The Espy Project
Enabling New Access to Archival Materials

Gregory Wiedeman
University Archivist
University at Albany, SUNY
@gregwiedeman
Watt Espy Papers

- 24,036 sides of index cards

- A 101,566 pages of reference materials
  - Copies of Correctional Records
  - Copies of newspapers and published sources
  - Written notes
Slave girl
(Need confirmation)
"A negro girl, convicted of the murder of her mistress, in New Orleans, La., was sentenced to be hung at 3 o'clock on the 26th ult. (6-26-1829). Subsequent to her trial, some new circumstances transpired, which induced a general belief that she was not guilty, or, if she was, that there was some accomplice more criminal than she, and the Governor was petitioned to reprieve the girl for three months, under the hope that she would be proved innocent, and the real murderer discovered. Accordingly on the forenoon of the day of execution, the Governor granted a reprieve for three months, which had scarcely been delivered to the sheriff, when the prisoner made a full confession of her crime to the jailer. As soon as this circumstance was made known to the Governor, he issued an order to the sheriff to carry the first sentence into effect at the
JOEACH, William Earl and SMITH, Joe

Joeach, a 21-year-old black man, was on a date with his wife when they were attacked by a group of white men in Knoxville. They were beaten and left for dead, and Joeach was pronounced dead at the hospital. His death was ruled a hate crime.

PRICE, William

Price, a 21-year-old black man, was walking on a deserted road near Selma, Alabama, when he encountered two white men who tried to rob him. Price resisted, and one of the men shot him in the chest, killing him.

BRADLEY, Joe

Bradley, a 21-year-old black man, was on his way home from work when he was ambushed by a group of white men. He was shot multiple times and died at the scene.

GROTH, George

Groth, a 21-year-old white man, was shot and killed by a group of white men who were targeting blacks in a local town. His death was ruled a hate crime.

CRACKS, Charles

Cracks, a 21-year-old black man, was walking on a deserted road near Selma, Alabama, when he encountered two white men who tried to rob him. Price resisted, and one of the men shot him in the chest, killing him.

MCCORMICK, John

Mccormick, a 21-year-old white man, was walking on a deserted road near Selma, Alabama, when he encountered two white men who tried to rob him. Price resisted, and one of the men shot him in the chest, killing him.

SHERIFF BACON, JAMES

Sheriff Bacon, a 21-year-old white man, was on his way home from work when he was ambushed by a group of white men. He was shot multiple times and died at the scene.

Computational Analysis and the Death Penalty

- *Furman v. Georgia* (1972)
- *Gregg v. Georgia*, etc. (1976)
- Marvin Wolfgang and Marc Riedel Study (1973) and *Maxwell v. Bishop*
- David Baldus-led Georgia Study
  - Found "racially disproportionate impact"
  - invalidated statistical analysis for 14th amendment
Executions in the U.S. 1608-2002: The Espy File

• University of Alabama project funded by NSF (1984)
• Found over 15,000 executions by the state since Colonial Jamestown
  ▪ Espy not confident in coding practices
• Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
  ▪ They are nice
Larger Problems

- Archives typically do not provide this level of access
  - Don't have systems to support
- Collecting problems for University Archives
  - State retention schedule
  - "Decentralized" (mostly non-existent) records management
  - 18,000 student, 1,200+ faculty university
  - Need to demonstrate value to university offices
State University of New York
University at Albany

Spring Meeting of the Faculty
Monday, May 11, 2015
4:15 pm, Campus Center Assembly Hall

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Senate Chair Joette Stefl-Mabry welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order. She referred to the documents available on the Senate website which included the meeting’s agenda and the minutes from the Fall Faculty meeting of November 5, 2014.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the Fall Faculty Meeting of November 5, 2014 which had been made available via the Senate website. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved by acclamation.
# Program Review Materials

Created by Unknown User (tendikas), last modified by Joel Bloom on Nov 22, 2016

*Please Note: Program review materials are restricted to selected Self-Study Subcommittees, and are not to be circulated outside of these subcommittees.*

## Year of Review 2015-2016 (Reviewed by APRC/CAA in 2016-2017)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departments</th>
<th>Self Study Documents</th>
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Migration Symposium at Rockefeller Institute of Government

This and State-level Immigration Policymaking symposium at the Rockefeller Institute of Government.

