AERI 2010

Conducting Information Retrieval (IR) Research in Traditional and Digital Archives

When: Monday, 6/21, Times: 1:30-3:00 pm, 3:30-5:00 PM

Where: Great Lakes North

There are preparatory readings for this workshop: Please see the thread bellow for readings.

Abstract:

The goal of this workshop would be to encourage scholars in Archival Studies to take a more active role in IR research and publication by reviewing key concepts and approaches within IR research (primarily within Information Science and Digital Library development) and demonstrating how these might be applied in traditional and digital archives contexts, identifying how practicing archivists currently conduct IR (e.g., exploiting context, documentary relationships, and provenance), and identifying possible research questions and research designs for addressing those questions.

Conveners:

Anne Gilliland, Professor, UCLA

Kim Anderson, Doctoral Student, UCLA

Bios:

AnneGilliland
Since 1995, I have been a faculty member (Chair 2005-2009) of the Department of Information Studies at UCLA, where I developed and direct the specialization in Archival Studies. I am also a faculty member in the Inter-Departmental M.A. Program in Moving Image Archive Studies (Chair, 2009). I have worked extensively supervising, co-supervising and mentoring Master's and Ph.D. students from UCLA and several other countries. I am also the Director of the Center for Information as Evidence (CIE) at UCLA. The Center serves as an interdisciplinary forum for addressing the ways in which information objects

and systems are created, used, and preserved as legal, administrative, scientific, social, cultural and historical evidence. CIE is concerned with accountability, advocacy, and artifacts, as well as the axiomatic concepts that cut across these constructs such as legitimacy, sovereignty, power, authority, identity, authenticity, literacy, classification, preservation, and sociopolitical contexts.

I have an M.A. in English Language and Literature specializing in Old Icelandic from Trinity College Dublin. My Master's and Post-Master's work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1984-85) focused on archival automation. I worked as a university archivist and records specialist (University of Cincinnati, 1985-1990) as well as an investigator on a project funded by the NHPRC to investigate the appraisal of online conferencing and on another project funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to develop an online center for the history of the health sciences in Michigan (University of Michigan, 1990-1995). My doctoral dissertation from the University of Michigan (1995) developed and assessed an expert system to automate the appraisal of electronic mail. I am a Fellow and former Council Member of the Society of American Archivists and former Council Member of the Midwest Archives Conference. From 2000-2008, I served as a member of the International Council on Archives Steering Committee for the Section on Archival Education (SAE).

My research interests, which originated in an interest in the various convergences between records, record-keeping technology and archival information systems, have broadened and evolved over the years as the field of Archival Studies has developed and the sub-field of Archival Informatics has emerged. My recent work addresses notions of information as evidence in an increasingly digital, post-colonial and globalized world, and particularly the nature and role of the archive and archivists within this world. Given this context, I am particularly interested in three aspects:

1. Technology infrastructure-building, e.g., metadata, design and evaluation of cultural information systems, and community archive development;

2. Professional and research infrastructure-building for Archival Studies, e.g., archival research methods, community-based research, professional and research education and pedagogy, internationalization of archival work, and pluralization of the field and its theory and

practice base; and,

3. Social justice and human rights issues as they relate to archives and records and especially Indigenous, racial and ethnic, and other under-represented or underempowered communities of record. I am committed to supporting the development of archival education programs around the world that produce rigorous, reflexive, critical, culturally-sensitive, technologically competent, and globally-aware archival practitioners, researchers and educators.

Kim Anderson
Background:
I received my MLIS from UCLA in 2007 and continued into the PhD program at UCLA
where I am now a candidate in my third year. Prior to graduate school, I worked as a practitioner in university archives, law libraries, and special collections with a focus on photograph collections and departmental records.

My chief interests are appraisal (both conceptually and historically) and the knowledge and skills of archivists. I am particularly interested in the Archive and the personal: the subjectivities of archivists as individuals, and the role of appraisal and selection in the transformation from individual lives to historical subjects.

Research:
I am currently conducting a bibliometric analysis of fifteen years of archival appraisal literature to empirically identify nodes of influence, information flows, and highly cited works and authors. This is one of the stages of my dissertation research which hypothesizes that archival appraisal is learned through social interaction, broadly defined. Following this stage, I will conduct qualitative interviews with practitioners to identify informal nodes of influence and information flows in relation to archival appraisal.

Philosophy:
I think the academic and the practitioner are each playing a specialized role in the same endeavor. As a future professor, I hope to encourage practitioners to see theory come to life in their work and to encourage other academics to learn with and from practitioners.
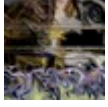
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Started By	Thread Subject	Replies	Last Post
AnneGilliland	**Attending the IR workshop**	7	Jun 18 2010, 3:49 PM EDT by cjovalle

Thread started: Jun 5 2010, 9:42 PM EDT Watch

If you plan to attend the AERI 2010 Information Retrieval Methods Workshop, please can you respond to this thread so that Kim and I can plan accordingly.

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| AnneGilliland | **Readings** | 1 | Jun 14 2010, 2:30 PM EDT by ammeveleigh |

Showing 2 of 2 threads for this page