MARAC
Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Delaware • District of Columbia • Maryland • New Jersey
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Newark Poster Session!

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Join us for a poster session that highlights over 25 current, innovative archival research and projects from both students and professionals.

Posters will be presented from

4:00pm–5:30pm

in the

Crystal Ballroom

Also featured: "Archival Lab Remix"
Posters and Demos
from the
Department of Library and Information
Science, Rutgers University

(pp. 10–12)

1. Appraisal in academic archives: Considerations for the inexperienced archivist

Juliana Magro, *Queens College, City University of New York*

Appraisal is the most important task performed by an archivist, but it can seem fragmented and daunting to a novice. Within archival theory, some authors believe that appraisal is based on personal judgment rather than on a system, which presupposes that appraisal requires cumulative experience. Many other authors, concerned with the lack of systematic appraisal methodology, have proposed different theories in the last decades. What is the unpracticed archivist to do when faced with the diversity of theories and opinions? This poster studies one academic archive that was passively built, over decades, and had to be appraised by an inexperienced archivist. To judge which method would be most suitable for this institution, five theories were evaluated. Samuels' institutional functional analysis is argued to be the most fitting framework, for a few reasons: (i) it is practical and easy to follow; (ii) it benefits the appraisal, arrangement, and description of records; (iii) it improves access, and (iv) it also aids future documentation plans. Despite divergences among archivists, there are appraisal theories that can assist inexperienced archivists when making appraisal decisions. Archivists should look for direction in the literature, rather than their own instincts.

2. Augmented Archives

Heather Calloway , *Washington College*

Imagine walking into a space filled with unknown objects. The walls are covered with photographs. Artifacts are sitting in cases on display. Rare books are under a Lucite cover, and while you yearn to turn the pages of the book to see what follows, it is sadly locked under the case stuck on one page. But, now, you can finally see that next page! Instead of just wandering around an exhibit reading the captions...when you approach the objects, they come to life!

The Augmented Archives project utilizes augmented reality to bring a select group of primary source materials to life. Our project has created a modern response to a central problem in archives, museums and special collections; that significant obstacle is that most of our collections are stored away, in boxes and on shelves, where few have access to the items. Using augmented reality technology, we have created a new and engaging way for visitors to interact with items in our collection. Students have been able to create talking portraits, show close details inside pages of rare books and tell the stories of objects in our special collections through investigative curation.

3. Barry Farm to Marion Barry: 150 years of DC History Connected Through Records

Rebecca Katz, *D.C. Office of Public Records*

Barry Farm was established in 1867 by the sale of property owned by David and Juliana Barry to the federal government. Marion Barry, unrelated to David and Juliana, was Mayor of D.C. and later a Councilmember representing the part of the District that includes Barry Farm. This poster makes relevant the collections found in the DC Archives by following connections in records from the sale of the Barrys' property through a range of government, genealogy, building, and property records from the 1860s to the present.

4. BOHMs* Away: Lessons From a Collections Survey [*Big Old Hot Mess]

Jessica Johnson, Margaret T. Kidd, *Virginia Commonwealth University*

VCU James Branch Cabell Library underwent a major renovation and expansion from 2014 to 2016, necessitating a move of all special collections and archives materials. After the move we surveyed our collections to help us regain intellectual and physical control. In addition, the survey allowed us to assess whether collections were in need of additional processing or reprocessing to make them more accessible physically and intellectually, identify special formats, and address conservation issues.

To conduct the survey, we created a form and used this in conjunction with the assessment tool in Archivists' Toolkit. The form included checklists to note information such as material formats other than paper, specific condition and preservation issues, as well as a general notes field. For brevity and consistency, we created a list of abbreviations to use. Collections were ranked using an agreed upon set of criteria in multiple categories. The rankings have helped determine which collections are in most need of attention.

During the course of the survey we discovered that not all collections were processed equally, meaning that they didn't always conform to best practices and standards. This poster will expand upon what we learned and what we're doing with the information we obtained.

