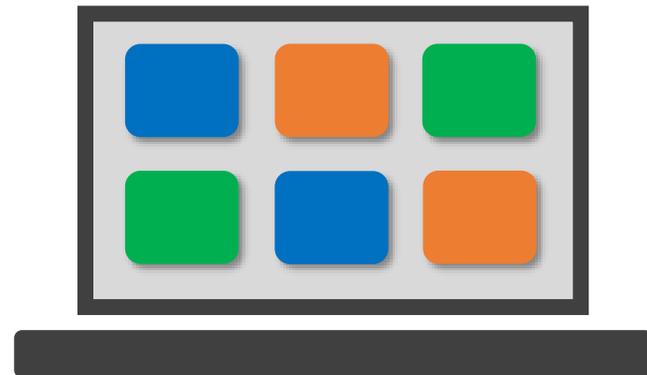




Society of  
Indiana  
Archivists

Preserving Indiana History



# FALL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 8-9, 2020

# REGISTRATION

Registration for the virtual conference is free and available to SIA members only. To register or become a member, visit [SIA's website](#). Registration ends on October 1, 2020.

# TECHNOLOGY INSTRUCTIONS

The virtual conference will be hosted using Zoom, a video and audio-conferencing platform. Attendees can participate by computer, tablet, or phone. Sign-in instructions will be sent via email on October 7, 2020. For additional help, visit [Zoom's Help Center](#).

## Thursday, October 8, 2020

### 9:00-9:45am: My Experience as an Archival Intern with the Marine Corp

*Malachai Darling, MLS Student at Indiana University*

This past summer I interned with the United States Marine Corps in the Archives Branch of their History Division, on base in Quantico, Virginia. During that experience I learned a lot about what it means to work in a military archive, as well as gathered more experience working in a government archive. I would like to share that experience through a presentation where I walk through my experiences that summer, both the good and the bad, and what I learned. The goal of this presentation is to share the internship experience, while also talking about the pros and cons of the experience and how that might apply to others seeking internships or institutions seeking interns in the future.

### 9:55-10:40am: Humanities Research for the Public Good: Council of Independent Colleges Grant Outcomes at Three Indiana Institutions

*Sally Childs-Helton, Butler University  
Sarah Noonan, Saint Mary's College  
Jessica Mahoney, Franklin College*

In 2018 three Indiana schools applied for the Council of Independent Colleges "Humanities for the Public Good" grant for 2019-2020 and won three of the 25 grants awarded. The grants, in their first year, were created to connect independent colleges with their communities through undergraduate research, highlighting the importance of cultural heritage collections. Undergraduates experienced hands-on research with archival collections, and the challenge of making those collections accessible to the public through outreach and public programming.

This panel will explore how each school—Butler University, Franklin College, and Saint Mary's College—selected the collections, identified undergraduate students and community partners, created community outreach events, and received the benefits of the grant projects. Butler's grant deals with its collection from Black Arts Movement poet Etheridge Knight; its community partner is the Center for Black Culture and Literature at Indianapolis Public Library. Franklin's grant focuses on its Governor Roger D. Branigin Archives and community partners are the Indiana Historical Society and the Johnson County Museum of History. Saint Mary's grant pertains to its Sisters of the Holy Cross archives and materials that address the global refugee

migration crisis; its community partner is the United Religious Community. This panel proposes to examine how these three very different grant projects engage undergraduates in archival research and outreach; improve preservation of and access to collections; create digital and physical exhibits; and use a variety of community outreach tools and events to reach diverse audiences, including K-12 and university students and local and regional audiences.

### **10:50-11:35am: Reflections of a First Time LSTA Grant Recipient and Project Manager**

*Matthew Behnke, Pike County Public Library*

In this session, the Speaker will discuss challenges, surprises, and successes as a first time LSTA grant-writer, recipient, and project director. In the course of a year, the Speaker worked at the Pike County Public Library as Genealogy Librarian. The Grant Application, submitted in March 2019, focused on the PCPL's Veterans Collection. After being approved, the Digitization Project afforded the purchase of a flatbed scanner, an intern's salary, and archival supplies. It also allowed for the use of Contentdm, which will host the collection on the Indiana Memory's digital library.

