

Time: 6/9/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/9/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: People's Choice

Sponsored in memory of Robert H. Rubin Books -

What should we do when we discover potentially difficult or embarrassing information about our institutions, or about powerful individuals in the course of our work? How should the archives and other cultural heritage institutions navigate the politically charged effort to diversify the narrative of remembrance? Are there emerging best practices for contributing insight to institutional discussions on culturally sensitive topics? What is the responsibility of the archivist to the historical record vis a vis the responsibility to protect their institution? Newly discovered evidence of the unsavory has the potential to come to light through our activities; through description of collections, through digitization of historic media, and through harvesting of electronic communications. These histories may be unearthed by researchers as well. This proposed participant driven session will engage attendees in discussing several cases where archives have found themselves with the power to have an impact in the shaping of cultural memory. Two archivists will lead attendees in an open and free exploration of their experiences and then invite participants to add their own stories. Ultimately, we hope to find common practices that stay true to our professional obligations. From Auburn University, Greg Schmidt, Special Collections Librarian will share the story of discovering and eventually releasing evidence that would embarrass the institution and the current Governor of Alabama. In Auburn's case, archival staff discovered an audio recording where the current Governor was identified as admitting to wearing blackface in college (1967); something she had previously denied. From Florida State University, Sandra Varry, Heritage & University Archivist will discuss the effort at Florida State to address expressions of white supremacy on the campus through her work in supporting the Presidential Advisory Panel on Namings and Recognitions. The events and activities surrounding the panel brought to light both new evidence of beginnings of the institution and new questions and challenges in creating and supporting an accurate and inclusive university history.

Beyond Manuscripts: Teaching with Special formats in Special Collections

Time: 6/9/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/9/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: Panel

Sponsored by Triolet Rare Books -

This panel features archivists, librarians, and curators leading classes that incorporate largely non-textual collection materials, ranging from architectural drawings to vinyl records, posters and zines to artists' books and textiles. How are classes with these objects different from presenting students with folders of printed or manuscript material to digest in a classroom setting? Creating courses around unusual or sometimes unwieldy archival objects can raise specific challenges, from basic issues around classroom size and handling, to students' abilities to grasp the archival context of specific objects. Panelists will discuss the challenges that these types of materials present to them, and creative solutions they have developed to engage students with these objects in a meaningful way. Panelists will also consider how teaching with special formats creates opportunities for discussions around issues of power dynamics, empowerment, and underrepresented groups in archives and special collections. David Benjamin, University of Central Florida will speak about teaching with his institution's collections of folk art and artists' books from women artists and people of color. Pamela Casey, Columbia University, will explore how students engaging with the physical materiality of architectural drawings, photographs, and models, rather than encountering these in a book or a professor's slide presentation, can lead to critical discussions around authorship and labor in design practices. Alison Fraser, University at Buffalo will describe how she uses artists' books and repurposed materials in the archives to introduce students to ideas around the book as object, the importance of form as well as content, and how these objects confront students to consider the traditional power structures of poetry publication. Christine

Lutz, Rutgers University Libraries regularly leads classes using posters, zines and vinyl records, engaging students in discussions around what ""should"" be in an archive, and whose stories get told. Benjamin Panciera, Connecticut College will speak to the initial struggles of working with artists' books in a classroom setting, and how developing a more interactive instruction session led to deeper student engagement, with students empowered to focus on what interested them. Jessica Quagliaroli, Yale University, will describe how teaching with architectural drawings, records, and maps are used to have students critically examine and discuss urban renewal and redevelopment. Alison Reynolds, Georgia Institute of Technology will talk to the use of textiles and fabric samples in a classroom setting, and how these objects can stimulate discussions around audience, purpose, and socio economic power structures. Blythe Roveland-Brenton, Binghamton University will address some of the challenges of teaching with posters -- ephemeral objects that powerfully combine words, image and design, and which have the power to both mobilize and polarize.