5. CAPES to the Rescue in New Jersey

Frederic C. Pachman, *MARAC New Jersey Caucus*

Since 1989, the New Jersey Caucus of MARAC, in partnership with the New Jersey Historical Commission, has offered Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (C.A.P.E.S.) surveys to more than 500 schools, churches, colleges, historical societies, public libraries and medical centers. Collections must be open to the public and relate to New Jersey history. Utilizing a proprietary template the following topics are reviewed; environmental conditions of the overall facility and storage rooms, fire and security protection, the proper housing and shelving of materials, budget and history of the institution, arrangement and description of the materials, and development of policies and procedures. This poster will show how C.A.P.E .S. has assisted institutions across the Garden State to better care for their archival collections.

6. Cataloging Hidden Engineering Collections

Greg Edwards, *Lehigh University Special Collections*

In 2016 Lehigh University Special Collections completed a two year project cataloging five civil engineering collections, as part of a CLIR Cataloging Hidden Collections grant. This poster will explore the use of student processing archivists, utilization of institutional training resources, and adopting ArchivesSpace as an archival processing and publishing platform. Challenges and solutions during the cataloging project will also be detailed.

7. Celebrating 85 Years of Diversity at ODU

Steven Bookman, *Old Dominion University*

This poster will document the research process and results of a project I led on the history of diversity at Old Dominion University from its founding to the present. Along with the help of a history graduate student and a volunteer, I used photographs, university records and publications, and secondary sources to piece together a timeline of important events. The project involved documenting topics related to gender, race, sexuality, distance learning, and military affiliations that make up the diverse population of Old Dominion University. The results of the research were put into an Omeka timeline digital exhibit that can be found at http://exhibits.lib.odu.edu/exhibits/show/celebrating-85-years-of-divers/introduction

8. Development of an Archives at Monmouth Medical Center

Elsalyn Palmisano, *Monmouth Medical Center Library*

Monmouth Medical Center, founded in 1887, was the first hospital at the Jersey Shore. Over the past thirty years there was a limited effort to develop archival and historical collections that document this rich history. In conjunction with the medical center's 125th anniversary in 2012, this consultant was retained to evaluate the archives, develop operational policies and prepare exhibits. Public programs and exhibits about the medical center have been presented to state and local organizations, and a schedule of historical programs is offered in-house during National Hospital Week. The archival collections were actively used to celebrate the medical center's anniversary, and continue to be utilized for promotional activities, preparation of reports, and programming.

9. Done is Good?

Elinor De La Torre, *Bryn Mawr College*

There is an expectation that once a collection is finished being processed all of the work is done. However, while collections may remain static, archival procedures and processes do not. Through the collection of M. Carey Thomas, suffragette and early president of Bryn Mawr College, I will examine the question of when a collection is "done." The M. Carey Thomas Collection was the first collection in Bryn Mawr College's archives and the first to be processed. Consequently, the processing took place within an archaic organization system. The M. Carey Thomas collection has been the focus of major projects every few decades and still has yet to be completed. The most recent work has been to re-discover all of the materials, understand past organization system changes, and re-organize the collection for ease of access. This reprocessing has all been performed on a collection that was the first to be considered "done." Using this collection as an example, I will examine how previous archival processes are no longer sufficient and how to integrate past practices with current ones, all while trying to discover what it means to be "done" with a collection.

10. Donors, Deeds of Gift, and Dementia

Rejoice Scherry, *Delaware State University*

In 2015 a Delaware State University Alumnae donated a series of scrapbooks documenting her collegiate experience to a university administrator. In late 2016, the donor's memories of the donation were skewed such that she had forgotten she signed a deed of gift. She recalled only that a university administrator had taken possession of her books. Teaming up with other alumni, the donor initiated a panicked search to locate her "lost" materials. Using this incident as a case study, this poster examines a lone arranger's dependency upon archival advocates while making a case for why one practice –donation negotiation and deeds of gift - should not be delegated.

11. Eminent Domain, Newark, and an activist named Louise

Katie Singer, *Rutgers University - Newark*

The story I tell of Louise Epperson is one of many from Newark's Krueger-Scott African-American Oral History Collection gathered during the late 1990s. My dissertation focuses on the collection, analyzing the narratives, considering oral history methodology in the process, and broadly constructing Newark's Great Migration era history.