Discusses opportunities and challenges presented by immigration and national immigration policy reforms with a focus on states and localities, particularly NYS and New York's include Michele Waslin, Pew Center; Neil Ruiz, Brookings Institution; and Jorge Montalvo, NYS Office of New Americans.
Establishing a Collecting Program
Establishing a Collecting Program
Maintenance

- Scripts break over time
  - No more ad-hoc approaches
  - No more XML data stores
- Network of well-maintained interoperable tools
API Access Allows Maintainable Workflows
Add New Digital Archival Object

To create a separate work for each of the files, go to Batch upload

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Such as apap101

**ArchivesSpace Record ID**required
Such as: e8946d46e2cc2c53c1f8729ce09d688

**Whole or Part?**required

whole

**Title**required

Add another Title

**Collection**required
**Espy Metadata Creation Tool**

- Samvera and Hyrax is Rails application
- "Ramp up" plan for repository implementation and maintenance
- Developed Espy Metadata Creation Tool
- Makes connections between 4 different sources
  - Small Index Cards
  - Large Index Cards
  - Reference Material
  - Espy File data from ICPSR
- Create new Espy Records backed by Data Model
- Make the computer do the boring work
- Focus on intellectual process of metadata creation
Haggins Pays Death Penalty, Denying Guilt

Last Words Of Convicted Slayer Of Rock Hill Man Were Declaration Of Innocence

Talmadge Haggins, the convicted killer of Oliver Benjamin Powers, 20-year-old Rock Hill tax driver, died at 7:07 a.m. last Friday morning in the electric chair at the South Carolina state penitentiary in Columbia. His last words were a protestation of his innocence.

"I wish everybody would tell the story," was his message to the President. "I wish everybody would ask why I was the last of the 999 electors to sign the petition for the Governor for all he did for him.

"I had to sign for a lot of innocent people who were in the group of about five hundred people who signed the petition."

"I have never before signed any petition for the Governor for the Constitution of South Carolina."

"I signed the petition for the Governor for the Constitution of South Carolina for a lot of people who were in the group of about five hundred people who signed the petition."

"I have never before signed any petition for the Governor for the Constitution of South Carolina."

The way argument into the printed text that is not readable due to the image quality.
HAGGINS, Talmadge  

April 18, 1947

Haggins, one-armed black, electrocuted at the South Carolina State Prison (Lancaster Co.) on April 18, 1947, for the murder of Benjamin Oliver Powers, Jr., of Rock Hill, 23-year old white Taxi Driver.

See 30 Book and Magazine Excerpts.
**Haggin, Talmadge**

April 18, 1947

Haggin, one-armed black, electrocuted at the South Carolina State Prison (Lancaster Co.) on April 18, 1947, for the murder of Benjamin Oliver Povers, Jnr., of Rock Hill, 23-year-old white taxi driver.

See 3G Book and Magazine Excerpts.

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**OCR Fixed:**

Haggin, Talmadge April 18, 1947. Haggin, one-armed black, electrocuted at the South Carolina State Prison (Lancaster Co.) on April 18, 1947, for the murder of Benjamin Oliver Povers, Jnr., of Rock Hill, 23-year-old white taxi driver. 3G Book and Magazine Excerpts.

---

**Brenish, Frank**

Brenish, a white native of Memphis, Tenn., was born there in 1874. He was the black sheep of a respectable family. After his first marriage ended in divorce, he married a widow with two small children to support. When Brenish she found out that Brenish had lost all interest in working but expected to live off her earnings as a chambermaid at the Clarendon Hotel, she left him and moved with her children into a house on Hernando Street. On the night of July 5, 1899, Brenish waited at the entrance to the house and shot him.
Metadata Matters

- Espy File data demonstrated creators’ priorities, values, and mental framing that are inappropriate or conflict with our own

- Occupation:
  - "Student"
  - "Banana Dealer"
  - "Beef Carrier"
  - "Goat Herder"
  - "Tiecutter"
  - "Tourist"
Metadata Matters

- Occupation:
  - "Armed robber"
  - "Asylum Escapee"
  - "Bandit"
  - "Criminal"
  - "Cult Leader"
  - "Gang Member"
  - "Lunatic"
  - "Male Nurse"
  - "Retarded"
  - "Slave"
Metadata Matters

- "Crime Committed" changed to "Crime Convicted"
- Race does not conform to an established standard
- General Data Improvements
  - Added Date of Conviction to Date of Execution
  - ISO dates
  - First and last name in individual fields
  - Altered Place of Execution and Jurisdiction
  - Sex to become Gender
  - Feedback welcome!
# Generated via hyrax:work DigitalArchivalObject
class DigitalArchivalObject < ActiveFedora::Base
  include ::Hyrax::WorkBehavior

  self.indexer = DigitalArchivalObjectIndexer
  # Change this to restrict which works can be added as a child.
  self.valid_child_concerns = []
  validates :title, presence: { message: 'DAOs must have a title.' }
  validates :archivesspace_record, presence: { message: 'DAOs must link to ArchivesSpace.' }
  validates :archivesspace_record, presence: { message: 'DAOs must link to ArchivesSpace.' }

  property :archivesspace_record, predicate: ::RDF::Vocab::DC.identifier, multiple: false do |index|
    index.as :stored_searchable
  end

  property :collection, predicate: ::RDF::Vocab::DC.creator, multiple: false do |index|
    index.as :stored_searchable
  end