LD4P2 and Rare Materials: Reports from the Field

Time: 6/9/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/9/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: Seminars

Sponsored by McBride Rare Books - The Linked Data for Production projects aim to move library cataloging from a MARC-based system to a linked data environment. The first phase focused largely on developing specialized ontology extensions to BIBFRAME, the Library of Congress's linked data model. The second phase of LD4P ("LD4P2"), spearheaded by four partner institutions (Cornell, Harvard, Stanford, and the University of Iowa School of Library and Information Science), worked to build tools and workflows to implement a communal prototype linked data environment ("Sinopia"). In addition, seventeen other cohort institutions were awarded subgrants to complete their own projects and to catalog natively in Sinopia.

Following up on LD4P2's conclusion on June 30, 2020, this seminar will be a chance for the broader RBMS community to hear reports from institutions that cataloged rare materials and special collections as part of their LD4P projects. Seminar presenters will describe the scope of their projects, workflows that were developed, successes and challenges, and will take a look ahead to what they see as the viability of and needed developments for an RDF-based future for cataloging to work for the RBMS community. This seminar will also touch on the developments of the Art & Rare Materials BIBFRAME Ontology Extension (ARM), and how the LD4P participants used ARM to build more robust application profiles in the Sinopia editor.

Power Dynamics in Special Collections Reading Rooms

Time: 6/9/2021 1:45:00 PM - 6/9/2021 2:45:00 PM

Format: Participant-Driven

Sponsored by Getmansvirtual.com Virtual book Fairs -

*Due to the nature of this presentation, this session will NOT be recorded.

There is an inherent tension in the relationship between researcher and staff in trying to balance the need for preserving materials and allowing access to the collections. This session will explore power dynamics in the reading room among researchers, special collections staff, other library staff, security, and administration. Our aim is to gather different perspectives of power dynamics among special collections reading rooms in a variety of institutions.

The session will consist of break out group discussions each addressing different topics. Then everyone will gather for a collective discussion of existing power structures and how they impact the communities we serve. We hope participants leave with a better understanding of the reading room flow in their fellow cultural institutions and are inspired to pursue policy changes in their home institutions.

Questions for Discussion:

What power dynamics help create or prevent access to the reading room? What avenues do you offer for patrons seeking information on access to your rare books and special collections before they arrive at your institution or reading room?

Are you an appointment-only institution and how many first-time researchers do you receive? If you were not appointment-only before did that change due to the pandemic? How has this impacted your researchers and have you noticed any changes in staff-patron relationship dynamics?

Do you believe the types of collections you serve also affect your relationship with researchers?

Do you ever find it difficult to establish a sense of authority? How about when dealing with donors and other "VIP" patrons?

Do staff members from your access services team and security team interact with your researchers? What is their role in relation to the reading room? Are they in the room with you?

Do you find that when enforcing policies there is a sense of a power struggle? Perhaps your researchers have felt staff are preventing them access to the information as a result? Do your reading room policies include lockers/coat check beforehand and are researchers already aware of this system before they arrive?

If staff members are allowed on-site during the pandemic, who gets/has to go on-site? Who in your institution has been furloughed or laid-off, if anyone? Who makes these decisions and how are they taking responsibility? Have you reopened or planned to reopen to researchers? How has this process gone and what changes have been implemented? Who made these changes?

How do you distribute your reading room policies and how does this affect your relationship with the researcher? How has the pandemic changed these policies? What are the new hurdles of enforcing mask-wearing, social distancing, collection-quarantining, etc.?

How does technology (OPAC, ILS, Aeon, digital collections, databases, etc.) impact the demands on staff and the expectations of researchers? Are you doing virtual reference appointments? Do you find the power dynamics have changed compared to in-person interaction? How is your institution addressing the digital divide during the current pandemic?

How did you address accessibility for researchers with mental or physical disabilities pre-pandemic and how are you addressing it now?

