

RAO Newsletter



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS'
REFERENCE, ACCESS & OUTREACH SECTION

Winter 2012 | Issue 19

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues:

We had a great Section meeting in Chicago this past August, and a good turn-out. A big thank-you to our outgoing chair, Jim Gerencser; Steering Committee members Beth Bensman, Jill Severn (who is now the vice chair), and Terry Baxter (who is now a member of the SAA Council); and an extra-special thank-you to retiring Communications Liaison Nancy Melley for her many years of service to the Section.

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect this year is Jill Severn, new Steering Committee members are Greg Kocken, Mary Manning, and Alison Stankrauff; and Communications Liaison is Lisa Sjoberg. In addition Tanya Zanish-Belcher returns to the Steering Committee, as does our intrepid Web Liaison Jan Blodgett.

All of our committees and working groups continue their work this year. Each of them also has a new RAO intern working with them, as does the Steering Committee and both liaisons.

The 23 Things for Archivists (<http://23thingsforarchivists.wordpress.com/>) committee continues to add new Things to both the Intermediate Things and the Advanced Things.

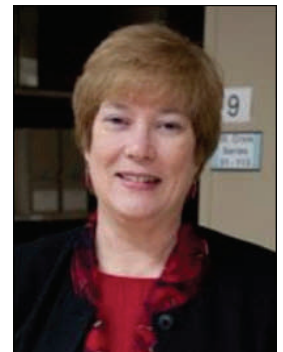
The National History Day committee is promoting use of the National History Day and Archives Toolkit (<http://nhdarchives.pbworks.com/w/page/37898361/National%20History%20Day%20and%20Archives>); and they are working on a symposium that will be held at the 2012 fall meeting of the Midwest Archives Conference. If you haven't yet visited the Toolkit, I highly recommend it.

The Reference-Processing Collaboration Group has renamed itself the Working Group for Data-Driven Decisions in Processing and Public Services; they are working on a survey and a wiki (<http://datadrivenarchives.pbworks.com/w/page/31855693/Home-Page>).

The Teaching with Primary Resources group picked up plenty of new recruits at the annual meeting to help with their on-going work.

Jill Severn expects to have the final results of the Skills Survey ready by the end of the year. George Bain is leading an outreach effort to encourage C-SPAN to include programming that would highlight archives, particularly during archives month. He is working with colleagues to develop lists of potential interviewees from the archives and historical communities, and hopes to submit a proposal to Brian Lamb and C-SPAN producers.

The annual meeting had excellent presentations by Peter Carini (Dartmouth), Anne Gilliland (UCLA), and Doris Malkmus (Penn State) regarding research, teaching techniques, and strategies for engaging different audiences with archival resources. Anne talked about a 2-course sequence they are teaching at UCLA that pairs IS students and teachers to develop K-12 curricular resources. Peter talked about the specific pedagogical approach he has developed based on an active learning model and set of curricular concepts. Doris explored the increased interest in using primary sources for active teaching methods and how it can be incorporated into information literacy sessions.



Kathryn Otto
Chair, Reference, Access &
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RAO Newsletter

Forum on Advocating for Archives and Special Collections Programs Invites Participants



For more information, contact **Jodi Allison-Bunnell**, Northwest Digital Archives Program Manager, Orbis Cascade Alliance, at 406-829-6528 or jodiab@uoregon.edu.

Do you need new ideas of how to attract scarce resources to support the archives and special collections program at your institution? Join Northwest Digital Archives at a forum from 9 to 11:30 AM on Thursday, March 22, 2012, at the Concordia University Library in Portland, Oregon, to build your skills for effective program advocacy and find out what has brought others good results. Participants from the “Supporting and Building Emergent Archival Programs in the Northwest” will, in collaboration with attendees, share practical tips, provide high-level analysis of more and less effective strategies, discuss challenges, and build skills. There is no cost to attend.

Presenters will include project manager Jodi Allison-Bunnell; consulting archivists Elizabeth Knight and Linda Morton-Keithley; Michael Paulus of Seattle Pacific University; Terry Baxter of the Multnomah County Archives; Jeremy Skinner of Lewis & Clark College; and representatives from the seven institutions participating in the project: Concordia University, George Fox University, Linfield College, Pacific University, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, and the University of Puget Sound.