In early 1967, after learning that the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry was planning to expand right into her own Newark, New Jersey neighborhood – by reading it in the morning paper – Louise Epperson began organizing and mobilizing against the land-grab, founding the Committee Against Negro and Puerto Rican Removal. Up until that point she was working as an occupational therapist at a center on Staten Island for handicapped children. Louise Epperson organized, mobilized and fought the highest political and administrative powers to come to what was called the Newark Agreements. Fewer acres of relocation and more financial subsidies were the outcome of this community movement.

Oral histories tend to uncover stories of "everyday" activists whose lives otherwise go unknown. The power of knowing about these people is multi-fold: it validates the marginalized, inspires the activist, and urges the researcher to keep looking. My poster will include photographs from local archives as well as narrative from the oral histories.

12. Evaluating the Outcomes of Social Media Marketing Alongside Traditional Promotional Techniques in Library Outreach

Liana Bayne, Caroline Hamby, *James Madison University*

James Madison University MALA (Madison Academic Library Associates) graduate assistants worked together with Special Collections and the library's Outreach department to help market and support JMU's First Annual Pulp Studies Symposium in Fall 2016. Social, digital, and physical ultimately came together to highlight and surface Special Collections' extensive holdings of pulp magazines. Hashtags, archival ephemera, and everything in between melded in this multi-part exhibit. Since one of the least known and studied genre of pulps are the romance pulps, Love Story Magazine was the focus of our social media outreach project. Its florid narratives led organically to the idea of dramatic performance. Members of the JMU community worked

with Special Collections and MALA students to create a rich collection of dramatic readings from the magazine. These videos served as the first content on Special Collections' new Instagram account. They helped to both market the conference on multiple social media platforms in an eye-catching and original way, and to surface the content of the magazine to those unfamiliar with it. In this poster, we present our process of creation and marketing, and quantitative results in the form of social media statistics to examine the project's successes.

13. Fabio: A Work of Art, from the Stacks to the Studio

Andrea J. Briggs, *McDaniel College*

This poster will illustrate obstacles and opportunities encountered through managing the Nora Roberts American Romance Collection, a unique special collection of popular romance genre fiction, adjusting collection development priorities to fit changing library needs. It will show that a small liberal arts college library can successfully promote a niche special collection that is useful not only to the college and scholarly community, but to a wider audience through outreach programming and collaboration with faculty from unexpected departments. Archives & Special Collections at Hoover Library collaborated with the Art & Art History Department on campus to integrate the romance novel into the studio art and design curriculum for Spring 2017, culminating in an exhibition of student work created from materials representing the Nora Roberts American Romance Collection.

14. From Star Wars to Wikileaks: questions of formats and access in the Senator Frank Lautenberg Collection

Sheridan Sayles, Amy Vo, Katrina Schroeder, and Rachel Talbert, *Rutgers University*

Because he was in office from 1982-2013, Senator Frank Lautenberg's Collection has a large mix of born digital, digitized, and analog materials. This includes paper, audio visual materials in more than 10 different formats, and an array of digital formats held on data tapes, floppy disks, and solid state drives. This provides a unique snapshot of the changes in technology during this period, while also highlighting how the fast pace of changing formats makes multi-institution and vendor collaboration necessary. This poster will focus on the best practices in making analog and digital materials accessible and how to frame access points for such a varied collection. This poster gives a preview to what archives and archivists will face as collections increasingly become more digital.

15. "Full of Jersey Lightning:" Spirituous Histories, Cocktail Tastings, and Creative Outreach

Kira Dietz, *Virginia Tech Special Collections*

Beginning in 2012, Virginia Tech Special Collections started acquiring materials related to cocktail culture in America. The "History of the American Cocktail Collection" includes cocktail manuals and bartenders guides, books on social activities and entertaining, and a variety of items documenting the history of cocktail ingredients, creation, and consumption, as well as resources on individual spirits, the medicinal and alcoholic history of bitters, temperance/Prohibition, and advertising. Since late 2015, and most recently in the spring of 2016, archivist Kira A. Dietz has organized and hosted two outreach events on campus—a pilot and an invited program—that consisted of both a presentation and an historical cocktail tasting, designed to spread word of the collection to the campus community. This poster will share a bit about the collection, the programs, future goals, and some lessons learned/advice for developing creative outreach whether you're incorporating food or

not!