"Keeping You Connected To Your Community:" A Partnership Between the African American Newspaper, The Weekly Challenger, and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus Library

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

The Weekly Challenger, an African American newspaper in St. Petersburg, Florida, proudly states the following front-page motto: "Keeping you connected to your community." The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg is honored to partner with The Weekly Challenger to preserve and create digital access to this important community newspaper's archives. A long-time reader recently said for the paper's 50th anniversary, "If the news is important to the community, then it is in The Weekly Challenger." In 2016 the library started a digital archive of Weekly Challenger newspapers by scanning old papers and compiling digital files of recent issues. Once the project began, the library needed an effective way of sharing this valuable primary source content. To address that need the "Weekly Challenger African American Digital Newspaper Archive and Research Guide" was created. The guide and digital archive not only help preserve the newspaper's record of regular news events, but also smaller individual stories and memories. The Weekly Challenger partnership is a potential source of "Power, Resistance, and Leadership" for St. Petersburg's African American community, which has a long and rich history. This poster highlights communities as a source of knowledge that should be taught in academia and made available to the larger public. The partnership will

help lead to better communication and understanding between the various communities that our special collections and archives serve. Research Guide URL: <https://lib.stpetersburg.usf.edu/weeklychallenger>

“We Can Do It!”: Active Learning of Social Issues with Postcards in Special Collections

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

This poster features a postcard instruction case study for a first-year course at Loyola Marymount University (LMU). Through collaboration between a Special Collections instruction librarian and a Rhetorical Arts faculty, we have built a scaffolding pedagogy with modern advertising postcards to enhance student learning of rhetorical skills and social justice issues. Social justice is a focus of the Rhetorical Arts course at LMU, with a core learning goal of developing Eloquentia Perfecta to cultivate student acumen in speaking and writing for the common good. Known as “rack cards”, originating in the 1990s and early 2000s, these advertising postcards exemplify critical social issues such as environmentalism and homelessness. With poignant messages and visuals, these postcards are forms of activism and resistance. Through active learning with the postcards, we enter into a dialogue of social issues and possibilities for change. Reflecting on primary source literacy and media literacy, this poster shares active learning strategies for students to engage critically with postcards as media in visual and rhetorical expression. It also showcases virtual instruction with postcards using digital tools.

Arsenic and Old Bookcloth: the Safe Handling, Storage, and Treatment of Potentially Toxic Victorian-Era Cloth-Case Publisher’s Bindings

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

Analysis of decorated cloth-case publisher’s bindings at the Winterthur Library revealed bookcloth colored with “emerald green,” or copper acetoarsenite, a pigment known to be extremely toxic. This pigment’s popularity in England and the United States during the Victorian era is well documented, and while the colorant was known to be widely used in textiles for home decoration and apparel, wallpaper, and toys, its use specifically in bookcloth has not been formally explored. Conservation staff and interns at Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library conducted a survey of bookcloth pigments in order to correlate the presence of emerald green and other potentially toxic pigments with specific publishers and dates. English-language books published between 1837 and 1900 align with the rising use of bookcloth on publisher’s case bindings. At Winterthur, arsenical books which were formerly housed in the circulating collection have been moved into the controlled environment of the rare book collection. Additional measures, which will be described in the poster session, were taken. A description of the project and list of arsenical volumes can be publicly accessed on the Winterthur Wiki at <http://wiki.winterthur.org/PoisonBookProject>. A bookmark with color swatches and information to assist with non-instrumental identification of arsenical volumes will be available as a handout during the poster session.

Ephemera Bound Together

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

Ephemera, transitory materials that were not intended to be preserved or kept, often capture dynamics and activities that other sources do not. The Robbins Collection and Research Center in Religious and Civil Law has a small number of manuscript volumes that consist of ephemeral materials that were bound together, thus preserving early ephemera and, more unusually, in the context within which they were first used and understood. Robbins MS 232 is a collection of Philippe-Auguste Merlin's drafts of speeches to the French court of appeals between 1801 and 1804, which were the backs of letters, envelopes, announcements, and other ephemera. MS 174 is a mishmash of instructions, decisions, reports, correspondence, treatises, poems, discussions of the Jesuits, an index of Jewish observance, and calligraphy practice from the desk of an eighteenth-century cardinal. MS 180, on the other hand, is a coherent grouping of drafts and fair copies of resolutions, consultations, and proposals — complete with broadsheets containing the printer's proof and final copy — for an edict regarding rape that was issued in the Papal States in 1736. Because they contain so much ephemera, these volumes provide unique windows into law, politics, and power in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century France and Italy, but they also pose definite challenges to providing description and access. Here, I propose discussing the problems faced and decisions reached in the invisible work of making these materials visible and available for research and study.

