



Archival Arranger

Volume 20, Fall

October 2013

A letter from the Vice-Chair

Dear All,

It's been a busy year for archivists in the Delaware Valley. It's hard to believe it is already the fall. There are still so many DVAG events yet to come before the end of the year.

October is Archives Month and the 2013 Archives Month Philly Planning Committee has been hard at work organizing a variety of events and gathering information about exhibitions all around Philly. A big thank you to Sara Borden, Matt Herbison, Hillary Kativa,

Jenna Marrone, Bayard Miller, and John Pettit. I hope everyone will take advantage and attend Archives Month Philly events.

We are saying a premature farewell to our Chair, Maureen Callahan, who has left Philadelphia to become the Librarian for Archival Collections Management at New York University. DVAG has benefited from Maureen's involvement for several years, and we are all very thankful for her leadership. Since she is not far away, I know we will continue to have opportunities to

enjoy Maureen's professional insights and experience.

Want to get more involved? Have an idea or issue you want addressed? DVAG exists for and runs on the energy of its membership. Elections are coming up in the fall, when we will be seeking candidates for Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Meanwhile, feel free to contact me with suggestions, concerns or proposals.

Sincerely,
Laurie Rizzo
DVAG Vice Chair

Archives Month Philly Runs Through October

Contributed by John Pettit

October is Archives Month, and DVAG's Archives Month Planning Committee has been busy putting together a schedule of fun, archives related activities across the city.

Archives Month Philly is an outreach effort to raise pub-



lic awareness about the value of the work of archivists as well as the phenomenal collections we have in the region. Over twenty institutions are participating through workshops, lectures, screenings and tours. The

month kicks off with a poetry reading and roundtable utilizing archival material at Temple University Libraries, Special Collections Research Center on October 1. Addi-

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Membership report

Contributed by Celia Caust-
Ellenbogen

Summer may be fading, but
DVAG's ranks are swelling!

Please join me in welcoming
15 new members to the
DVAG fold: Stanley Alston,
Annalise Berdini, E. Evan
Echols, Bryan Eichner, Sarah
Hegge, Jonathan Hoppe,

Jessica Hoffman, Josue Hur-
tado, Sarh Kemp, Patricia
Martinelli, Alison Miner,
Jeffrey Moy, Bethany Myers,
Donna Rhodes, and Chris-
topher Weeg.

Archivists Being Awesome

Next meeting: October 29, 2013, 6-7pm

Chemical Heritage Foundation
315 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Find out more at: <http://archivistsbeingawesome.wordpress.com/>

Archives Month Philly ...continued from page 1

tionally there will be an Archives Month Philly happy hour at the Trestle Inn which features a talk by Annie Anderson and projections of PhillyHistory.org photographs. Other unique events include a lantern slide salon at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, workshop on church collections at the Delaware History Museum, an open mic utilizing the South Asian American Digital Archive and a screening of City Archives and Presbyterian Historical Society material at PhilaMOCA. A wide range

of ongoing tours and exhibits will also be promoted as part of Archives Month Philly.

Archives Month Philly is inspired by SAA's national Archives Month initiative and past DVAG Archives Week programming. The 2013 programming committee is Sara Borden, Matt Herbison, Hillary Kativa, Jenna Marrone, Bayard Miller and John Pettit. Additional guidance and has been provided by the DVAG Planning Committee. It will

hopefully be a yearly effort which means it's not too early to think about things for next year!

If you would like Archives Month Philly postcards or brochures for your institution, email archivesmonthphilly@gmail.com. Full programming info can be found on the Archives Month Philly blog and calendar <http://archivesmonthphilly.com/>

Spread the word and come out!



Have an interview coming up and want to practice your skills? Need help with your resume or cover letter?

Contact DVAG's
Resume and Practice Interview Bureau
and get a mentor today!
arranger@dvarchivists.org

A DVAG Discussion on the International Council on Archives: Principles of Access to Archives

Contributed by Bayard Miller

On the evening of June 27th, the Delaware Valley Archivists Group held a general meeting at the Curtis Institute of Music for a conversation about something that is (or should be) on every archivist's mind, equitable access to archives. Archivists from a diverse array of backgrounds gathered in the *Field Concert Hall* to discuss the [Principles of Access to Archives](#), a document adopted by the International Council on Archives in August 2012. The purpose of the *Principles of Access to Archives* is to "provide archivists with an authoritative international baseline against which to measure their existing access policy and practices and a framework to use when developing new or modifying existing access rules." The document consists of ten principles, along with commentary, and acts as a guideline to measure policies and set a standard to which individual archivists can hold themselves. Leading the discussion was Margaret Graham from the Drexel College of Medicine, Valerie Lutz from the American Philosophical Society, and Laurie Rizzo from the Hagley Museum and Library.