16. "Keeping on Track: If You Miss the Train I'm On..."

Elizabeth Parker, *Cornell University, ILR School, Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation & Archives*

"Marginalized and under-documented communities are often given short shrift in the historical record. Whether through conscious exclusion or through unintentional oversight, the contributions of such groups are minimized or missed, even when collections contain diverse primary source material. Using detailed description to bring forward contributions from these communities, the Kheel Center's project: "Keeping On Track: Processing and Digitizing Railroad Collections" demonstrates how providing greater access to records can provide greater inclusion in the historical record.

This poster presentation will demonstrate how a project designed to produce detailed description and increased access to a collection area can also be a means to increase diversity in the historical record. Archival description is not a neutral act, and by approaching it with that understanding, the contributions of marginalized groups may be brought to the fore through a more nuanced description of the materials housed in collections."

17. My Newark Story: Digitization and Family Literacy at the Newark Public Library

Beth Zak-Cohen, Karl Schwartz, *Newark Public Library*

The Newark Public Library received a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to digitize a portion of its historical materials which document the Great Migration and Latino Immigration experience into Newark, NJ. The Library is beginning to digitize collections from the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center and the New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center and these materials are starting to become available online through ContentDM. Over the next year, the Newark Public Library will be promoting family literacy initiatives, to promote learning and reach out to children throughout Newark.. The Library will be producing and organizing school visits, activities at the Library and at community centers, a professional development day for educators, traveling exhibits, and community digitization days. Come see our MARAC poster, hear about our progress so far, and see lesson plans and interesting items from historical Newark.

18. Off the Page: Reconstructing/Re-imagining a Dance Score

Susan Wiesner, *University of Maryland*

Rommie Stalnaker (Independent), Brian Pytlik Zillig (UNL), Stephen Ramsay (UNL)

The idea for Schrifttanz Zwei, a collaboration between two choreographers, an archivist, a composer, and an animator, began at the Digital Humanities conference where four DHers decided to collaborate to re-imagine a dance score housed in the Irmgard Bartenieff Papers at the University of Maryland. Created in 1927 by Irmgard Bartenieff, founder of the Laban/Bartenieff Institute for Movement Studies, the score was discovered during processing of her papers, along with 3 other scores of original works. Fairly fluent in Schrifttanz, Laban's initial label for his notation system, Bartenieff began composing dances while studying with him in 1926-1929,

yet she wasn't yet an expert in his notation system. Instead, she used her own hybrid system consisting of symbols, word descriptions, and colour to describe the dance movement and space. Fascinated by the imagery in words and image, the four collaborators are creating a filmed work with both analog and digital components: Schrifttanz Zwei. The proposed poster will show the score, translations, and images of the reconstruction.

19. Out of the box | Into a Book

Nora Reilly, *Archivist/Assistant Librarian, New York School of Interior Design Library*

2016 marked the centennial year of the New York School of Interior Design, an accredited, not-for-profit college specializing in interior design education. In recognition of this important anniversary, several departments were tasked with working together to produce a booklet on the history of the school; the NYSID Institutional Archives, officially established in 2013 but with holdings dating back to the school's founding, played a major role this project.

In this poster session, Archivist/Assistant Librarian Nora Reilly will illustrate the challenges and opportunities of working across departments, performing in-depth research in one's own repository, and effectively promoting the value of an archives collection as well as the skills of an archivist for the realization a project of this nature. Copies of the book will be available for anyone who is interested.

20. Personal Digital Archiving at the Public Library

Amy Wickner, *University of Maryland, College Park*

Public library programs and services increasingly bring personal digital archiving and do-it-yourself digital conversion into public spaces. What are the values and impacts of such resources? What role, if any, does public memory play in these personal practices? This poster reports on early findings from interviews with District of Columbia Public Library patrons and staff about their experiences with these emerging spaces and resources.

