

NEW MEXICO ARCHIVES AND ARCHIVISTS SIG

April 14, 2021 @ 3 p.m.

This meeting was held via Zoom

Facilitators: Dylan McDonald, Jonathan Pringle

Attendees: 32

INTRODUCTION/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENTS

Jonathan Pringle and Dylan McDonald welcome attendees to the meeting.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The New Mexico Archives and Archivists SIG aspires to be a [Community of Practice](#): one that “grows out of a need for connecting with other people who share the same issues, learning environment, and/or passion.” Our community is built on a foundation of trust, respect, optimism, and intentionality. Please exercise these core tenets with other members in all interactions, whether virtual or in real life.

Loa, Berlin, and Kruger, Pamela Nett (2021) “Community of Practice at the California State University Special Collections and University Archives,” Journal of Western Archives: Vol. 12: Iss.1, Article 1.

Floor is opened for questions regarding the Code of Conduct. No questions were asked.

LISTSERV

Jonathan Pringle asks if everyone has been able to connect to the Listserv, if there are any email address changes that need to be made, if everyone is receiving the messages, and if there are any connection issues. Hannah Abelbeck writes in the chat that they need to change their email address. Pringle responds that the changes will be made.

RECORDING THE MEETINGS

Dylan McDonald states that there are some members of the SIG that are unable to attend the meetings due to prior commitments, and that there have been requests for a recording of the meetings that have been missed. McDonald opens the discussion regarding recording the meetings. Donna Wojcik is willing to serve as recording secretary to record what goes on in the meetings and will provide written minutes of the meetings. Often in meetings participants are uncomfortable having a meeting recorded. McDonald would like everyone to feel free to share. The floor is opened for discussion. Lisa Johnston replies that some people would feel more comfortable and able to share more if meetings were not recorded because sometimes there may be things discussed that people do not want a “forever record of.” Donna Wojcik shares experience doing the minutes for the Board of Directors at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, and states that both recordings and typed minutes are done there. Wojcik states that recordings are helpful to the recording secretary so that items are reported accurately. Wojcik further states that the meetings could be recorded strictly for the purpose of preparing the minutes of meeting and then the recording could be deleted. Sue Taylor likes the idea to record the meeting only for the purpose of preparing accurate minutes and then destroying the recording. Susan Sheldon writes in the chat, “Is this organization following the Open Meetings Act?” Dylan McDonald does not believe that the SIG is subject to the Open Meetings Act

because it is not a government agency. It is a sub-group within a non-profit agency, and as such McDonald does not believe that the SIG is subject to the same rules. Katie Gray asks if NMLA has guidelines on this issue. Dylan McDonald suggests reaching out to NMLA for guidance and proposes that this issue be discussed more at the next meeting or a poll vote be done. McDonald also suggests that it be kept as an internal practice, with the recording being destroyed once the minutes have been prepared. Sue Taylor comments that the chat box responses can be saved so that comments posted there can also be noted in the minutes.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Jenna Wells asks if the order of items for group discussion could be reversed due to a need to leave the meeting early and would like to be present for the discussion on ideas for the 2021 American Archives Month. Jonathan Pringle agrees to switch the order for discussion. Cordelia Hooee chats that they like that idea as well.

Ideas for 2021 American Archives Month

Jenna Wells shares what the Rio Rancho Library History Room is planning for an upcoming exhibit of items collected from all over New Mexico and feels it would be good to plan the opening of other such exhibits at facilities around the state to show what facilities have been doing during the closures, to show the public how much hard work has been done during the pandemic.

Jonathan Pringle comments that October Archives Month has been led by the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board. Pringle would like to see the individual facilities build up to reopening to show what has happened over the past year by leveraging the tools of the online world. Ryan Flahive responds that Archive Month has not been pushed much beyond a visit to the Roundhouse with posters, flyers, and handouts, but feels that this may be something to run through the [State] Historian's Office. Lisa Johnston states that in the past the State Archives has created the theme and the poster for Archives Month, but this has not been done for the past few years. Johnston suggests that an inquiry be made as to what the plans are for this year and then build off that as a group. Katie Gray asks if the Governor has made a proclamation in the past. Lisa Johnston states that it has been many years since this was done, that it all depends on how busy the State Archivist has been and suggests that the SIG recommend that a proclamation be made for Archive Month. Gray suggests that the municipal leadership where our individual entities are located also be contacted to do the same and agrees that it is a good idea to send a letter to the mayor to ask for a mayoral proclamation. Dylan McDonald states that the challenge to producing a poster is who would fund or pay for that. Lisa Johnston states that State Records and Archives have always paid for it, but their budget has been slashed so funding may not be available to do that. Dylan McDonald further suggests that perhaps a graphic could be created for printing by individual institutions as an easier solution for this first year.

Dylan McDonald shares what the Border Archives group (here in the far south of the state) has done in the past for Archives Month (Border Archives Bazaar) and says that the theme is generally flexible enough to cover a wide scope of archive collections. McDonald opens the floor for any ideas for this year, and states that although October seems a long time off, the SIG members should be gathering ideas now. McDonald suggests that any ideas could be shared on the Listserv. Lisa Johnston asks if anyone knows if SAA has a theme for the year. Sue Taylor suggests a theme for next year, the 75th anniversary of the Roswell Incident, with a theme being

“Out of this World.” Dylan McDonald states that there is currently no announcement on the SAA website regarding Archives Month. Jonathan Pringle and Dylan McDonald have been discussing if it made good sense to have a specialized sub-group or a dedicated group of people that can put some ideas together for presentation at the next meeting or use the Listserv to communicate ideas. Pringle states that the intent is to not create something that makes a lot of work for people so it should be sustainable and fun, and not a burden on anyone’s workload or finances. Pringle encourages SIG members to think about collaborative ideas around a specific theme.