The meeting began with an overview of the document followed by discussion on the applicability to the real world of archives. At first it seemed many of these prin-

ciples were obvious. In the document, as well as in most archival literature concerning access, it is stated that archives are made to be accessible. It is a truism of our field that the daily work of archivists include the advancement of access to all. However, what is found in the *Principles* is often very different from what is practiced. In fact, there are many obstacles to providing access to these vast resources. Though a general consensus agreed that the *Principles* were indeed an excellent resource for archivists, and that they do promote a level of access to which all institutions should aspire, often there are many practical hurdles that hinder accessibility. This document raises a lot of questions.

Whether it is a donor agreement with multiple restrictions, privacy issues, or a massive backlog, restrictions on collections are one of the major issues archivists face when providing access to records. The *Principles* offer the following advice, "Institutions holding archives make known the existence of the archives, including the existence of closed material, and disclose the existence of restrictions that affect access to archives." Institutions can adopt this principle and should provide at least bare bones access by offering at the very least collection level descriptions for all new accessions. (See *Principal 2*)

One obstacle discussed was donor restrictions on collections. This is an unfortunate reality that many archivists have to face.

The *Principles*, however, do not (nor should they?) suggest what sort of embargo period would be sufficient to suggest to donors. Someone suggested that perhaps an institutions access policy should include a maximum number of years that a collection can remain restricted by a donor. If applied equally to all newly acquired collections it would protect archivists from having to make case-by-case decisions about whether or not to accept a collection that won't be available to the public for maybe fifty years. Another suggestion, and one that is always good practice, was to keep up a working relationship with donors. Often the original negotiated restrictions can be harsh, however, if you keep up a good working relationship, there may be opportunity down the road to renegotiate the original deed and reevaluate the restrictions. (For more on donor relations see *Principles 4 and 5*)

Privacy was another concern of the group, both in terms of institutional donors and individual donors. These restrictions often have unique obstacles that impede archivists from providing access to their records. For example, corpora

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DVAG Reports Back

SAA New Orleans: Laissez les bon temps rouler!



All-Attendee Reception at the National World War II Museum

Contributed by Hillary Kativa

As the recipient of this year's DVAG travel grant, I was fortunate to travel to New Orleans in August to attend the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists. In many ways, it was a trip of firsts: my first national conference, my first trip to New Orleans, and my first taste of gumbo, turtle soup, and a whole host of regional delicacies. On all counts, I was charmed by the creativity and camaraderie that permeated both the city and the annual meeting and came home inspired by the sights and sounds of colleagues, lively debate, and even a little street corner jazz.

In keeping with my role as the Digital Collections and Rights Manager at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, I primarily attended

sessions related to digital projects and initiatives, which dominated this year's annual meeting. On the whole, these sessions provided snapshots of a field at the crossroads, as presenters collectively highlighted past projects and shared strategies for refining future digitization work through user studies, staff training, new technologies, and the like. To wit, at the very first session I attended (**Disruptive Components: Reimagining Archival Access Systems**), a team of archivists, catalogers, and technology specialists from Princeton's Mudd Manuscript Library demonstrated their new finding aids site and discussed their efforts to treat description as data in order to enhance searching and remove barriers to access of archival materials. The user experience was also a hot topic at several other sessions: **Exploring the**

User Experience with Digital Primary Sources

outlined several user studies designed to decode how users search digital collections and what content they value, such as rights information and attribution info. The panel for **Digitization Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary, Cross-Profession Discussion** even featured two users on the panel, which added an interesting flavor to the discussion of access, quality control, and the role of digital collections in scholarly research. As we move beyond the era of just getting collections online and begin to think more strategically about what and how we digitize, these sessions were both reassuring and illuminating. (In many ways, the best part of the annual meeting was the chance to sit in a room of my peers and think "yes, I have that problem too!")

Along those lines, other sessions of note included **Building Better Bridges: Archivists Cross the Digital Divide**, which featured a series of short "lightning talks" on issues of knowledge transfer, cross-training, and digital services as a new archival skill set. **Collaboration in Digitization Workflows: How Archivists and Camera Technicians Can Work Together** similarly discussed how archivists, digitization

technicians, preservation staff, and other professionals can collaborate and educate one another about workflows and best practices. Interestingly, both of these sessions touched on the professionalization of digital services and how the digitization process encompasses many activities traditionally performed by archivists, including appraisal, processing, and conservation. To this point, many speakers expressed concern about the rise of "Digital" Archivists and argued for all archivists to be "digital conversant" and integrate basic digital skills into their knowledge base.