21. Preserving the History of the New Jersey Embroidery Industry

Leah Loscutoff, *Stevens Institute of Technology*

Since 1872 North Jersey was named the "Embroidery Capital of the World." The embroidery industry was the biggest industry in terms of employment and small businesses, but started to fade away when this industry moved largely overseas. Actively documenting this history got started with a reference question, which led us to former Stevens' professor Silvio Laccetti. After meeting and discussing the embroidery industry with Laccetti we learned that he himself had quite an interesting collection on the embroidery industry, and he offered to donate this to Stevens. Professor Laccetti's donation spurned interest from the local community once involved with the embroidery industry. We also collected materials from former Stevens' alumnus, Joe Schneider '46. Mr. Schneider's family had worked in the embroidery industry in North Jersey since the early 1900s. In addition to the physical items received we were able to film an interview with Mr. Schneider talking about the collection and describing his time in the embroidery industry, which is included in the archive. There were so many interested members of the community; we are still looking into more accessions for the embroidery archive and a future exhibit. This hit an emotional note with folks in this area.

22. Re-Vision: Archiving Black Experiences at Bryn Mawr

Alexis McDonald, *Bryn Mawr College*

Re-Vision: Archiving Black Experiences at Bryn Mawr is an exhibit that seeks to uncover some of the College's racist, exclusionary history through student voices. The lack of records regarding Black Bryn Mawr students throughout the years shows the College's disregard of the rich history that the students bring with them. With a focus on student voices, this exhibit creates a dialogue between what the College chooses to show about students and what the students want to show about themselves.This exhibit aims to re-vision, that is, retell the stories that are found in the archives and bring to light that which the College has misconstrued for so many years.

23. That DAM Software: Image Access, Distribution, and Copyright Management in Online Environments

Lauren Cahill, *White House Historical Association*

The White House Historical Association launched its Digital Library on March 1, 2016, with 2,000 images and plans to grow that number to 50,000 by 2018. Using digital asset management software and designed to be the premiere resource for White House history research, the Library blends robust metadata with a friendly user experience to provide the public with free access to fine and decorative arts in the White House Collection, historic images of the Executive Mansion dating back to plans sketched by Benjamin Henry Latrobe to the present, and images of the Presidents and First Families as they lived and interacted with the house. This poster will focus on the challenges of migrating legacy, non-standardized metadata between systems and how the Association provides access to these images by leveraging software settings for assets still under copyright. This poster will also discuss how the Digital Library team strikes a balance in providing resources freely to educators with the commercial interests of corporate bodies seeking to use our images.

24. The Early Years of the Lesbian Herstory Archives -- An Omeka Project

Morgan Gwenwald, *SUNY New Paltz*

This poster describes working with a major collection of b&w negatives depicting the women's and LGBTQ movements (from 1970s through 1990s) and outlines the steps taken to organize and present a portion of the materials in an Omeka site. The site, "The Early Years of the Lesbian Herstory Archives", describes the creation and early growth of this grassroots, activist organization that created the oldest and largest collection of its kind in the world.

25. The Matthew A. Reese Collection

Nat DeBruin, Seth Nichols, *Marshall University*

 With the conclusion of the highly sensationalized presidential election, there are still many left feeling disillusioned and confused by the process by which national party leaders conduct a political campaign. The logistics of our democracy have never before been so widely criticized and scrutinized, and the Matthew A.

Reese collection offers archivists an opportunity to inform and educate. The Matthew Reese collection is composed of the papers and business documents of Matthew A. Reese and his business, Matthew Reese and Associates, one of the first political consulting firms in modern U.S. history. Matthew Reese worked as a Democratic Party consultant between 1960 – 1988 on over 400 political campaigns including John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Harry Reid, John D. Rockefeller, Birch Bayh, Nick Jo Rahall, and Clairborne Pell. Matthew Reese pioneered the modern day political campaign by combining new scientific data based on targeting and polling information with old-fashioned grassroots styled outreach programs. His collection contains assorted political memorabilia such as pamphlets, buttons, bumper stickers, posters, and signs; correspondence; financial records; maps; targeting and polling information; and taped interviews with candidates. The utilization of this collection can help demonstrate how political campaigning developed in this postmodern world.

