

Donated Records Partnership Project— The Collection Match



Dawn Sherman-Fells
Meghan Ryan Guthorn
William Casari
Beth Harris
Laura Poll

Concept

- Web based tool
- Password Protected
- Used by cultural heritage professionals to find or place collections

Goals

- Growing Collections
- Maintaining Mission Focus
- Cultivating Donor Relations
- Professional Collaboration

How is this different ...?

- From ArchivesGrid, SAA and other list serves????
 - ArchivesGrid is public facing, researcher oriented, and does not identify an active collecting focus.
 - SAA list of primary source repositories can be out dated.
 - Listserves to not produce a targeted, personal mailing, and can raise privacy concerns

Who Should be Involved?

- Archivists
- Librarians
- Museum Professionals
- Stewards of culture and history!

Common Challenges

- What to do with donation offers that do not fulfill institution mission?
- How to break the news to the donor making offer?
- How to grow collections that are mission focused?

Determining Placement

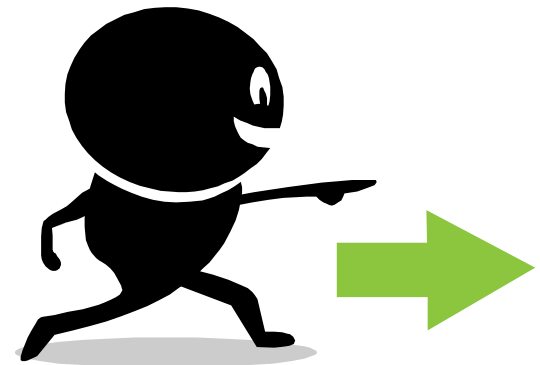
- Historically significant records in private hands should be preserved and accessed from the most appropriate placement.
- Placement consideration may include:
 - Collection focus
 - Resources
 - Institution Size
 - Collection Size
 - Record types

Wouldn't it be great if...

- a resource existed to help identify institutions that are actively collecting or open to new donations?
- a resource existed capturing elements of the placement criteria?
- we could say ...



**DON'T REJECT,
REDIRECT!**



Meghan Ryan Guthorn

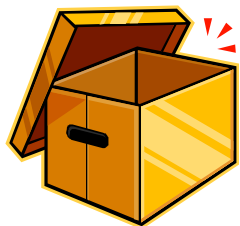
- Don't Reject – Redirect
 - Collecting policy which is simultaneously broad and very narrow
 - Better for donor relations and PR to redirect
 - To a novice, this can be challenging
 - Unsolicited donation
 - Returned to donor with recommendations and contact information

William Casari: Hostos Community College/City University of NY

- The Tito Puente Legacy Project at Hostos
 - Assessment conducted: recommendation not to accept collection
 - Recommendation to be housed at Raices Museum in Manhattan
 - Hostos President's office overruled recommendation
 - U.S. Congressman involved/Federal grant written
 - Collection and display installed in Hostos Library and Archives over objections of archivist and chief librarian
 - Many promised items never delivered

Beth S. Harris, Hollins University (Roanoke, VA)

- Have a policy
- Know your donor
- Respond positively
- Gently reject if you cannot . . .
- Redirect



Laura M. Poll, Monmouth County Historical Association, Freehold, NJ

- Morris Deed, 8 May 1790, Middletown Township
- Donor from Washington State, descendant of family
" for the love and good will as well as for the sum of Ten shillings"
- Donor frustrated after calling several repositories, both large and small
- New-York Historical Society referred donor to MCHA
- Collaborative effort = great collection for MCHA

To all Christian People to whom these Presents may Comor any days hereafter Concern Either Morris of Middletown Township do by Virtue hereof Release and Acquitt unto my son James Morris his heirs and Assignes forever all the Right which I Now have or Ever had to oring Certain Lots of Land Beginning at a brook running along the North End of the same whereon my son is best Morris now Lives from said brook running southerly along the Easterly side thereof till it Comes to my son James' own Land from thence along the South End of said Lot till it Comes to Swansons Groves Land or Southwesterly Corner of said Lot from thence southerly along said Groves line till it Comes to the Northwesterly Corner of said Groves Land thence to the aforesaid brook thence Down the brook to the aforesaid beginning Captaining about four or five Acres - All my Right in or to the aforesaid Lot and the aforesaid in the Morris do by Virtue hereof for the love and good will as well as for the sum of Ten shillings to me in hand paid by my said son James Morris the receipt I do hereby Acknowledge and my self Contented and paid forever but blame to the same or any part thereof to him my said son James his heirs & Assignes In witness whereof my hand and Seal this 8th day of May 1790 - Sealed & Delivered in presence of

John Morris
Ebenezer Morris

Proposal

- Collaborate with collecting institutions & professional organizations
- Leverage expertise and resources in the profession
- Establish a multi-institutional working group to develop a pilot
- Rollout pilot for interested participants.
- Conduct analysis, make adjustments and policy decisions as needed.
- Gradually expand resource

Proposed Product & Goals

- A robust web resource that will help:
 - Grow Collections
 - Maintain Mission Focus
 - Cultivate Donor Relations
 - Cultivate Professional Collaboration

Preliminary Research: Survey Results as of 4/14/2014, Based on 111 Responses

- 64% of respondents would use web page to develop/grow collection based on collection policy; 36% would not
- 89% will use web page to find other homes for collections that don't meet collection development guidelines; 11% would not
- 75% said redirecting collections is most important functionality for web page to have. 41% wanted to locate similar or other resources followed by 32% who will use the resource to build professional relationships
- 86% have not heard of a similar web resource anywhere else

Resources Needed

- We need YOU!!
- Support from professional organizations
- Participation by professional institutions
- People
 - IT Knowledge
 - Policy Knowledge
 - Marketing Knowledge
- Server Space
- Time

Benefits

- By working together, redirecting rather than rejecting, we build:
 - Professional relationships
 - Strong customer service reputations
 - Trust with the public
 - Collections

Interested? Have Questions?

- **Contact:**

- Meghan Ryan Guthorn
 - meghan.ryan@nara.gov
- Dawn Sherman-Fells
 - dawn.sherman@nara.gov
- William Casari
 - WCASARI@hostos.cuny.edu
- Laura Poll
 - Lpoll@monmouthhistory.org
- Beth Harris
 - bharris@hollins.edu