Pay No Attention to the Assistants in the Stacks: The Essential Yet Invisible Role of Student Workers in a Library Renovation

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

The Lilly Library publicly announced its renovation on April 1, 2019. From that point, the Lilly staff had approximately eight months to not only remove themselves but also all materials and furniture. Early in the semester, it became clear that juggling renovation related issues and their day jobs would be too much work to complete by the deadline. Therefore, the Lilly hired two renovation assistants to help shoulder the burden of renovation. As renovation assistants, we focused primarily on preparing for the move to Wells Library, the Lilly's temporary home for the foreseeable future. However, because of the liminal nature of library renovations, how we prepared for the move was contingent on the day-to-day needs that arose. No shift was the same. Everyday felt like we were learning a new job and yet, because of the inflexibility of the move's deadline, we were required to be experts already. In this position, we occupied an unique space where everything we did was essential to continued progress of pre-move preparation and yet not readily visible to other staff who were not actively involved in the moving process. In this poster, we will discuss our duties related to the move, our work with the teaching collection, and the shift in responsibilities we undertook after the move to Wells was underway. Through this discussion, we will call attention to the essential yet invisible space student workers occupy in a library renovation.

Power to the People: Facilitating Appraisal Decisions

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

As libraries and archives increasingly acquire born-digital archives as part of personal papers and organizational records, appraisal remains a core function of vital importance, facilitating content characterization and identification while at the same time supporting the stewardship of institutional resources and overall sustainability of operations. In the context of digital collections, appraisal requires an awareness of technical issues along with risks associated with intellectual property rights and sensitive data as well as an understanding of the content itself and its associated functions. Staff in the Indiana University Libraries' Born Digital Preservation Lab (BDPL) have been exploring strategies to improve the appraisal process for digital archives by collecting and presenting key pieces of information to archivists and librarians as part of the content ingest process. Reports include a high-level overview in a spreadsheet as well as a more detailed HTML report that is based upon the output of Tessa Walsh's Brunnhilde. Information produced by BDPL procedures includes: last-modified dates for content, number of files, content size, results of scans for sensitive data and viruses, and file format distribution. More recently, BDPL staff have experimented using Named Entity Recognition and topic modeling to help librarians and archivists better understand content and facilitate description. Staff continue to refine how this information is presented and used; while mindful of potential issues such as algorithmic bias, we are excited by the prospect of more efficient and targeted appraisal and our ability to better represent digital archives to patrons.

Reparative Metadata Work at the University of Houston Libraries

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

Language used in archival description and digital collections metadata reflect and reinforce dominant values and power structures. Individuals and groups that are marginalized are subject to misrepresentation and erasure in the historical record. Inspired by recent reparative cataloging projects for physical resources, a team at University of Houston Libraries began a pilot project to look critically at the descriptions for a set of digital library resources whose original counterparts are often used in classes that are studying slavery. The goal of the team, comprised of a metadata librarian and a special collections librarian, was to center humanity in the descriptions. The legacy descriptions were problematic: focused on the wealthy enslavers, many of whom were part of the original "Old Three Hundred" Anglo settlers to Texas, while ignoring or minimizing references to the enslaved people. Relying heavily on Dr. Gabrielle Foreman's crowdsourced document, "Writing about Slavery/Teaching about Slavery: This Might Help," the team reviewed existing metadata, made revisions, and plans to seek feedback from faculty. This poster will detail the process followed in revising the descriptions and provide before and after examples of the descriptions, as well as include related images for context. The authors hope that conversations around this poster will embody the 2021 Conference Core Value "to create a supportive and challenging environment that fosters respectful dialogue, reflection, and growth; empowers participants to voice their concerns and perspectives; and encourages participants to learn from mistakes."