The state of the archival profession, particularly the plight of young professionals, was likewise the subject of SAA President Jackie Dooley's Presidential Address entitled "Feeding Our Young." As SAA's outgoing President, Dooley recapped her year-long listening tour and highlighted issues relevant to many DVAG members, such as the current lack of true entry-level jobs and stagnant wages. While Dooley acknowledged that little can be done to change the profession overnight, she encouraged attendees to think carefully about how they measure "professional" work and to provide assistance to young professionals through mentorships, internships, and the like. Dooley also lauded the creation of the Student and New Archives Professionals Roundtable and encouraged attendees to continue the momentum of professional debate and outreach.

Of course, the SAA annual meeting wasn't all work and no play and New Orleans presented plenty of opportunities to kick up my heels. The annual meeting's All-Attendee Reception at the National World War II Museum was a great chance to fraternize with old friends and new acquaintances amidst lifesize aircraft and even a replica of the famed Stage Door Canteen. For the public historians among us, the New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, located in the home of the nation's first licensed pharmacist, was not to be missed. An obvious labor of love, the museum is a treasure trove of pharmaceutical artifacts, including home remedies, voodoo medicine, and even a few love potions. And of course, I also took some time to eat and drink my way through Bourbon Street and the French Quarter, forging a trail of beignets, po' boys, hurricanes, oysters, and gumbo. By the end of this year's annual meeting, my mind (much like my stomach) was brimming with new ideas and enthusiasm for the next frontier of digital initiatives and I'm so grateful to DVAG for the opportunity to be part of the SAA community that gathered in New Orleans. Especially for the young professionals among us: make any effort you can to attend the annual meeting. Hopefully, like me, you'll make connections, gain new perspectives, and come back inspired to contribute to our field in new and exciting ways.

*Café Du Monde**The New Orleans Pharmacy Museum**Jackson Square*

Treasurer's report, 2013

	DVAG	THATCamp*	TOTAL
Balance on December 31, 2012	\$10,602.86	\$326.41	\$10,929.27
Balance on September 18, 2013	\$11,127.35	\$1,893.91	\$13,021.26

	Budget	1rst Q	2ndQ	3rdQ	4thQ	YTD
Income:						
Interest	30	6.34	6.48	4.27	0	17.09
Dues 3 yr	1500	1050	30.00	30.00	0	1110.00
Dues 1 yr	1200	756	240.00	144.00	0	1140.00
Donations	100	15	0	0	0	15
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	2,830	1,827.34	276.48	178.27	0	2282.09
Expenses:						
Web-site/Domain	130	26.85	46.73	17.90	0	91.48
Refreshments	375	115	50.00	115.00	0	280.00
PO Box	90	0	66.00	0	0	66.00
Membership Dir	25	0	0	0	0	0
IRS Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misc. expenses	200	0	0	0	0	0
Prof. Development grant	1000	0	0	1000.00	0	1000.00
Workshop fund	500	0	0	0	0	0
PayPal fees	80	37.57	9.10	7.15	0	53.82
Total:	2400	179.42	171.83	1140.05	0	1491.30
Surplus/(Deficit)	430	1647.92	104.65	(961.78)	0	790.79

*THATCamp funds are held by DVAG as a courtesy

2013 Membership Renewal Form

Membership in the Delaware Valley Archivists Group (DVAG) is open to all individuals including regular and volunteer personnel of state and local historical societies; college and university archives and special collections; federal, state, and local archives and records centers; museums; libraries; business firms; educational, religious, and medical institutions; and other groups who collect, preserve, and make historical materials available for research use.

Dues for the 2013 January-December year are \$12.00. **Or you may pay for three years (January 2013-December 2015) for \$30 — a \$6 discount.** Please consider adding a few additional dollars to your check. A little goes a long way toward our goal of enhancing and expanding the benefits of your DVAG membership. **Now you may also pay online by credit card.** Go to the DVAG web site ["Membership" page](#) and follow the directions.

For more information, contact Celia Caust-Ellenbogen, DVAG Membership Coordinator, at membership@dvarchivists.org.

 Contact information provided below will be included in the 2013 DVAG membership directory. The email address provided below, if different from what is currently in our records or on the listserv, will be changed in both locations unless noted otherwise.

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Institution: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____

2013 dues \$12.00 OR	\$ _____
2013-2015 dues \$30.00	\$ _____
Contribution (optional)	\$ _____ (contribution is not tax deductible)
TOTAL	\$ _____ (check or money order payable to DVAG)

DVAG would like to acknowledge members who make additional contributions with a notice in the DVAG newsletter, *The Archival Arranger*. If you prefer not to be listed by name, check here: _____.