26. Teaching, Learning, and the Archives

Erin Alghandoor, *Kean University*

The Kean University Archives and Special Collections works closely with the Kean University Department of History and Honors History students. Our poster will highlight how we collaborate together to come up with projects, design classes, and introduce students to archival resources. In addition to undergraduate classes, an Honors Program was established by the Department of History to work especially close with the archivist, professors, and a pre-selected collection, which has allowed them to present their research at off-site conferences and curate an exhibit.

The six posters with demo presentations titled, "Archival Lab Remix" were created in Marija Dalbello's *Foundations of Preservation and Archives* class in Spring 2017 (Department of Library and Information Science at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey). The "remix" projects each explore the narrativization of primary source materials using new media platforms and technologies of production. The students each took a deep digital dive with the primary source content available online and curated an object (or a series of objects) in order to reveal the meaning, the beauty, and the possibilities of interpretation for these digitized forms, repositioning them in a new context for meaning making. Each of the projects presents a unique vision of how a student engaged with the material she curated. The projects were guided by the idea that opening primary source collections to citizen archivists can prompt reinterpretation of these materials, especially those found in the digitized collections. The projects employ a "mashup" fusion approach with and emphasize creativity and storytelling. We are hoping to inspire public institutions to increase public engagement with their archival collections and organize citizen challenges.

The East Asian Calligraphy Challenge

Lauren Bell

Digitization provides easy access to thousands of cultural heritage materials, but how can we engage the public with this content? The East Asian Calligraphy Challenge was developed to engage users of the collection of East Asian texts from Princeton University's Digital Library (PUDL). Inspired by a handwriting quiz authored by Time's Chris Wilson, which he developed with a combination of open source code expanded by his own programming, I propose an unobtrusive, interactive element be added to the interface of PUDL's East Asian texts. Within the interactive tool, users will have the option of trying to digitally write an Asian calligraphic character that is predetermined from a page of the text they are viewing. The interactive calligraphic prototype will be accompanied by a guide showing the order of brushstrokes, the character embedded in the text, and utilize Sketch.js open source code so that users can mimic the character. The East Asian Calligraphy Challenge prompts users to engage with the ancient texts, learn about particular signs, build characters, and acquire a new skill. This tool promotes the accessibility of the digitized collection and user/reader engagement. A design of the calligraphic tool will accompany the poster presentation.

Archiving America: George Washington's Letters

Jessica Bielen

This project focuses on select examples of archived correspondence between George Washington and various figures of the Revolutionary war. Digitized copies of these letters from the New York Public Library and National Archives and Records Administration are connected within this remix to tell a story of Washington as a personal man and public figure. In this project, Wix software is used to prepare a visualization that locates these letters within a historical timeline, link the archival repositories together, and compare the transliterated representations of Washington's letters with the digitized copies. This project demonstrates how libraries and archival repositories can use a similar strategy to: 1) link to archives and promote these resources and their own with website building and hosting tool wix.com; and, 2) showcase the importance of

having transliterated and digitized copies within a collection.

This project focuses on select examples of archived correspondence between George Washington and various figures of the Revolutionary War. Digitized copies of these letters from the New York Public Library's archives and the National Archives and Records Administration digital collections are connected within this remix, showing how libraries can use a similar strategy as presented to: 1) link to archival repositories and promote these resources and their own with website building and hosting tool wix.com; and, 2) showcase the importance of having transliterated documents as well as digitized copies within an archival collection.