Funded by a \$123,188 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), the granting arm of the National Archives and Records Administration, the project is assisting seven small liberal-arts colleges in Oregon and Washington with archival program development. While a portion of the project has focused on exposing significant collections for research, the parallel goal is to assist participants with building long-term support for archives and special collections programs at their institutions.

To register for the event, please go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/G7YNVF3>.

Northwest Digital Archives is a program that offers enhanced access to information about archives and special collections at <http://nwda.orbiscascade.org/index.shtml> and forms part of the offerings of the Orbis Cascade Alliance. The Orbis Cascade Alliance provides the popular Summit union catalog that allows students, faculty, and staff to easily search and request library materials owned by member libraries. To provide fast, efficient delivery, the Alliance maintains a courier service providing daily pick-up and delivery of library materials at libraries in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. The Alliance also provides cooperative purchasing opportunities for databases, electronic journals, and other digital library services.

Contributed by Jodi Allison-Bunnell, Northwest Digital Archives Program Manager, Orbis Cascade Alliance

Message from Chair, continued

Have ideas, content, or suggestions for the RAO Section newsletter? Send them to raonews@gmail.com or to Lisa Sjoberg, Communications Liaison, at sjoberg@cord.edu.

This fall your Steering Committee endorsed two reference, access, or outreach-related sessions for the 2012 SAA meeting in San Diego. It was tough having to pare down the excellent proposals we received to only two! Both of these proposals were accepted by the 2012 Program Committee. The names of the sessions are “Interlibrary Loan and Archives: The Final Frontier” and “Kids These Days: K-12 Students and the Use of Primary Sources.”

Speaking of the upcoming SAA annual meeting, after the New Year we will begin work on the RAO Section Meeting. If you have ideas for the program portion of the meeting, please let us know. You can contact me (kathryn.otto@uwr.edu) or any of the Steering Committee members with your thoughts and ideas.

Best always,
Kathie

Second Annual K-12 Archives Education Institute

Public education and outreach have been central to the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York (ART) since its founding in 1979. With more than 400 members representing 160 repositories, ART is one of the largest professional organizations of archivists in the U.S.

Several years ago ART's Outreach Committee decided to pair professional archivists in the region with elementary, middle, and high school teachers. The outcome, the Committee hoped, would be greater knowledge and use of the wealth of primary source materials in regional repositories that can help bring history alive in classrooms. Archivists could broaden their outreach to local schools, and teachers could access many more primary source materials to address the curriculum standards that guide their teaching.

Several years of planning culminated in a pilot program, a day-long K-12 Archives Education Institute with 26 participants, held at the National Archives and Records Administration at New York City (NARA-NYC) in October 2010. Participants listened to archivists and educators from the New York State Archives, and then shared and received copies of archival materials relating to civil and human rights. The Institute was so well received that the Committee, led by Janet Bunde and Ryan Anthony Donaldson, decided to make it an annual event. As a result, on October 15, 2011 ART once again partnered with NARA-NYC to host a second Institute and with the Association of Teachers of Social Studies/United Federation of Teachers (ATSS/UFT) to help with publicity and funding for refreshments.

This year's Institute focused on immigration and migration. Thirty-five participants heard lively presentations from archivists in the New York metropolitan area and from teachers who are experienced with using primary sources on immigration in their own classrooms. Participants toured NARA-NYC led by Chris Zarr, Education Specialist, and discussed a number of fascinating documents related to immigration and migration to and through New York City. They also brainstormed about possible uses of the materials the archivists had discussed, as well as sample documents some of the teachers had brought to share with the group. One participant summed up the very positive feedback ART received about the Institute in this way: "A workshop for educators that I can honestly say was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday!"



Chris Zarr, Education Specialist, leads the group on a tour of the National Archives at New York City as part of the K-12 Archives Education Institute, 15 October 2011. Photograph by Bonnie Marie Sauer. Courtesy of the National Archives at New York City.



Debra Edmund (left) and Pamela Cruz report back to all participants during the afternoon group activity analyzing archival documents covering the theme of immigration and migration in New York. Each group described strategies to teach these archival documents within the K-12 classroom setting. Institute held on 15 October 2011 at the National Archives at New York City. Photograph by Johanna O'Toole.