Mail to: DVAG, P.O. Box 17162, Philadelphia, PA 19105-7162

Principles of Access to Archives ...continued from page 3

tions and similar private institutions are not always eager to share all of the secrets found within their records and therefore have longer embargo periods for collections. Whether to protect individual members or an entire organization, restricting records for a finite amount of years is often the only way to make sure that the sanctity of member deliberations are protected, but for how long? To many, these documents are important to the historical record and therefore should be available, but to others it is the much too recent past. This can often be problematic for an archivist who sees the potential value and importance of the collections with which they work. This is where archivists find themselves in a gray area having to find a balance between personal ethics and profes-

sional responsibility. (See the commentary for *Principle 1*) 59)

A recent example of archives and privacy discussed by the group was the debacle over the [Belfast Project](#) at Boston University. This case exhibits potential threats to collection restrictions and highlights the concept of archival privilege. Archival privilege is the notion that restrictions on access to archival records should be recognized by a court of law. The heart of the argument is that “without the ability to restrict collections we will be unable to collect, and important historical information will be lost to this and future generations.” (George, Christine Anne, “Archives Beyond the Pale: Negotiating Legal and Ethical Entanglements after the Belfast Project,” *The American Archivist*, Vol. 76, No. 1, Spring/Summer 2013.

As the enthusiastic discussion drew to a close, it seemed as though the crowd had only just scratched the surface of all of the issues raised by the *Principles of Access to Archives*. There is a lot of good advice in this document but the underlying theme is that individual archivists, whether working for a private or public institution, have a responsibility to promote access at all levels. As Hagel reminds us, “The owl of Minerva flies at dusk.” The practical demands on an archivist’s attention throughout the average workday are great. It is easy to lose sight of what’s most important as we struggle to keep up with the ever-growing demands of our jobs. The benefit of the *Principles* is to remind all of us our role in the larger puzzle of society.

New Collaborative Digital History Exhibit to Commemorate WWI Anniversary

Contributed by Hillary Kativa

This fall, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Villanova University began work on a collaborative digital history exhibit to mark the Centennial Anniversary of the First World War. Organized around themes like propaganda, medicine, popu-

lar culture, and the Philadelphia home front, the exhibit will feature digital images of manuscripts, photographs, posters, and newspapers from each institution’s collections, as well as interpretative content by scholars and students. The exhibition is scheduled to launch in 2014 to coincide with the

100th anniversary of the start of the war and will continue to add content over the next four years. If you are interested in joining the project or contributing content, please contact Hillary Kativ (hkativa@hsp.org) or Michael Foight (michael.foight@villanova.edu).

Want to cover an upcoming meeting, workshop or event for the *Arranger*?

Contact Courtney at arranger@dvarchivists.org

HSP Receives Grant to Improve Accessibility and Description of Graphics

Contributed by Hillary Kativa

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) has begun a two-year project to enhance description and discovery of its graphics materials and promote the linking and sharing of content among institutions and scholars. This project is funded by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's Innovation in Archives and Documentary Editing program.

As part of the project, HSP will digitize 500 political cartoons and develop a sophisticated image tool, which will allow users to search for cartoons on specific topics, analyze individual cartoons in depth, and follow links between cartoons and related contextual material. The tool, an update to the open-source Bischen image viewer, will improve HSP's ability to manage and describe its digitized images and make it easier for the public to access them. The project will also include educational re-

sources for teachers and students, as well as descriptive content that will be shared among the wider digital community. The overall objective is to make archival graphics more accessible for online users and encourage other repositories to adopt the new tools and practices.

For more information about the project, contact Hillary S. Kativa, Digital Collections and Rights Manager (hkativa@hsp.org).

Staff update from the Barnes

The Barnes Foundation is pleased to announce that Amanda McKnight began working full time for the Archives, Libraries, and Special Collections department in July 2013 with the new title of Assistant Archivist and Librarian.

Amanda holds an MLS from the University of Maryland and, before relocating to Philadelphia, she worked for the National Archives and Records Administration. She has worked in the Barnes Foundation Archives for two years, beginning as a volunteer and, since April 2012, as a part-time assistant archivist. During that time, she completed processing three archival collections, including the papers of Laura Leggett Barnes, and

she continues to assist with the large number of visiting researchers and archival reference requests experienced since the re-opening of the archives last summer.

