

AERI 2010

Seeing the world through different eyes: Conducting Archival User Studies

Where: Great Lakes North

When: Tuesday, 6/22
Part I - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Part II - 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

***** There are pre-readings for this workshop:**

Salant and Dillman (1994). *How to conduct your own survey*. (John Wiley & Son)

Sundqvist, A (2007). "[The use of records - a literature review](#)". *Archives & Social Studies*, 1(1).

Yakel, E. (2004). [Seeking information, seeking connections, seeking meaning: Genealogists and family historians](#)". *Information Research* 10(1).

Abstract:

This workshop will provide an introduction to User Studies including a brief overview of the type of studies that have been undertaken by archival researchers including the Archival Metrics project. It will discuss the various theoretical frameworks prominent in social science research and describe how the various frameworks affect data gathering techniques. Participants will develop questions for use in a questionnaire and/or interviewing protocol. Participants are encouraged to bring draft interview protocols or questionnaires and present them to the workshop.

Convener: Wendy Duff, University of Toronto

Bio: Wendy M. Duff obtained her BA (1979) from the University of Kings College, her Wendy. M. Duff obtained her BA (1979) from the University of Kings College, her MLS (1983) from Dalhousie University and her Ph.D. (1996) from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the Director of the Digital Curation Institute, and teaches archives and records management with a focus on access to archival materials.

She is a founding member of AX-NET, an evolving international team of researchers interested in facilitating access to primary materials. She has also served as a member of the ICA Adhoc Commission on Descriptive Standards, the Encoded Archival Description Working Group, and The Canadian Council of Archives Standards Committee.

Her research interests are archival user studies, archival metadata, and collaboration among libraries, archives and museums. Her current research focuses on the development of generic user-based evaluation tools, the information seeking behaviour of archival users, archival reference and information technology needs of museum workers.

Professor Duff received the Premier's Research Excellence Award, and is a co-investigator on a research project funded by the Mellon Foundation and is also co-investigator with Lynne Howarth, Jennifer Carter, Costis Dallas, Seamus Ross for "Museum Knowledge Workers for the 21st Century" funded by the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN).

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Jun 8 2010, 9:34 AM EDT by [wmduff](#)

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The workshop will review methods for gathering feedback from archival users: questionnaires, interviews and observation.

If you have any research instruments for gathering data from users, please bring them along to the workshop. We will be critiquing research protocols as part of the workshop. Also if you have any articles that describe our research please share them with the group.

WEndy

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