



Developing a Community-Based Strategic Agenda to Transform Archival Discovery and Delivery

Mark A. Matienzo, Audra Eagle Yun, Hillel Arnold, and Tom Cramer
CNI Fall Membership Meeting, December 9, 2019



Finding common ground

Mediated access and community archives
Audra Eagle Yun, University of California Irvine



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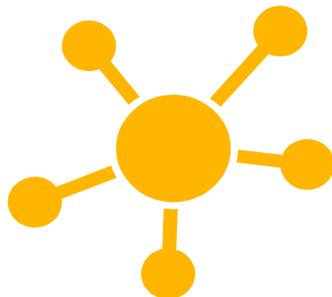
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Mediated access: UC use cases

Long distance
researcher access

Culturally sensitive
materials

Copyright, PII, PHI,
and donor-imposed
restrictions



Large-scale
projects

Community
partnership projects



“That is how I learned that if I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive.”

Audre Lorde, “Learning from the 60s,” 1982

Principles of community-centered archives partnerships



- **Attentive** to historical inequities reflected in archives
- **Responsive** to the community's needs
- **Collaborative** through shared authority
- **Cognizant** of the divergent priorities of communities

Community contributor form

Who can contribute?

The Community Archives Digital Portal provides institutions and organizations with a free and simple tool to contribute digital content to Calisphere, the **California Digital Library's (CDL)** gateway to California's cultural heritage.

Calisphere provides free access to unique and historically important artifacts for research, teaching, and curious exploration. The Community Archives Digital Portal, provides a way for you to contribute digital content to Calisphere with technical support from University of California, Irvine Libraries (UCI Libraries) Special Collections and Archives.

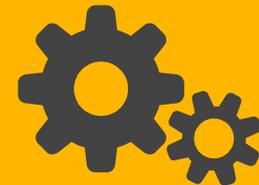
Great expectations

Mediated, ethical access at scale

Listening sessions and field trips

Community agreements/MOUs

A national conversation



Project Electron

Communicating with and for user communities
Hillel Arnold, Rockefeller Archive Center



*Regularize transfers of digital records over a **network** into a **stable environment**, at **scale**, with **sensible human intervention**, in alignment with **existing archival activities**.*

User Communities

Records creators and donors

Researchers

Information professionals

RAC staff

Listening & Reflecting Back

Listening

Surveys

Targeted conversations

Sociological interviews

Literature review

Reflecting Back

Values, user personas and user stories

Specifications and software demonstrations

Blog posts, bibliographies, conference presentations and conversations

**Lighting the way
forward**

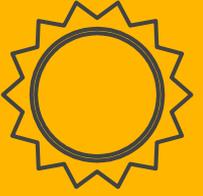
Key takeaways/needs

Articulating drivers of technical choices, not just solutions.

Abstract (and “non-technical”) thinking facilitates effective action.

How can we make values/patterns/choices explicit and shareable?

Where does our work converge? Where does it diverge? How does that matter?



From product to agenda

Enabling practitioners to develop shared strategy
Mark A. Matienzo, Stanford University Libraries



ArcLight

Shared open source development

Transparency in roadmapping, development, contributions

Practitioner desire to connect to strategy



A wicked problem

Why is archival discovery and delivery complex?

Documentation and discussion tends to be scattered

10,000-foot view is hard to reach

Technical/implementation details often elide strategic connection

Complex variables: all of which are dynamic, contextually bound, and interdependent



Useful references

[*Finding Aid Aggregation at a Crossroads*](#) (CDL NAFAN project)

[*Research and Learning Agenda for Archives, Special, and Distinctive Collections in Research Libraries*](#) (OCLC Research)

[Revised DACS principles](#)

[Digital Library Federation Born-Digital Access Working Group](#)

[Levels of Born-Digital Access](#) and [Access Values](#)

[IIIF Archives Community Group](#)

ArchivesSpace community integrations work

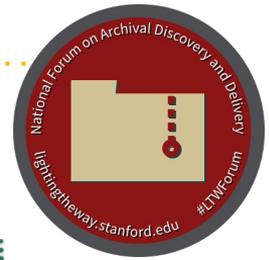
Lighting the Way

A National Forum on Archival Discovery and Delivery

Practitioner-centric effort to develop a shared agenda on improving archival discovery and delivery

Focus on cross-sector conversations between archives and library workers, technology workers, and people with interest or expertise in legal and ethical issues in archives

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services ([LG-35-19-0012-19](#)).





Everyone has something to contribute.

*Focus on **shared and holistic concerns**
and recommendations.*

*Enable **adaptability** of the project's
recommendations **across contexts**,
communities, levels of resourcing.*

*Develop recommendations consciously
as an inclusive expression of ethics
and values.*



Project meetings

Forum: February 10-12, 2020

~50 participants selected via application process (closes 12/15)

Mix of facilitated discussion and some plenary presentations

Working meeting: May/June (dates tbd), 2020

~25 participants; invitational meeting

Focuses on establishing principles and project contributions



Questions

How do we situate values-based work in technology-focused contexts?

Can we identify potentially shareable patterns without erasing the differences in our user communities?

How do these efforts express trust as a defining aspect of archives?

Where do we connect user communities to the creation of our strategic agendas?

How does this inform or enable more organizational & cultural change?



Links & resources

- [Orange County & Southeast Asian Archive Center: Defining Community Archives](#)
- [UC use cases and contribution requirements for mediated access to digital archival materials](#)
- [Project Electron](#)
- [ArcLight](#)
- [Lighting the Way](#)



Thank you!

Mark A. Matienzo

matienzo@stanford.edu

@anarchivist

Hillel Arnold

harnold@rockarch.org

@helrond

Audra Eagle Yun

audra.yun@uci.edu

@accessionthis

Tom Cramer

tcramer@stanford.edu

@tcramer