As Amanda's new title indicates, she will also be managing the horticulture library on the Foundation's Merion campus. She plans to develop a collection that will more adequately support the activities and the needs of the arboretum staff, and the faculty and students of the horticulture school.

Amanda supervised summer intern Carly Schmidt, an art history/studio art major from Wagner College, on a project to inventory and arrange the original drawings, blueprints, and copies



Amanda McKnight assists intern Carly

of the landscape architecture plans and of the architectural plans of the buildings on the Merion site and also those of Ker-Feal, the former country residence of Dr. and Mrs. Barnes.

Archives Week in Monmouth County

Contributed by Gary D. Saretzky

More than twenty New Jersey history-related organizations have already registered for Archives and History Day at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan, organized by the Monmouth County Archives, on Saturday, October 12. Exhibit tables for archives, historical societies,

government agencies, local history collections at public libraries, and other not-for-profit history organizations are still available. The theme this year is Prohibition in New Jersey and attendees on October 12 are invited to arrive in period costume (optional). Marc Mappen, the featured speaker, will address a topic related to his new book, *Prohibition Gangsters: The Rise and Fall of a Bad Generation*. An

exhibit on Prohibition in New Jersey co-curated by Dr. Mappen will be on view in the library beginning October 1.

For a preliminary October 12 program, plus information about four Archives Week seminars offered on October 7 and 9, see <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.aspx?id=4177>

Cheryl A. Cook to Receive Jane Clayton Award from Monmouth County

Contributed Gary D. Saretzky

Monmouth County Clerk M. Claire French has announced that Cheryl A. Cook will be presented with the Jane Clayton Award on Archives and History Day, October 12, at the Monmouth County Library. The award, given annually since 1997, honors an individual who, over a substantial number of years, has made exceptional contributions to an awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of the history of Monmouth County. Since her retirement as Head of Collection Development for the Monmouth County Library in 1999, Cook has worked diligently to preserve and enhance historical resources in Freehold Township. She created a museum for Early Childhood Education at the West Freehold Schoolhouse in 1999. She then spent several years establishing the Oakley Farm

Museum that opened in 2002. More than 15 Eagle Scouts have done their projects at the farm, which includes the entire contents of a 19th century village blacksmith shop Cook acquired from the Vanderveer family. In 2003, she played a leadership role in the founding of the Freehold Township Heritage Society, which raises funds for preservation projects, including the restoration of the Georgia Road Schoolhouse that reopened in 2010. Cook also was instrumental in creating a museum at the Solomon property now located in Mount's Corner Shopping Center. The Barn is now the home of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County, founded in 2006. These are but a few of Cook's many achievements that have enhanced the preservation of historic buildings and enabled public history education and pro-



Cheryl A. Cook, winner of the Jane Clayton Award

grams. "Without question," stated County Clerk French, "Cheryl Cook is deserving of this recognition of her achievements. I look forward to presenting the award to her on Archives and History Day." For a schedule of events on October 12, see <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.aspx?id=4177>

Review of "Inreach and Outreach for Digital Archives" workshop

Contributed by Garrett Boos

On June 18th, I attended the SAA DAS (Digital Archives Specialist) workshop, "Inreach and Outreach for Digital Archives," at Drexel University. This was the third workshop in the DAS curriculum I have attended, and it fits into the Tactical and Strategic category of courses. This category is intended to provide archivists with the skills to enact meaningful changes in their institution to develop a digital archives program. Most of the courses in the tier are intended for managers of other information professionals. Because I do not manage others at this point in my career, the workshop was not as helpful or informative for me, but I can see how these skills will come into play later in my career.

The workshop was taught by Fynnette Eaton. She worked with digital records at both NARA and the Smithsonian Institute throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and played a large part in establishing their digital archives. The workshop focused on reaching out to people inside and outside your institution who can help you achieve your intended goals. It was primarily concerned with digital archives, so many of

the examples focused on digital preservation or digital records management, but the basic information could relate to any situation. The point she stressed over and over during the workshop was collaboration with stakeholders. For the majority of the workshop we discussed the process of identifying stakeholders and how to effectively communicate with them. According to Eaton, communication with stakeholders includes being aware of terminology used by the different parties, how to phrase your needs in a way that everyone benefits, and how to identify an issue and how you can help fix it. She also pointed out, that these are all basic inreach and outreach principles that are always good to review, just with a digital twist.