Brittany Garcia chats, “Could we do something about the resilience of our communities, especially seeing the year we just got finished with, and how we are working and learning collectively, to continue with life as close to normal as we can?” Museum Steve1 chats “Why not reuse materials from years past (historical documents)?” Dylan McDonald suggests that perhaps it is wise to build off these ideas. McDonald asks if there has been any kind of Archives Bazaar or Archives Crawl in northern New Mexico, whether it has been tried, or whether there is interest in that sort of thing. Lisa Johnston is not aware that anything like that has been done in the past and wonders if it could be done virtually. Dylan McDonald shares that the Border Archives Bazaar was virtual last year. Sue Taylor comments that the only negative feedback was that it was difficult to find a specific presentation without having to play through the whole thing.

Creation of Database/Listing of NM Archives and their staff

Jonathan Pringle states that this would be a list of institutions and contact information, collection development plans, what the collection parameters are, what they collect, and other useful information. The floor is opened for discussion.

Ryan Flahive suggests Google Form has some helpful information as to how to start a database. This could be followed up by some qualitative information and sample documents. Mott Linn agrees with Ryan and cautions the SIG to not “bite off more than we can chew” at the beginning and suggests starting with the basics and building onto that later. Anna Uremovich comments that having the Listserv has already connected SIG members and feels that it is great to put a query into one space instead of reaching out to many different institutions wondering if they can assist. Uremovich feels that the Listserv is a good start. Dylan McDonald states that there are currently nearly sixty people connected to Listserv and asks if this database/listing would be for internal use or something for the public to access. McDonald states that many of the smaller institutions that have archives, historical societies, “for profit” entities, and religious organizations may not have much of a digital presence in the community but would be willing to share their collections with others. McDonald asks if there is some information that the SIG would not want to share with the public, and wonders if having an extensive database would be overwhelming for people who are new to archives. Donna Wojcik points out that not everyone who may have an interest in particular archive collections is on the Listserv and would therefore not have access to the same information that those in the SIG have access to so having the information in a booklet form for use as a reference at individual facilities would be helpful. Katie Gray comments that there are a lot of researchers that would prefer something publicly available rather than ask someone. Susan chats “Might people look at the NMLA website to be linked to the Archives group? Could there be space on NMLA to start?” Sue Taylor asks

whether people would know to go to NMLA and says that perhaps a booklet could be kept at library reference desks. Katie Gray agrees that it should be on multiple points of contact. Another way to promote this would be through the new travelling archivist. Dylan McDonald will research how much space could be used on the NMLA site and points out that there are issues to having a paper copy with printing costs. McDonald states that perhaps the route to go would be to have it as a link that individual institutions could post on facility websites, which would help to spread the word. The issue then is who is going to do the work involved?

Jonathan Pringle states that there will soon be a New Mexico Archives Online site and asks Portia Vescio if this might be a good place to add it. Vescio responds that it should be easy enough to add a link there. Ryan Flahive wonders if the State Historian's office would give the SIG space to post it there. There is further discussion that the information should be somewhere that has a state-wide reach and somewhere that is not confusing to the public to go to look for information on archives. Anna Uremovich thinks in addition to contact information there should also be a statement of what kind of collections the institution has. Hannah Abelbeck comments that most people are not really navigating to things as much as using Google to search for things and feels that the problem could be solved by systematic linking. Jonathan Pringle proposes that there could be another sub-group formed to work on the planning and organization of this. This could be pushed back to the fall. Lisa Johnston suggests that perhaps the SIG should look at the HINTS database for information, although this site is scheduled to cease updating records. Perhaps much of the information there could be included in what the SIG does.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Anna Uremovich reports that the Department of Cultural Affairs has signed the contract with Google for Arts and Culture. Sue Taylor reports that the Museum of Space History has been awarded a grant by the Space 3.0 Foundation for the "One Small Step" program to have 16-millimeter films that deal with the early space program digitized. Brian Graney asked for the name of the vendor who will be doing the work. Jonathan Pringle suggests that this information be put on the Listserv. Pringle also reminds everyone that October is also Home Movie Day and thinks this would be something that could be highlighted at that time. Dylan McDonald reminds everyone that the NMLA has put out a call for proposals for their fall conference, and as a recognized SIG can ask for a place on the program if it is a session that is archival based, and what the SIG membership would be interested in. McDonald asks that any ideas for a case study or issues that should be addressed be shared on the Listserv. The Society of Southwest Archivists also has a conference scheduled for next month. Registration costs are low. Jonathan Pringle likes the idea of several SIG members creating a session topic demonstrating the act of archiving, the use of archives, and the purpose of archives as an entrée into how the SIG functions. Dylan McDonald suggests an idea of "How do archivists survive when they are working within a parent organization that is not an archive?" Lisa Johnston points out that there are a lot of "accidental archivists" around the state, who work for municipalities in city records, and who may not think of themselves as archivists. This may be a group that needs to be reached as well.

CLOSING

Jonathan Pringle reminds everyone to stay tuned to the Listserv for further discussions and information.

SHARED LINKS FROM CHAT

Poster samples: www.statearchivists.org

Archive month: <https://www2.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-minth-the-power-of-collaboration>

Border Archives Bazaar 2020: <https://www.facebook.com/events/408768996811275>

Misc. Links: <http://vt-openings.net/Nutrias/Lama1.php>
<https://nmla.wildapricot.org/page-18122>
<https://www.wrca.nm.gov/about/>
<https://newmexicohistory.org/>

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Wojcik
Recording Secretary