Teaching Hard History: Questions, Lessons, and Strategies for Engaging Students with Challenging Materials

Time: 6/9/2021 3:00:00 PM - 6/9/2021 3:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

This poster will present experiences of, and strategies for, teaching with challenging and distressing topics and materials in archives. In recognizing that our collections include (or have archival silences around) challenging, controversial, and even disturbing topics, when and why do we decide to share and prioritize these records, and how do we present and contextualize them for students? For the past three years, the UMass Amherst department of Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) has seen an exponential increase in the number of class visits from undergraduate and graduate level classes, as well as local community primary and secondary student groups. As the department's lead instructor, I will present some of my experiences teaching with challenging primary sources, and particularly interrogate the power dynamics and potentialities of these sources, which are often deeply appealing for instruction, despite their potential harm to students and danger of shutting down, instead of opening up, critical dialogue. In addition to specific case studies of working with difficult records and topics in a classroom setting, I will present some of my professional training and research in how to mediate intellectual, emotional, and embodied reactions to these sources in ways that give students agency and pathways towards difficult knowledge. I would love to start a dialogue, and hear from others in reaction to my, and their own, struggles, triumphs, and strategies in working with "challenging" topics and sources.

Booksellers' Showcase Tour

Time: 6/9/2021 3:30:00 PM - 6/9/2021 4:30:00 PM

Format: Social

Power. Resistance. Leadership. A virtual tour of the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America's Showcase at the RBMS Conference highlighting unique items and collections and the role booksellers play helping to add important materials to library special collections.

Moderated by Teri Osborn of McBride Rare Books in New York, with panelists Garrett Scott of Garrett Scott, Bookseller in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Paul Erickson, the director of the University of Michigan William L. Clements Library, and Julie Herrada, Curator, Joseph A. Labadie Collection.

Critical Race Pedagogy in the Primary Source Classroom

Time: 6/10/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/10/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: Seminars

How can critical race theory and practice inform teaching with primary sources? How can this framework help special collections instructors create inclusive learning environments? How can it form the foundation for the planning process and selection of materials when preparing to teach a class? How can it help instructors sensitively teach with materials that reflect histories of violence, hate, and oppression? Attendees at this seminar will learn the basic tenets of critical race theory and how to apply these tenants to library and archival instruction with primary sources.

Critical race theory is an interpretive turn which examines race and racism across cultural modes of expression. Scholars using critical race theory recognize racism as a component of daily life throughout American history and revealed in a wide variety of sources; they attempt to understand how victims of

systemic racism are affected by cultural perceptions of race. As noted by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic in *Critical Race Theory: The Cutting Edge*, “Our social world, with its rules, practices, and assignments of prestige and power, is not fixed; rather, we construct with it words, stories and silence.” Many of these stories are held in special collections; thus, it is imperative that members of the special collections community consider how critical race theory can change our work.

Presenters will reflect on their own methods and strategies for incorporating critical race pedagogy in their teaching practice. Topics will include critical race theory, radical empathy, inclusive teaching practices, culturally sustaining pedagogy, teaching with and through archival silences, and how these can all be incorporated into primary source literacy. In keeping with seminars’ commitments to educational outcomes, all attendees will leave the session with a theoretical background as well as ideas about critical race pedagogy and teaching with difficult materials which they can incorporate into their own practice. In accordance with the core values of RBMS 2020, this seminar also strives to provide attendees with tools they can use to decenter power and privilege in their classrooms. We encourage participants to bring their concerns, perspectives, and mistakes to the seminar discussion.

This seminar is co-sponsored by the RBMS Instruction and Outreach Committee and the RBMS Diversity Committee.

Invisible Interdependencies: Unveiling Hidden Labor in Collection Management

Time: 6/10/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/10/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: People's Choice

Sponsored by Langdon Manor Books, LLC -

Whether collection management is the responsibility of one or many, crucial elements of this labor are often misunderstood or completely invisible. Using the functions of accessioning, acquisitions, and appraisal as critical lenses, this panel examines the complex ways that organizations build relationships, develop effective workflows for access to collection material in all formats, and meet the needs of multiple entities, including those in leadership roles. We will present a series of lightning talks that bring visibility to the specific kinds of labor involved in collection management and explore how each speaker is actively striving to improve workflows through greater transparency about and advocacy for our interdependent roles. These lightning talks will kick start thoughtful conversations about how to care for collections through more collaborative approaches which take into account every facet of our work. Speakers will address the types of physical, intellectual, and emotional labor that make collection management possible, including:

- Shepherding collections through different phases of acquisitions and accessioning
- Balancing acquisition, discovery, and access priorities against local factors, including availability of labor, physical space, funding, and other institutional resources
- Using appraisal to effectively aid in making decisions about arrangement and description, stewardship priorities, and selection
- Determining, documenting, and implementing collection management workflows
- Coping mechanisms we employ to address the specific stresses that arise from this labor
- Collaboratively developing workflows to improve efficiency, clarity, and communication

Moreover, we’ll ask: How does power function in the relationships that develop during this work? How do we define where our individual contributions - often undifferentiated and underappreciated - begin and end? When some work is in service to others, how do professional and paraprofessional hierarchies determine our sense of value and impact? We seek to elevate and expose the “magical” infrastructure that is both tested and often erased by the decision to acquire. Unveiling how repositories define and navigate the tangled power dynamics that make access to collections possible is crucial to developing professional practices rooted in transparency

and mutual trust. Ultimately, this panel explores possibilities for making stronger connections between curatorial, administrative, and technical services priorities within a more visible, intentionally interdependent collection management program.

The Power of Partnerships to Uncover Hidden Stories

Time: 6/10/2021 11:00:00 AM - 6/10/2021 12:00:00 PM

Format: Panel

Sponsored in memory of Daniel Siegel M & S Rare Books -

This panel will present four perspectives on the power of collaboration in special collections to uncover hidden stories. Innovative partnerships have the potential to expand accessibility and discoverability by overcoming barriers such as language, geography, politics and institutional hierarchy. Each presenter will discuss how partnerships can challenge these issues within special collections to the benefit of a broader range of patrons, especially by empowering both staff and users.

#1: Behind the Cyrillic Curtain. A casual conversation with a graduate student led to a powerful long-term collaboration. Driven by the student's own interests in translating Russian language rare works, she is now an intern. Through her translations and historical expertise we are uncovering previously unknown stories reflecting the Russian cultural and political landscape from the late 19th century to the Soviet era. This previously shelf-sitting and inaccessible collection, holds great potential for research, outreach, and campus collaborations.

#2: Leveraging a partnership to enhance discovery and preservation of manuscript collections. Based on a longstanding agreement, the University of Notre Dame functions as the secondary repository for manuscript images owned by the Biblioteca Ambrosiana. This partnership was recently reconceived to address challenges of the discovery, accessibility, and preservation of digital images. As both institutions hold medieval manuscript collections, this partnership forces each institution to consider the other and combat traditional notions of limiting access for specialized materials.

#3: Metadata for a Book Arts Program. Students in the University of Utah's Book Arts Program often found that technical aspects of the library's artists' books they wished to consult didn't have authorized access points in the catalog records. To improve online searching, a cataloger, the Book Arts Program director, and a book arts student collaboratively recataloged ~3,500 artists' books to expose these physical characteristics in the bibliographic records. This presentation will discuss training, workflows, and preliminary outcomes of this innovative project.

#4: The "Save La Plaza" Movement. Adjacent to the famous Olvera Street, the United Methodist Museum of Social Justice highlights the history of Los Angeles and social change. A series of protests and negotiations saved the historic church from demolition in 2011, and as part of the deal the church created a museum to showcase the history of its social justice advocacy. This presentation focuses on how a partnership with CSUN's Bradley Center established the museum's archives.

"College Servants" & the University of Alabama: A Case Study in Identifying Records of Enslavement in University Archives

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

The University of Alabama was one of many institutions in the United States that benefited from the labor of enslaved workers. In recent years, a small group of faculty researchers has been working to trace the archival record of this practice, from financial documents and administrative ledgers to personal diaries and letters. Identifying these documents has positioned the University to become an important part of the scholarly conversation about the history of slavery on college campuses, especially in the South. Special collections has been a partner in this work. In addition to digitizing many known resources, staff have taken an active role in helping researchers navigate the obscure and irregular University Archives record group containing the materials that survived the burning of the campus in 1865. In collaboration, researchers have explored these materials and used their contextual knowledge to identify new sources of information, and in turn, archivists have used their findings to make the record group more accessible. This poster will present the history of slavery at the University of Alabama as seen in archives and published primary sources, an example of what enslavement records look like at one institution. It will also share lessons learned in identifying and providing access to those records, to assist others in taking on a similar project.