Aside from the discussions led by the instructor, the participants spent a lot of time in groups talking about real issues. This was the first workshop I attended that had a substantial group component. The group component was both a strength and a weakness of the workshop. I felt that the group component was a great benefit to those participants already facing these problems, but a challenge to those not in the same position. The first exercise was quickly outlining a long presentation, a short presentation, and an elevator

speech related to what you are doing in digital archives. This exercise was meant to force us to refine our message. Some people volunteered to read theirs and get feedback on it. Another exercise focused on how a donor, supervisor or colleague could misinterpret the message created in the earlier exercise, and how to develop a response to that misinterpretation. This was a challenging exercise because it involved thinking about an issue from multiple points of view, but a clever way to analyze your message and get ready for discussions.

As I said, the workshop was very different than the others I have attended. There was a lot of group work and talking among the participants about real world problems. The workshop was great for people already dealing with these problems, who had a chance to collaborate with colleagues to solve them, but slightly awkward and less fulfilling for others who are not yet in a position to face those issues in practice. I would recommend this workshop to anyone currently facing these challenges in their institution, but I can not highly recommend it to someone who is not. I hope with this understanding anyone taking it in the future will be prepared and get as much out of the workshop as possible.

Education & other information

Check out DVAG's blog for news and updates
dvarchivists.org

Unconferencing #phillyDH

Contributed by Sarah Newhouse

On June 4th, over 200 of the best and brightest (and nicest) from Philadelphia's digital humanities community attended the PhillyDH@Penn event at the Penn Libraries' new Special Collections Center. The day was bracketed by two workshop sessions and the time in between was filled with unconference sessions, chosen and run by attendees. It's next to impossible to nail down the unconference experience, since you get out of an unconference what you put into it, so the experience is different for everyone. So for this overview, I'll focus on the sessions I attended, but I also encourage you also to check out the [PhillyDH@Penn website](#) and read both the session proposals and official session notes.

As you can see from the [schedule](#), attendees had some hard choices to make. Sessions could be proposed by anyone and were run more like roundtable discussions than your traditional lecture-based conference – the same format as previous [ThatCamp Philly](#) events. (Side note: ThatCamp Philly is happening again on September 27-28, 2013!)

The sessions that I attended were a mix of practical suggestions and big dreams. [“Collaborative Approaches to Born-Digital Collections”](#) provided examples of software used to appraise and manage born-digital holdings



Board of proposed unconference sessions

and attendees discussed how collaboration could help smaller repositories begin to work with their digital materials. Technical knowledge is obviously a barrier to using many digital asset management tools, but a collaborative approach would likely allow for skill sharing.

“[Using XML Technologies](#)” turned into a show and tell/skill-sharing session as the room contained both people familiar with XML and people who wanted to learn more about it. Discussion included the basics like what exactly XML is and what TEI and EAD are designed to do, but also some more advanced topics like using XQuery and XSLT to work with your encoded data.

“Visualizing Social Justice” attracted attendees from a wide range of backgrounds, including academics, artists, activists, and archivists. The

group discussed existing projects that document social justice movements and events, and also how archives can themselves practice social justice by removing access barriers. Access is restricted by requiring identification to enter a reading room, for example, but it can also be extended to previously excluded groups through mobile and web applications.

I also attended two workshops. The morning workshop, run by Holly Mengel, covered the basics of EAD finding aids and encouraged attendees that EAD was worth learning, even though most repositories do not rely on hand coding anymore. The afternoon workshop on Omeka.net, run by Cheryl Klimaszewski, encouraged everyone to get started building online exhibits with this user friendly tool.

The day was capped off by a

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MARAC Philly, November 7-9, 2013

Contributed by Val Lutz

MARAC (Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference) returns to Philadelphia this November for the first time since 2001. "Friends Meeting: Arts and Advocacy Along the Delaware" will be held from November 7 through 9 at the Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing. A number of sessions focus on art, artists, and archives, with others devoted to advocacy and outreach. Other programs and workshops relate to technology and software, classified documents found in collections, mysteries solved using archives, bringing pre-

vious experience to work in archives, and the effects of Hurricane Sandy on cultural institutions.

The plenary speaker will be Dr. Martin Levitt, Librarian of the American Philosophical Society. Dr. Levitt retired last year after 20 years of teaching the three-course archival sequence in Temple University's History program. He continues in his position at the APS. The luncheon speaker will be Sam Katz, Philadelphia businessman, civic leader, and former Mayoral candidate who has recently branched out into filmmaking with the epic series Philadelphia: The

Great Experiment.

Tours include the new Barnes Foundation on the Parkway, mansions on the Delaware River, the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, the American Philosophical Society, Temple University's Special Collections and Research Center, and Yards Brewery.