Marisa Gitto, Director of the Patricia Standish Curriculum Library at the College of Saint Rose, is working with ART's Outreach Committee as AEI Curriculum Coordinator to develop a lesson plan on immigration and migration based on the materials and ideas shared at the Institute. Visit ART's website (www.nycarchivists.org) for more photographs from the 2011 Institute, a full report on the day's activities, and a link to the curriculum guide (available later this winter). ART thanks MetLife for its generous support of the Archives Education Institute. For further information contact Janet Bunde, chair of ART's Outreach Committee at community@nycarchivists.org, or Committee Coordinator Ryan Anthony Donaldson at outreach@nycarchivists.org.

Contributed by Barbara Gombach, member, Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York

One participant summed up the very positive feedback ART received about the Institute in this way: "A workshop for educators that I can honestly say was a wonderful way to spend a Saturday!"

Grant Received for Landmark Tour

The Indiana University South Bend Archives was part of a team that received four grants in Spring of 2011 that will enable the creation of the South Bend African American Civil Rights Landmarks Tour.

The tour will include a total of eighteen sites through the city of South Bend, Indiana that speak to the history of the city in general, and to the city's African American history in particular.

The tour is an initiative of IU South Bend's Civil Rights Heritage Center, which is a partnership between students, faculty, staff, and community members to honor area social justice activism and activists past, present, and future. As the Center's Mission Statement puts forward:

Inspired by the study of the Civil Rights Movement, students at IU South Bend founded the Civil Rights Heritage Center to record, preserve, and celebrate the struggles and extraordinary achievements of citizens committed to social justice. In partnership with schools, community organizations, neighborhood centers, and local government, the Civil Rights Heritage Center uses local and national civil rights history to promote social justice through individual responsibility and improved race relations.

The IU South Bend Archivist, Alison Stankrauff, is active with the Center, serving as the Center's Archivist, on the Center's Board, and on several committees for the Center, including its Oral History committee, Collections Committee, Grant Writing Committee, and two Student Scholarship Committees.

The Civil Rights Heritage Center envisioned a tour throughout the city of South Bend that would make the stories of local African American history and activism known and accessible. The Center partnered with the Northern Regional Office of the Indiana Landmarks and the Northern Indiana Center for History to apply for grants to create a tour to document and explain African American landmarks in the city of South Bend.

The tour will include eighteen sites throughout South Bend that elucidate the key people and institutions and the parts they played in community activism and life. The locations will be indicated with a marker that has a short history of the significance of the site locally along with some contextual information on the site to concurrent national civil rights history.

Three grants totaling approximately \$10,000 were awarded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation through their Partnership-in-Scholarship Fund for African American Historic Places, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, as well as the Indiana Humanities Historic Preservation Education Program with partial funding provided by Indiana Landmarks' African American Heritage Fund.

Scheduled for completion in Spring 2012, it is hoped that the South Bend African American Civil Rights Landmarks Tour will be a point of pride for the city and encourage people to learn about the community's compelling African American history and stories of civil activism.

Contributed by Alison Stankrauff, Archivist and Associate Librarian, Indiana University South Bend

Sites included in the historical tour:

- Civil Rights Heritage Center's Natatorium
- The former home and dental offices of Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Streets Sr.
- The former site of Hank's Pool Hall and the former Birdsell-Liston African American business district
- Five of South Bend's historic African American churches
- The St. Joseph County Courthouse
- The former location of Robertson's Department Store
- The Charles Black Center
- The Martin Luther King Jr. Center
- The former location of Hering House
- The former home of African American Civil Rights leaders and attorneys J. Chester and Elizabeth Fletcher Allen on Howard Street
- The Porter-Rea Cemetery at Potato Creek State Park
- The entry to the Chalfant Heights Neighborhood

RAO Steering Committee

Kathryn Otto, Chair (University of Wisconsin River Falls)

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Gregory Kocken, Member (University of Wisconsin Eau Claire)

Mary Manning, Member (Texas A&M University)

Alison Stankrauff, Member (Indiana University South Bend)

Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Member (Iowa State University)

Jan Blodgett, Web Liaison (Davidson College)

Lisa Sjoberg, Communications Liaison (Concordia College)

Helen Kim, Intern

Terry Baxter, Council Liaison (Multnomah County Records Program)