Challenging Barriers: A Case Study on Transforming the Research Room for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

The Research Services & Education team at the University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) recently transformed and remodeled our Breckinridge Research Room, reference collection, and related online services to ensure greater user accessibility. Reimagining the layout, furniture, and equipment with a focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and ADA compliance led to an array of improvements throughout the physical space aimed at proliferating a culture of belonging for our many types of stakeholders and patrons. The room renovation also allowed for a reinterpretation of historical exhibitions to limit patriarchal or colonial imagery, thus enhancing diversity as much as possible while balancing donor expectations. Our team also took the opportunity to reappraise, inventory, and redefine the room's ready access reference library and leverage the inextricable link between physical and digital spaces by remodeling our online environment to better align with evolving services. This poster will discuss our goals, processes, and the outcomes of the remodel, as well as additional plans for continued improvement moving forward.

Creating Welcoming and Inclusive Reading Room Guidelines

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

As Head of Reading and Viewer Services at the Harry Ransom Center, I recently led our public service team in an initiative to rewrite our quite rigid and negative reading room regulations into guidelines with language that is welcoming and inclusive. I am involved in a professional organization called Breaking Library Silos for Social Justice - a Central Texas collective that "provides an opportunity for workers in libraries, archives,

museums, and other information spaces to challenge their personal and professional biases via resources, dialogue, and events that de-center whiteness and emphasize voices of color and queer and trans perspectives in pursuit of racial and social justice." After attend a Breaking Library Silos meeting and brainstorming session last summer entitled Transformative Reading Rooms, I was inspired that was time to change our own reading room rules for the better. I wish to present a poster that takes RBMS librarians through the process of revising regulations in order to dismantle practices that support white supremacy or otherwise alienate potential users. Inclusive reading room use guidelines must advance equitable access to our collections by all groups who visit.

Creative Collaborations: Outreach and the Performing Arts in Special Collections

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

For Valentine's Day 2019, the Lilly Library collaborated with the IU Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance on Lovelorn Lilly: Love Letters Read Live. This program featured dramatic readings by actors of selected love letters from the Lilly's collections, including Edgar Allan Poe, Vita Sackville-West, and John Keats. The readings allowed attendees to engage with the letters, and the lives and narratives within them, in a creative and deeply moving way. IU Dramaturg Madison Colquette and Education and Outreach Librarian Maureen Maryanski worked together to select, transcribe, and arrange the letters into a program. Well-received by attendees and the local community, this creative collaboration revealed the power of decentering the interpretation of special collections materials from librarians and archivists to artists and members of the public. Such an approach to storytelling in special collections speaks to the great potential in artists engaging with materials, interpreting them in innovative ways, and using them as inspiration for new art. These interactions reimagine the essential dialogue that occurs within special collections libraries, between past and present, materials and people. This dialogue, and what results from it, whether scholarly research or artistic expression, can both challenge preconceptions and illustrate news ways of viewing and commenting on both the past and the present.

Divinatory Archives: Tarot Decks in the (Ivory) Tower

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

Tarot and other esoteric traditions have been historically intertwined with second and third-wave feminism, from the Motherpeace Tarot Deck (created in 1978 and endorsed by Alice Walker) and Clarissa Pinkola Estés' exploration of feminine archetypes and mythologies, to the "teen witch" phenomenon epitomized by late '90s pop culture film and television classics like "The Craft" and "Charmed." In recent years, there has been a revived interest in divinatory tools as resources that support identity exploration, self-discovery, healing, empowerment, liberation, and affirmation. A number of queer and feminist artists have created decks that subvert traditional notions of gender identity and sexuality inherent in the classic Rider-Waite-Smith deck. With consideration for their place in archives and special collections, tarot decks are similar to zines in that they capture the unique perspective of their creators through a combination of art and text. Likewise, they are often self-published with limited circulation and extremely limited print runs. The Newcomb Archives of Tulane University is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making accessible materials that document the history of gender and women, with a regional focus on the Gulf South. This poster will share their new collection development initiatives around tarot and divination decks created by feminist and LGBTQIA artists.