We the People Protest

Sherri Hinrichs-Farber

Assembled as a remix of primary source material from various collections, *We the People Protest* consists of a web-based, interactive timeline that creates a people's narrative of American history told through a chronological sequence of images and descriptions of historical moments of citizens' protest. This online exhibition and teaching tool emphasizes the continuity and consistency of citizens' protest throughout the country's history by maximizing the timeline's visual structure that provides context for a series of public domain, digital, archival-sourced photographs. Taken as a whole, the provocative images situate protest and protesters, not as bystanders to, or disruptors of the growth and change of American democracy, but as integral and essential elements of a dynamic democratic structure. This wide view reveals the perpetual process that is Democracy. Through archival images, *We the People Protest* challenges a common cultural ideal. It shows that opposition to government action, positions, or agencies affirms the principles of a democratic society making a compelling intellectual, visual and emotional case that citizens' protest is a normative behavior in our democracy, strengthening and enriching it. This project aims to highlight America's shining moments were achieved when the People's protests were addressed on issues such as: equal rights and justice, workplace safety and protection, access to education and opportunity, and reigning in the powerful in order to raise the disenfranchised. When placed along a timeline, the project reveals a narrative of American history from the perspective of the American people.

Prepare for Docking: The Staten Island Ferry in Artwork, Words, and Images

Lynette Ford

The Staten Island Ferry, which serves as a nexus point for Staten Island and Manhattan, can be considered a microcosm of the vibrancy present throughout the five boroughs of New York City. This "archival remix" centers upon the role of the Staten Island Ferry in the cultural lives of New Yorkers and New York visitors and combines photographs and ephemera from various archival collections depicting the ferry from 1871 to date. While these sources present the ferry in actuality they do not always illustrate a central role that it occupied for its passengers, for all those who used the ferry, and the ferry in the everyday life of the people who use it. Therefore, included in this project (rendered in Wix.com) are various secondary representations of the ferry including paintings, drawings, and audio clips that were created from passengers and observers points of view. Together, these create a narrative of the cultural role of the Ferry in the lives of New Yorkers. The narratively rich project can be expanded to other sites. The presentation will combine a poster with a demo of the website.

Caption This! Faces of the Farm Security Administration Photographs Collection

Melissa McGeary

This project takes its inspiration from Internet memes and asks: how else can we rescue the unknown from obscurity? The answer is crowdsourcing interpretations by adding captions to photographs of people for which there is little to no metadata. By taking what is known (e.g., historical context, composition, body language, the moment in which they are historically situated) could be reconstructed in order to create a "micro-story" about a photograph. This project takes the unnamed, public domain photographs from the Farm Security Administration Photograph Collection (New York Public Library) and invite citizen engagement by captioning the photos as an exercise in historical perspective. The inspiration for this project was a moment of serendipity. Searching through the Farm Security Administration Photographs Collection (NYPL), I happened upon an image of a woman with an intriguing caption: "I guess I'm satisfied." There is no name or location, but rather an absence of personal information and a silence in the archive that warrants translation. I thought, then, about Internet memes and about how very often on social media, friends post a funny picture and say, "Caption this!" I realized this would be a novel approach to narrating archival material. A demo website demonstrates this approach of captioning as a narrativization strategy. Part recovery and part creation this project encourages "reading" images and engaging in a dialogue with visual forms, illuminating the complex relationship between images and text. Gillian Rose's (2013) sites of production and modalities provide a theoretical basis for the project. I plan to present the poster and accompanying demo with a limited number of images at the conference, engage the viewers in interpreting images on site, and display their caption suggestions on the demo website at: http://eden.rutgers.edu/~mam1001/archives/remix.html.

Dressing the Past

Julianna Pakstis

Dressing the Past is an activity protocol that uses the commonly available Snapchat app to integrate the New York Public Library's *The History of the Feminine Costume, From the Year 5318 B.C. to Our Century* Collection into historical fact-finding or storytelling sessions at libraries across the country. The project aims to introduce technology and creative/critical thinking to the traditional paper doll model. The activity is focused primarily but not exclusively on children ages 6-12.

In practice, the user would select articles of clothing, take a picture using *Snapchat* and then utilize the sticker-making function to create a personal archive of articles. The user would then photograph either a digital model from the collection or a real-life friend and virtually dress them up using the stored stickers.

The strength of this activity lies in its interdisciplinary applicability. Librarians can use the protocol to give concrete representation to even the most fanciful (if historically inaccurate) mash-ups of costumes. The activity turns a normally passive story time into an act of creation of narrative and digital drawing. This inversion is accomplished all while exposing users to one of the NYPL Digital Collections and reinforcing a comfort with technology.