

# Digitization Selection Criteria as Anti-Racist Action

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LSU Libraries

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#cni19s | @ScottLZiegler

# Our Agenda

(Fingers Crossed)

1. My whiteness
2. Digitization prioritizations
3. Digitization as an area of concern
4. Digitization as an area of hope
5. Anti-Racism and digitization policies
6. LSU Libraries and our shaky first steps

# A Note About My Whiteness

I Am Able to Talk About Racism and  
Anti-Racism Because I Am White

This Is a Privilege and a Responsibility

# Digitization Prioritization

## Selecting Research Collections for Digitization

by Dan Hazen, Jeffrey Horrell, Jan Merrill-Cloham

August 1998



Council on Library and Information Resources

Commission on Preservation and Access  
Digital Libraries  
Economics of Information  
Leadership

"Scoping the Future of the University of Oxford's Digital Library Collections"

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Final Report

Stuart D. Lee

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## Scoping the Future of the University of Oxford's Digital Library Collections

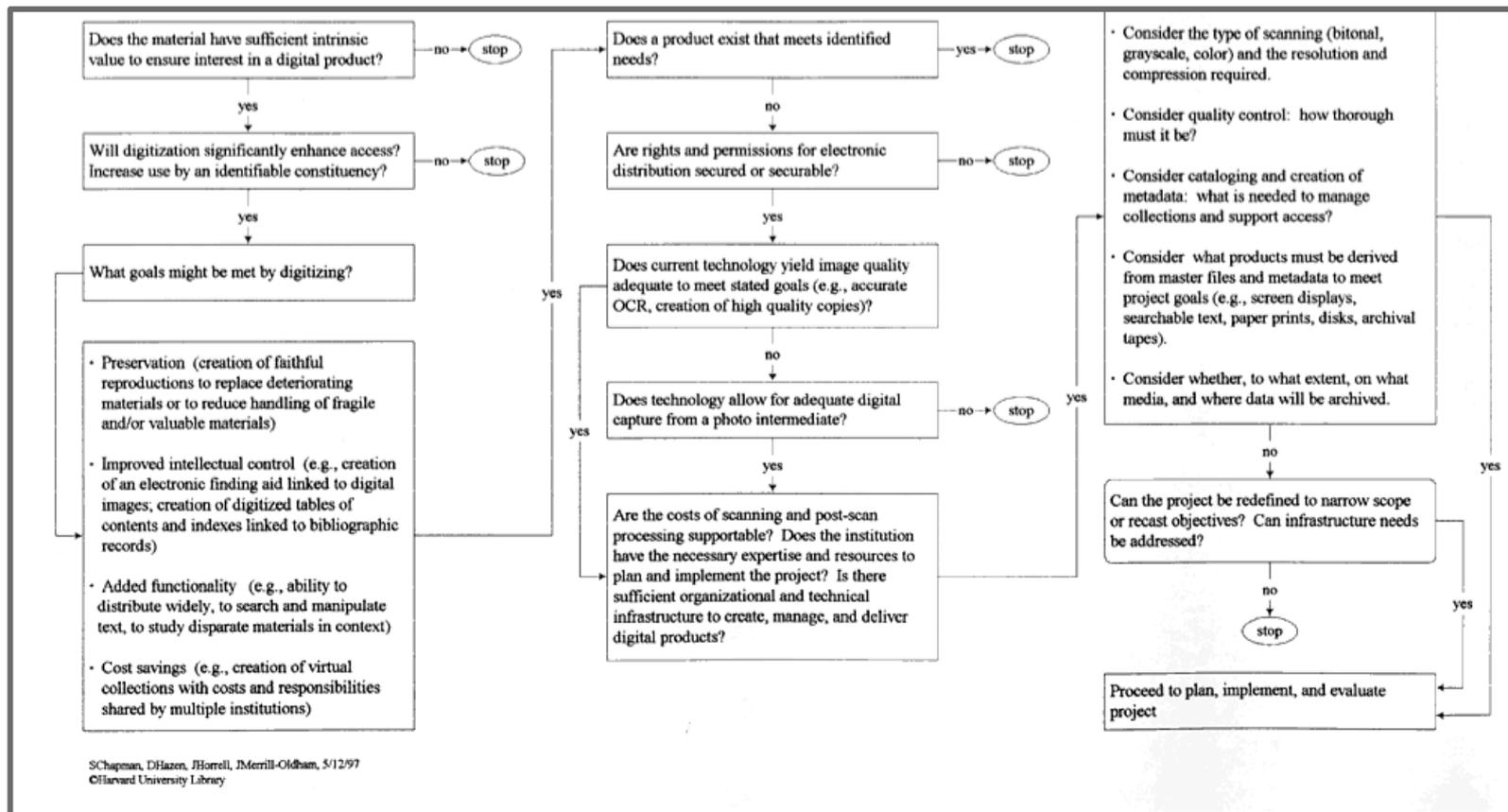
Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Final Report