For more information, check out the conference program:

https://marac.memberclicks.net/assets/documents/marac_2013_philadelphia_conference_program.pdf

New Internship Opportunity at HSP

Contributed by Faith Charlton

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, through its Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR), is excited to announce a new internship program slated to start this fall. The goal of the program is to provide emerging archivists with hands-on collections processing experience while providing needed arrangement and description work on the collections of Philadelphia-area small archival repositories—small, often volunteer-run history organizations without a full-time, professionally-trained archivist. Interns will spend half of a semester in a typical processing internship at a large, professionally-run

“host institution.” The second half of the semester, the intern will continue under the supervision of the professional archivist from the host institution, but will process an archival collection from a small repository—working on-site at the small repository when possible.

The purpose of the HCI-PSAR project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, is to make better known and more accessible the hidden archival collections held at the numerous small repositories throughout the five-county Philadelphia area. Since September of 2011, Project Surveyors have created basic collection-level finding aids for over 800 collections held at more than 75 small repositories,

available on the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL)'s finding aids website [http://dla.library.upenn.edu/dla/pacscl/ancillary.html?id=collections/pacscl/repositories2]. More detailed finding aids, comprehensive arrangement, and improved housing are still necessary before many of these collections can be considered ready for research use.

HCI-PSAR is excited to have the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the Drexel University College of Medicine Legacy Center on board for the pilot phase of the internship program this fall

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Symposium: Disaster Planning for Archives and their Communities

Contributed by Susan Duhl

The Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, in conjunction with the Center for Jewish History, is organizing a one-day symposium with the aim of bringing together archivists, records managers, librarians, museum professionals, emergency responders, disaster recovery professionals, volunteers and the general public to address how professional and citizen archivists as well as related professionals can both better protect their collections from disaster and also become a resource for the larger community in disaster situations.

Susan Duhl and Vicki Lee, Conservators, and volunteer AIC-CERT professionals with specialties in archives conservation and management are presenting

The American Institute for Conservation Collections Emergency Response Team (AIC-CERT) is a volunteer program run by the Foundation of AIC working with cultural institutions to respond to emergencies of all types. The teams' experiences have coalesced into systematic preparation, response, salvage, and treat-

ments to cultural collections affected by disaster situations.

National organizations, including AIC, Heritage Preservation, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, are instrumental in developing disaster prevention, preparedness, and response protocols. This work became paramount after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and through disasters that have followed.

Immediately following Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 through March of 2013, AIC-CERT responded to artists and institutions affected by significant flooding. By March 2013, 23 AIC-CERT members volunteered 128 days in NY and NJ. Specialist experts disseminated guidance and salvaged collections to institutions, small galleries, and individual artists, especially those hard hit in low-lying neighborhoods of NYC. AIC-CERT and other volunteers continued working with at the Cultural Recovery Center in Brooklyn to triage and recover damaged art and archival collections, including the archives and costumes from the Martha Graham Dance Studio, the



Susan Duhl with AIC-CERT volunteer doing recovery

artwork and personal archives of artist, Ronnie Landfield, and many other artists.

AIC-CERT's experiences include working well after disasters have passed, most notably in the years after Hurricane Katrina and the Haitian earthquake. Project

management, treatment protocols, fundraising, and budgetary concerns continue well after an event occurs. This spectrum of experience has built a framework for successful protection of collections and creates effective measures of response to disastrous incidents.

Disaster Symposium

October 7, Center for Jewish History, New York, NY

Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (ART) admin@nycarchivists.org



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Emergency Response Resources

American Institute for Conservation – CERT (Emergency Response Team)

<http://www.conservation--us.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=695>

Emergency Number (202) 661--8068

Federal Emergency Management

www.fema.gov

Pennsylvania Emergency Management

www.pema.state.pa.us

Heritage Emergency National Task Force

www.heritagepreservation.org/programs/taskfer.htm

Philadelphia Alliance for Response

www.heritagepreservation.org/afr/Philadelphia/index.html

Disaster Planning

Northeast Document Conservation Center

www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets/3Emergency_Management/03DisasterPlanning.php

Disaster Planning and Training Courses

Northern States Conservation and MuseumClasses.org

<http://www.collectioncare.org/tas/tase.html>

Disaster Response Supplies

University Products

[www.universityproducts.com/cart.php?m=product_list&c=1322&parentID=&specialName=&navTree\[\]=1322](http://www.universityproducts.com/cart.php?m=product_list&c=1322&parentID=&specialName=&navTree[]=1322)

**Don't forget to renew your DVAG membership
A renewal form is provided on page 5,
for your convenience.**

Giving Voice: Interpreting and Preserving Oral Histories

The **Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA)** is pleased to announce that registration is now open for an all new, one-day conference on the preservation of oral histories!