The presentation will begin with a brief background of Pike County, Indiana and the importance of establishing need with grant writing. Pike County has historically had a high veteran population, with 8% of the current population having served in United States Armed Services. Pike County's status as part of the losing end of America's "digital divide," which negatively impacts digital literacy and information access, was also addressed as a need.

Next, the presentation will address the digitization and metadata creation process. Adherence to Qualified Dublin Core, which IMDPLA utilizes, with eight required metadata fields mapped to Contentdm was required. This made collaboration vitally important throughout the project. This includes the required aid of the State Library and the importance of seeking out information professionals or grant writers who have "been there". Lastly, the Speaker will address how information overload can compromise decision making, the need for the freedom to make mistakes, and how perfectionism can hinder progress.

### **11:35-1:30pm: Lunch Break**

### **1:30-2:15pm: Creating an Online LGBTQ Archive Using IU Pressbooks**

*Beth South, Indiana University East*

The IU East Campus Archives teamed up with Dr. Travis Rountree's ENG-W270 Argumentative Writing Class to create IU East's and Richmond, IN's first LGBTQ+ archive collection. Students from the class found an artifact or interviewed someone from the local LGBTQ community which was then donated to the IU East Archives. Students wrote and recorded their own reflections on the historical, cultural, or social importance of their artifacts or interviews and developed themes that they uncovered and wanted to further explore into a final research paper. This collection is a mix of student research as well as local LGBTQ community content. With the unique aspect of the collection being a mix of student research and primary resources presented in the same space, using an e-publishing platform like IU Pressbooks seemed like a great way for the students of the class and IU East Archivist to collaborate and curate a collection together; showcasing a glimpse of LGBTQ life in Richmond, IN and the surrounding areas. The e-book format also allows the collection to be easily accessible to the public, with chapters denoting different themes and it can be easily searched for those wanting to find specific content. Using a public platform like IU Pressbooks to build this collection also generated interesting conversations about student scholarship, intellectual property, and archival ethics. The IU East Archives hope to inform others of this particular tool and provide insight into how open access e-publishing platforms can benefit archives, museums, and libraries.

### **2:25-3:10pm: Incorporating Archives and Special Collections into the Undergraduate English Curriculum**

*Ashley Chu, Taylor University*

For the past two years, the Ringenberg Archives & Special Collections at Taylor University has collaborated with the English department faculty to incorporate archives-based activities into a variety of the department's courses (i.e., College Composition, World Literature,

Poetry Writing). Many of these classes now regularly schedule this class session in their syllabus and schedule. This session will share effective communication strategies to engage the teaching faculty, the process of working with teaching faculty to develop appropriate and relevant activities, and a brief summary of student responses. Challenges faced along the way, the revision of activities to increase effectiveness, and the vision for future growth in the area of curricular engagement at the undergraduate level will also be discussed.

## Friday, October 9, 2020

### 9:00-9:45am: Digitization, Access, and the Ku Klux Klan

*Lauren Patton, Indiana State Library*

There are many subjects within an archive considered controversial at any given time, especially during a period of increased unrest. The Indiana State Library, Rare Books and Manuscripts Division recently completed a large-scale digitization project on the Ku Klux Klan, particularly from the 1920s, or “second revival”, when the organization’s presence was strongest in Indiana. Collections of this nature can be some of the most highly used in an institution, as was the case with the library’s United Klans of America records. A need to make the collection accessible online led to the development of a navigatable road map of the process, including identifying the need, data collection, presentation of findings, scanning, metadata, publication and reception.