In addition to acquisition, this poster will summarize outreach initiatives around the Tarot Collection, including a card spread for “self-care” and “collective-care,” distributed to archives visitors to encourage use of the decks beyond the traditional scope of scholarly engagement.

Need Not Apply? A Content Analysis of Library Dean/Director Job Postings

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

Academic libraries are comprised of many types of librarians, archivists, and information professionals whose specializations complement and strengthen one another. The library's dean/director provides leadership for all these professionals and units, though it is likely they will not have direct experience with each unit or area of expertise they supervise. Considering that all individuals have a unique perspective and set of experiences, a dean/director's professional background will influence the priorities they set for the library, the decisions they make, and whether power imbalances emerge between units. Research has shown that few academic library deans/directors have professional experience with special collections and archives, which has the potential to impact the power structures and priorities surrounding these units. This raises the question of whether the recruitment process for library deans/directors is equitable for all academic information professionals to pursue, or if barriers may exist that deter certain candidates from applying for these positions. This poster will share original research that explores the composition of recent job postings for academic library deans/directors. It will reveal trends in perceived leadership needs, how the responsibilities of these positions are portrayed, and whether wording choices may be impacting the diversity of today's academic library deans/directors and thus the direction of the field.

Putting Archives into Action: The Use of Primary Sources as Tools for Community Building, Education, and Liberation

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

Archives, primary sources that document the human experience, have the power to educate, communicate, and transform what we know about the past, understand about the present, and decide about the future. The collection of archives has traditionally come from the top down, dictated by those in power and focused on histories of dominant communities and cultures. Increasingly scholars and communities are calling for the diversification of archival materials, seeking histories of groups traditionally underrepresented, maligned, or absent from the historical records. Furthermore, marginalized communities are advocating for the collection, preservation, and dissemination of histories to be on their own terms. This poster describes the ways in which the University of California Irvine (UCI) Libraries Special Collections & Archives is using archival materials to support community building, education, and liberation. Through such efforts as community archives partnerships, exhibits, and primary source literacy workshops that foreground the significance of identity in the creation and preservation of records, UCI Libraries Special Collections & Archives is taking a multi-pronged approach to putting the principles of community-centered archives at the center of collection development, outreach, and education. By so doing, the poster will explore how this approach liberates by placing the power of telling one's own history in the hands of the disenfranchised. The result is the empowerment of communities, the transformation of our understanding of the historical record, and the solidification of the role of libraries as centers of activism.

Uneasy Truces of Collection Histories (And How to Challenge Them)

Time: 6/10/2021 12:05:00 PM - 6/10/2021 12:25:00 PM

Format: Poster

Sponsored by University of Houston Libraries -

The histories of collections have always impacted their handling, use in instruction and outreach initiatives, and the prioritization for preservation/conservation. This history includes the process of acquiring the collection, the perceived values and uses of the collection both at the time of acquisition and in present day, and even the care and attention that has been given to the objects that make up the collection. This is further complicated when the collection has been donated to the institution, and the librarians must negotiate the donor's ideas for what the institution will do for the collection in comparison to what can actually be done. These discussions take place in the context of remaining legacies of "white gloves" and "closed doors" policies. This poster will explore the impacts of the histories of collections on their past and current uses, and on the preservation of these collections. The presenters will use examples from their personal experiences to investigate how new employees can uncover these histories and the hidden power structures that have influenced the decisions made on these collections. They will discuss how their new perspectives on these collections can provide an opportunity for leadership and change. They also will provide tips for other new professionals on how they can begin to unravel these same stories and power structures at their own institutions.

Closing Plenary: Power, Resistance, and Leadership in our Profession

Time: 6/10/2021 12:30:00 PM - 6/10/2021 1:45:00 PM

Format: Plenary

Sponsored by Cornell University Library in memory of Lance Heidig -

Join leading practitioners in the rare books and archives field for part two of this two part plenary series. The speakers return to provide concluding analysis, to dialog with each other about ideas raised at the conference, and to leave the audience with practical approaches and concrete suggestions to take back to their work.