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  # This must be included at the end, because it finalizes the metadata
  # schema (by adding accepts_nested_attributes)
  validate :self_validated
end
Linked Data Problems

- Hard to find vocabularies with sufficient precision
- Create one?
  - Access to expertise, School of Criminal Justice, Advisory Board
- Issues with digital archival objects as well
- Archives have a fundamental mission conflict with linked data
  - Archives is a system to manage objects with minimal metadata
  - Archives offer information in context, not objective/verifiable data
Access is Important

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No More Finding Aids

- Need to demonstrate value to university offices
- Archives access is esoteric
  - Crypic signposts
    - "What Does Scope and Content MEAN???!" (Scheir, 2005, p.72)
- Archives have always been a compromise between usability and scale
An Interoperable Repository with APIs
David Baldus, 1983-1987

Overview

No online content

ABOUT THIS FILE

CONTAINERS:

Box 1 (2-correspondence), Folder 3

COLLECTION CONTEXT

National Death Penalty Archives

Hugo A. Bedau Papers, 1954-2005

Correspondence, 1957-2003

3 children


67 children

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

This subseries contains correspondence organized alphabetically by name. Bedau corresponded with colleagues from other universities and colleges, researchers, students whom Bedau was mentoring or assisting, advocacy organizations, and with publishers regarding involvement with various literary projects. Correspondence includes communication with many of Bedau's colleagues including: Anthony Amsterdam, William Bowers, Peggy Davis, Watt Espy, Gerald Gottlieb, David Kendall, Douglas Lyons, Philip Mackey, Michael Radelet, Marc Riedel, Victor Streib, Neil Vidmar, Marvin Wolfgang, and Franklyn Zimring.
Add New Digital Archival Object

To create a separate work for each of the files, go to Batch upload

Collecting Area **required**
National Death Penalty Archive

Collection number **required**
Such as: apap101
apap199

ArchivesSpace Record ID **required**
Such as: e8546d46e2cc2c653c1f8729ce09d68e
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Whole or Part? **required**
whole

Title **required**

Visibility

- Public
  - Make available to all
- UAlbany
  - Restrict access to UAlbany
- Embargo
  - Set date for future release
- Lease
  - Set date for future reduced access
- Private
  - Keep to myself with option to share

Save Work

1. Describe your work
2. Add files

Save
Add New Digital Archival Object

To create a separate work for each of the files, go to Batch upload

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National Death Penalty Archive

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**Whole or Part?** required
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**Title** required
David Baidus

**Collection** required
Hugo A. Bedau Papers, 1954-2005

Save Work

**Requirements**
- Describe your work
- Add files

**Visibility**
- Public: Make available to all.
- UAlbany: Restrict access to UAlbany.
- Embargo: Set date for future release.
- Lease: Set date for future reduced access.
- Private: Keep to myself with option to share.
March 14, 1977

Dear Hugo:

Here is a copy of the typeset galleys. The only significant correction seems to be some material shifted around in the section on bibliography, to which I have paid scant heed. Otherwise the galleys are strikingly clean.

Take a look, and please give me a call. Any residual problems can, I think, easily be adjusted on the telephone. The printer stands ready. I suspect the print-order will be at least 50,000. I can't offer you royalties, but the subsidiary rights (space, screen, serialization, and foreign-language publication) should be terrific.

Sincerely,

Henry Schwarzweller

Last modified: 04/11/2010
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Date created: 1963-1987
Rights statement: In Copyright - Educational Use Permitted
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Correspondence, 1957-2003
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**OCR Fixed:**

Haggins, one-armed black, electrocuted at the South Carolina State Prison (Lancaster Co.), on April 10, 1947, for the murder of Benjamin Oliver Powers, Jr., of Rock Hill, 23-year-old white taxi driver. See JQ Book and Magazine Excerpts.

---

**Brenish, Frank**

Brenish, a white native of Memphis, Tenny, was born there in 1876. He was the black sheep son of a respectable family. After his first marriage ended in divorce, he married a widow with two small children to support. When BRENISH she found out that Brenish had not inten-
tion of working but expected to live off his earnings as a charmat-
maid at the Clarion Hotel, she left him and moved with her children
into a house on Hernando Street. On the night of July 5, 1889, Bren-
ish waited at the entrance to an all-black night club and shot a man. He was shot in the head leaving his hands in the air.

---

**Lancaster**

4-18-1947

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**Haggins Will Die In Chair This Friday**

Sprver of State Prison To Pay Death Penalty For His Crime -- Executed Here In February.

**Talmadge April 18, 1947** Haggins, one-armed black, electrocuted at the South Carolina State Prison (Lancaster Co. on April 18, 1947, for the murder of Benjamin Oliver Powers, Jr., of Rock Hill, 23-year-old white taxi driver. 366 JG. Book and Magazine Excerpts.
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