Stuart D. Lee

[HTML by S. D. Lee, September 1999]

# The Harvard Model



# Dartmouth's Selection Policy for Digitization Projects

## **CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION (NOT EVERY COMPONENT WILL APPLY TO EVERY PROJECT, BUT EACH CATEGORY OF CRITERIA SHOULD BE CONSIDERED)**

A. Content Analysis: Quality of information within the materials to be reformatted.

### 1. Accessibility and Use.

- a. There is a defined set of anticipated users for these materials.
- b. There are well-defined anticipated uses for these materials.
- c. Past use of these materials in their original formats suggests that they will be used in the future.
- d. There are clear connections to research and teaching at Dartmouth.
- e. There are strong connections to the history of the institution.
- f. There are connections with other projects, including those at other institutions, offering synthesized digital collections that link geographically dispersed original documents.
- g. Digitization will include value-added enhancements such as metadata, searching, text manipulation, and/or critical apparatus that will provide transformative uses of the materials.
- h. Digitization will increase overall use.
- i. The materials to be digitized are heavily used by non-Dartmouth researchers who might benefit by their digitization.

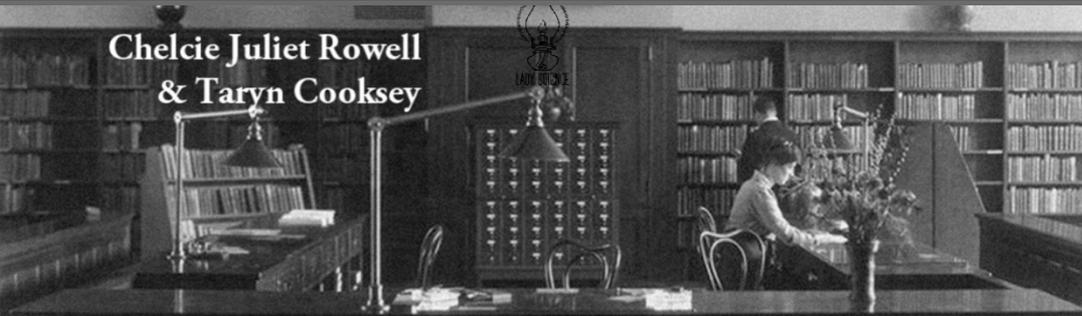
### 2. Significance of Subject(s) Covered in the Materials to be Reformatted

- a. The materials represent unique holdings or subjects of existing strength at Dartmouth.
- b. The collection supports an area of long-term or emerging interest at Dartmouth.

# LSU Libraries' Digitization Priority Checklist

## Copyright/Donor Restrictions

0	Sure that (or good reason to believe that) the collection contains copyrighted material or there are donor restrictions that will need to be worked out before digitized items are made public
1	Status unsure, and will be hard to determine
2	Status unsure, and will be easy to determine
3	Sure that (or good reason to believe that) the collection does not contain copyrighted material or donor restrictions