The aim of this presentation is to empower archivists to branch out and initiate digitization projects considered controversial by administration, patrons, or society at large. Archivists can provide access to materials not seen elsewhere by creating a detailed plan involving everyone. Keeping in mind each institution has unique digitization workflows and requirements, this presentation will provide additional points for consideration not usually included during routine digitization projects.

### 9:55-10:40am: Collaborative Projects and Experiential Learning: PNC Book Project and Oral History Project

*Joseph Coates, Purdue University Northwest*

The Purdue University Archives and Special Collection conducted two experiential learning projects in 2018-2019. Both of these had student involvement, faculty-staff collaboration, and made students understand the proper usage, operation, and importance of archives.

The purpose of the Purdue University North Central book project was to use the archive and other primary source documents to record the history of PNC, which was in existence from 1947-2016. We had a member of the history faculty and the University Archivist oversee the project. Much of the project not only involved writing but processing collections, scanning photos, and other archival practices. This was an 18-month project, published by Kindle Publishing, with the money going to charity.

The purpose of the oral history project is to tell the history of Purdue University Northwest and to look ahead to the next milestone. We wanted to conduct 20 oral history interviews with former and long term faculty, staff, and alumni of Purdue University Calumet, Purdue North Central, and Purdue University Northwest in order to understand the changes that have taken place in the past 40 years of the university. This project was conducted in collaboration with the History Department, the Communication Department, and the University Archives.

### 10:50-11:35am: Reddit and Archives: Finding your Audience

*Keenan Salla, Indiana Archives and Records Administration*

Nearly every Archives has a social media presence, but very few make use of Reddit, despite the site’s popularity. While Reddit does not have the massive and broad audience of Facebook or Instagram, it may actually be more effective at reaching the audiences that are also likely to engage in Archival research. The subreddit system makes it possible to target a number of special interest groups, most particularly municipalities and geographical regions. This means that while material Reddit does not see the scale of engagement of a viral Twitter post, the audience engaged is much more likely to follow up beyond the “like” button. Further, the interface and group expectations of Reddit encourage discussion and research more than its competitors, often turning the audience into educators themselves.

Over the past year, the Indiana State Archives implemented a Reddit account to modest success. The session will focus on the Archives successes, failures, and lessons learned in this regard, as well as providing trick and tips for the Archives and archivists that want to use the platform moving forward.

### 11:45-12:20pm: What is ACA Certification? Should I Get It, How Do I Prepare, and How Do I Maintain It?

*Richard Bernier, Purdue University Libraries*  
*Tricia Gilson, Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives*  
*Lisa Lobdell, The Great American Songbook Foundation*  
*Lydia Spotts, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields*

This panel discussion will provide an overview of the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) certification and its value within the profession as a supplement or substitute for an MLS with a concentration in archives. Individual panelists will share their decision-making process and considerations in studying for the CA informed by work context, job market, educational background, and career stage. The panel will share tips and tricks as well as tools used for studying for the test and maintaining certification after passing.

**Lydia Spotts**, Associate Archivist/Librarian at Newfields, recently sat for the exam in 2018 following a period of un- and underemployment in a limited regional job market. She will briefly review the history of ACA, est. 1989, the development of certification, requirements to sit for the exam, and fees as well as common critique and varying perspectives on the credential.

**Richard Bernier**, Archivist at Purdue University, will talk about why he decided to pursue the ACA certification in addition to formal archives coursework. He will also illustrate a system that he created for studying and taking notes for the test and how he tracks his continuing education activities to meet the requirements for recertification.

**Tricia Gilson**, archivist at the Columbus Indiana Architectural Archives, will talk about how she incorporates ACA certification guidelines in to her current work programs and why she has decided not to pursue ACA certification.

**Lisa Lobdell**, Archivist at the Great American Songbook Foundation, will share her reasons for pursuing ACA certification after eight years as a lone arranger as well as the professional outcomes of receiving certification.

Thank you to Kelley Brenneman, Denise Rayman, and Beth South for their help planning SIA's first virtual conference and all the presenters who agreed to participate during these unprecedented times.