With countless advances made in audiovisual technology during the 20th century, libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies, as well as families and individuals, set out to capture the stories of the past through recordings. This oral history material was preserved using magnetic recording tapes, film, and digital formats—many now obsolete. While of great value and worthy of preservation, any oral history material in a collection should be considered at-risk until an institution conscientiously develops strategies to preserve it.

Giving Voice: Interpreting & Preserving Oral Histories is a national conference, intended for archivists, librarians, collections managers, and any other collections staff working with oral histories. It brings together noted historians and preservation experts to discuss best practices and methods for capturing and sharing oral histories. Topics include:

- Best practices for collecting stories
- Basic principles for managing oral histories within your repository
- Strategies for preserving audiovisual materials
- Access
- Outreach and exhibition
- Reaching and documenting underrepresented groups

Speakers:

George Blood, President, George Blood Audio and Video

Charles Hardy III, Professor of History, West Chester University

Bertram Lyons, Folklife Specialist/Digital Assets Manager, Library of Congress American Folklife Center

Joyce Hill Stoner, Edward F. and Elizabeth Goodman Rosenberg Professor of Material Culture, University of Delaware; Paintings Conservator, Winterthur/UD Program in Art Conservation; Director, UD Preservation Studies Doctoral Program

Sady Sullivan, Director of Oral History, Brooklyn Historical Society

Location: The Athenaeum of Philadelphia
219 South 6th Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

When: Wednesday, November 6, 2013
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Fees: \$95 CCAHA members
\$110 Non-members

*Funding for this program was provided by the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, the **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts**, the **Independence Foundation**, and **The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation**.*

See <http://www.ccaha.org/education/program-calendar/2013/11/06/giving-voice-interpreting-preserving-oral-histories> for details, and to register. If you have any questions, please call our Preservation Services department at (215) 545-0613, or e-mail psa@ccaaha.org.



Delaware Valley Archivists Group

The **Delaware Valley Archivists Group** was established in 1980 to provide area archivists the opportunity to exchange ideas and visit archives of all sizes throughout the region. DVAG holds quarterly meetings and offers periodic workshops for members at all levels of experience. Each meeting or workshop focuses on practical or professional issues, or the relationship of the profession to topics of current public interest. Subjects of past meetings have included space planning, new construction, conservation, micrographics and imaging, disaster preparedness, and records management. DVAG's publications include the *Directory of Archival and Manuscript Repositories in the Delaware Valley, 3rd Edition*, the DVAG Membership Directory, and *The Archival Arranger*, the newsletter of DVAG.

Membership in DVAG is open to all individuals including: students and regular and volunteer staff of state and local historical societies; college and university archives and special collections; federal, state, and local archives and records centers; museums; libraries; business firms; educational, religious, and medical institutions; and other groups who are concerned with collecting, preserving, and making historical materials available for research use. The Delaware Valley Archivists Group annual dues are \$12.00 for the membership year.

Membership and mailing list inquiries should be directed to Celia Caust-Ellenbogen, Membership Coordinator, at membership@dvarchivists.org.

DVAG Officers and Planning Committee

Maureen Callahan—Chair
Laurie Rizzo—Vice Chair
Leslie O'Neill—Secretary
Lou Ferrero—Treasurer
Celia Caust Ellenbogen—Membership
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David Staniunas—Web Coordinator
Courtney Smerz—Arranger Editor
Valerie-Anne Lutz —At Large
John Pettit—At Large
Bayard Miller—At Large

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gong-regulated series of lightning talks and a keynote talk by Michael Edson, Director of Web and New Media Strategy at the Smithsonian Institution.

Notes from most sessions can be found in the comments on the Phil-

lyDH@Penn site, <http://penn2013.phillydh.org/>

All of the tweets from and about the unconference can be accessed by searching Twitter for "PhillyDH" or through Storify: <http://storify.com/search?q=PhillyDH>

I'd like to give a final thank-you to the University of Pennsylvania and its libraries, the PhillyDH organizing committee, Michael Edson, and William Noel and the helpful staff at the Special Collections Center.

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serving as the "host" institutions. The small repositories that are participating are the Chestnut Hill Historical Society and the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library in Bristol, Pa.

We are proud to offer this unique opportunity for interns

to experience two very different types of archives work environments while gaining valuable training and applying their skills. HCI-PSAR hopes this internship helps facilitate the project's goal of building partnerships, fostering

communication, and increasing professionalization throughout the broader archival community. HCI-PSAR hopes that the pilot run this fall will be a success, and that this internship program will continue for many years to come!

**Delaware Valley
Archivists Group**
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