Chelcie Juliet Rowell  
& Taryn Cooksey

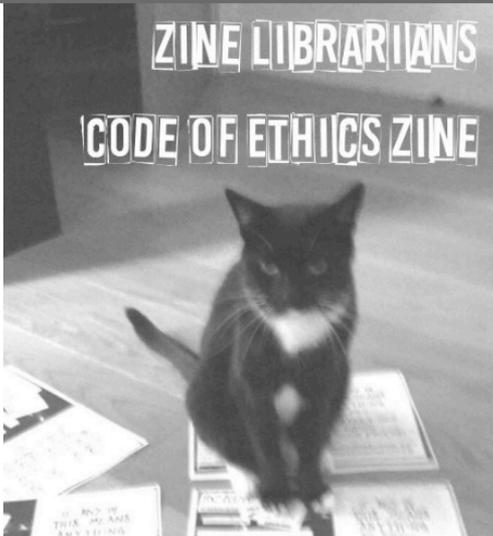


# The Archive of Hate

*Ethics of Care in the Preservation of Ugly Histories*

JAN 9

ZINE LIBRARIANS  
CODE OF ETHICS ZINE



## digitization: just because you can, doesn't mean you should

I learned this week that Reveal Digital has digitized *On Our Backs* (OOB), a lesbian porn magazine that ran from 1984-2004. This is a part of the *Independent Voices* collection that “chronicles the transformative decades of the 60s, 70s and 80s through the lens of an independent alternative press.” For a split second I was really excited — porn that was nostalgic for me was online! Then I quickly thought about friends who appeared in this magazine before the internet existed. I am deeply concerned that this kind of exposure could be personally or professionally harmful for them.

While Reveal Digital went through the proper steps to get permission from the copyright holder, there are ethical issues with digitizing collections like this. Consenting to a porn shoot that would be in a queer print magazine is a different thing to consenting to have your porn shoot be available online. I'm disappointed in my profession. Librarians have let down the queer community by digitizing *On Our Backs*.

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## Black at Bryn Mawr

Past as Legacy and Project: Re-Remembering Black Experiences at Bryn Mawr College



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## In Her Own Right

Women asserting their civil rights, 1820-1920

[All Fields] Search... Search

### Primary sources

and essays revealing stories of women's activism leading up to the right to vote.

Long before the women's suffrage movement brought about the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, women were making themselves heard in a variety of ways that broadly transformed the American experience. Including working for moral reform, abolition, and increased opportunities for education and employment. The Philadelphia region was among the most important centers for these movements.



Camilla Alberta Grant, circa 1918

### EXPLORE

#### Crossing the divides?

How well did women of different classes and races work together to expand possibilities for women?  
 Exhibit: 19th Century Activism: Work and Friendship  
 Across Racial Lines

#### Doing good or making rules?

In what ways did women working in education, poor relief,

### DISCOVER

Use search and browse tools to find documents and collection descriptions.  
[Search and Browse](#)  
[View collection descriptions](#)

### PLAY

Access raw data and find tools for using the data.  
[Data access and use](#)



Page Discussion

## Assessment: Cultural Assessment

### Contents [hide]

- 1 DLF Cultural Assessment Working Group
  - 1.1 Mission
  - 1.2 CAWG Values
  - 1.3 Annotated Bibliography
- 2 Current Projects:
  - 2.1 2018 Task Force Charges
    - 2.1.1 Environmental Scan Task Force
    - 2.1.2 Selection Framework Task Force
    - 2.1.3 Inclusive Metadata Task Force
    - 2.1.4 Personas Task Force
- 3 Past Projects:
  - 3.1 2017
  - 3.2 2016
    - 3.2.1 Annotated Bibliography
    - 3.2.2 Metadata & Description Practices
    - 3.2.3 Selection & Digitization
    - 3.2.4 Levels of Digitization and Preservation
    - 3.2.5 Publicizing Collection and Discoverability
- 4 Get Involved
  - 4.1 Meeting Schedule
  - 4.2 Social Media

- [Main page](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Random page](#)
- [Help](#)

#### Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Printable version](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

#### Related Sites

- [DLF Website](#)
- [CLIR Website](#)

Umbra Search  
 African American History

Search...

90,814 items from more than 1,000 U.S. archives, libraries, and museums.

Creation of the Ojibwa Movement  
 601 items

The Repertoire of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater  
 77 items

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Digitization to  
Counteract  
Historic Practice

# LSU Libraries

## DIVERSITY: STRATEGIES

- Strengthen the Libraries' culture related to diversity through appropriate programming, policy development, and mentoring. The Libraries will look to its Diversity Committee for guidance and help in implementation;
- Leverage the Libraries' diversity efforts through liaison with campus partners, most importantly the Office of Diversity and Human Resource Management;
- Recruit and retain highly qualified diverse faculty and staff;
- Increase diversity in our collections, especially emphasizing building historical collections that represent the whole of Louisiana history;
- Adapt or augment description of collections to expose otherwise hidden materials relating to diverse or marginalized populations;
- Increase liaison programming directed toward diverse/marginalized student groups;
- Continue to leverage exhibits and events to highlight library holdings.

2025: We celebrate our own uniqueness combined with an awareness and respect of local and global values and beliefs, which help to strengthen the intellectual environment and support our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

# Anti-Racism

All policies, ideas and people are either being racist or antiracist. Racist policies yield racial inequity; antiracist policies yield racial equity.

- Ibram X. Kendi

# Counteracting a Racist Past

Two Places to Start

1. Collections that contain underdocumentation of underrepresented communities
2. Reviewing internal documents to identify collections previously restricted from "non-preferred" researchers.

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# Advancing the Diversity and Inclusion Goals of the Strategic Plan

The strategic plan for LSU Libraries, calls for increasing the diversity in our collections, especially emphasizing building historical collections that represent the whole of Louisiana history, and adapting or augmenting description of collections to expose otherwise hidden materials relating to diverse or marginalized populations.

0	Collection content in no way promotes the diversity and inclusion goals of LSU Libraries, no opportunity for augmenting description to promote under-represented groups.
1	Collection contains a small amount of material that promotes diversity and inclusion goals, or some possibility for augmenting description to promote under-represented groups.
2	Collection contains a significant amount of material that promotes diversity and inclusion goals, or significant possibility for augmenting description to promote under-represented groups.
3	Collection contains material that offers a significant opportunity to fill descriptive gaps

# Counteracting a Racist Past

Two Places to Start

1. Collections that contain underdocumentation of underrepresented communities
2. Reviewing internal documents to identify collections previously restricted from "non-preferred" researchers.

KEY TO RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF MANUSCRIPT AND ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

1. Scholarship - being edited or used for publication. Can be used for general research, but not as the principal basis for a research project, and extensive quotes must not be made.
2. Statutory - reproduction prohibited by law. Can be used for statistical or general research; persons in document may not be mentioned by name.
3. Time - current and recent matters, living persons, etc.
4. Physical condition - fragile, damaged.
5. Nature - rare or unusually valuable documents. Prior approval must be secured.
6. Acquisition conditions - agreements or contracts with owners or custodians.

7. *Genealogy*  
8. *books, etc, avoid elsewhere because it is printed or published.*  
KEY TO RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS.

- 1, 45 Breda (J. P. and Family) Papers, 1776-1921. 957 items and 19 volumes. (Correspondence with Henry W. Allen).
- 1 X CHAMBERS, (ROWLAND) DIARIES, 1848-1863. 7 volumes. (Volumes 1 and 2 edited).
- 1 X CLAIBORNE (WILLIAM C. C. ) PAPERS, 1804-1813. 3 items and 1 volume.
- 1 ~~EGGLESTON-ROACH PAPERS, 1825-1903. 285 items and 6 volumes. Christmas diary 1844-60).~~
- 1, 4, 5, GAYOSO DE LEMOS (MANUEL) PAPERS, 1792-1805. 39 items.
- 1 GUION (LEWIS) DIARY, 1862-1863. 1 volume.
- 1 ~~HILLARD (MRS. ISAAC H.) DIARY, 1849-1850. 1 volume.~~
- ✓ JOHNSON (WILLIAM T. AND FAMILY) MEMORIAL PAPERS, 1793-1937.

# The Radical Nature of the Routine

Standard Operating Procedures  
Created These Problems

Can New Standard Operating  
Procedures Help With Solutions?

# Links To Things I mentioned

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- Selecting Research Collection for Digitization - Full Report: <https://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/hazen/pub74/>
- Scoping the Future of the University of Oxford's Digital Library Collections: <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/scoping/report.html>
- Archive of Hate: Ethics of Care in the Preservation of Ugly Histories: <https://www.ladyscience.com/blog/archive-of-hate-ethics-of-care-in-the-preservation-of-ugly-histories>
- digitization: just because you can, doesn't mean you should: <http://tararobertson.ca/2016/oob/>
- Zine Librarians Code of Ethics Zine: <http://zinelibraries.info/code-of-ethics/>
- DLF Cultural Assessment Working Group: [https://wiki.diglib.org/Assessment:Cultural\\_Assessment](https://wiki.diglib.org/Assessment:Cultural_Assessment)
- Black at Bryn Mawr: <http://blackatbrynmawr.blogs.brynmawr.edu>
- Umbra Search: <https://www.umbrasearch.org>
- In Her Own Right: <http://inherownright.org>
- LSU Libraries Strategic Plan: <https://www.lib.lsu.edu/sites/default/files/info/lsulibrariesstrategicplan17-22.pdf>
- This is what an antiracist America would look like. How do we get there? Ibram X. Kendi: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/06/antiracism-and-america-white-nationalism>