

## **NMLA Archives SIG meeting**

Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 3:00-4:00 via Teams

Facilitator: Co-chair Ada Negraru

Attendees: 19

### **1. Welcome/Introductions**

Ada welcomed attendees and said that co-chair Abbie Olivas was unable to attend because she recently gave birth and is on leave.

First-time attendees: Nancy Montoya of Menaul Historical Library of the Southwest.

### **2. Repository Highlight: Katie Gray, Head of University Archives and Special Collections at New Mexico Highlands University Donnelly Library**

Katie provided background on NMHU and the library. She summarized the collections in the University Archives, which include student theses and professional papers, books written by or about alumni and faculty. Materials in Special Collections emphasize the region, including neighboring and nearby states. Property plat maps in the Beisman collection are especially widely used. Finding aids for processed collections are on New Mexico Archives Online. She digitizes collection material on request according to her availability.

Ada requested a copy of the slide deck and said it will be made available on the SIG webpage.

### **3. Archives Month event at Meow Wolf in Santa Fe: Jonathan Pringle**

The event will be on Monday, October 20. Fourteen repositories have indicated an interest in tabling/exhibiting. Meow Wolf have been enthusiastic about the event—the Archives Bizarre event in fall of 2024 was successful, with about 9 repositories participating and 140 visitors. They are providing a larger room this October than the one for the spring event. There is no charge to attend, though there is a charge for the rest of Meow Wolf. Jonathan noted that the event is an opportunity to reach people who know little to nothing about archives. He opened discussion for new themes/titles and shared the suggestions he had already received in response to an email to the

listserv. Ryan Flahive suggested using the nationwide theme for Archives Month, which is "Archives Are Accessible: Archives for Everyone." Jonathan also suggested the possibility of using an art theme in light of Meow Wolf being an exhibition space. Ada said that the SIG itself will have a table. A survey will be sent to SIG members requesting input on the event theme/title.

#### **4. NMLA Annual Conference SIG meeting planning**

The NMLA annual conference is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22-Friday, October 24 at the Marriott in Albuquerque, as it was two years ago. SIG has typically convened a meeting during the conference in the conference space, and NMLA planners have reached out to ask if the SIG wants to do so again this year. Ada asked who is planning to attend and asked whether we should have a meeting. Lane Van Ham mentioned that last year the SIG meeting overlapped with conference sessions and that people had wondered whether this might be avoided. Ada said that at the recent Society of Southwest Archivists conference there were some groups meeting during lunch breaks. Perhaps this could be done, either going somewhere or ordering pickup lunches. Ada was not sure whether the hotel would be alright with that. Jonathan said he remembered food options at or near the hotel being few and very slow. Michael Mongeau proposed voting on two options for types of gatherings, and the decision was made to put this question together with Jonathan's survey about theme/title for the Meow Wolf event.

#### **5. End of fiscal year summary and handoff to incoming cochairs**

Michael Mongeau and Abby Smith will take over as cochairs. Lane Van Ham will serve as secretary. Ada congratulated the new team and said she and Abbie would remain available to provide assistance. Jonathan extended gratitude to the outgoing cochairs for their work. Ada has prepared the Archives and Archivists SIG annual report for the NMLA Executive Board and will send it to the SIG listserv. The budget includes money from NMLA, \$1700. The SIG has a little over \$600 that was allocated for honoraria and went unspent; since there is very little time to spend it before the end of the fiscal year, Ada said it will be used to buy SIG giveaway items for tabling. She and Abbie requested the same amount of money for the coming fiscal year.

## **6. Announcements and other business**

Regina Bouley-Sweeten said she is inventorying murals in the Eastern New Mexico University area. She asked for information on whether anyone else has done similar projects and how they did them. Katie expressed interest in hearing more about the project because they have been thinking of doing something similar focused on public art. Ryan

Flahive suggested an open house that might work to crowdsource information on provenance, location, and so forth. Other suggestions included outreach to the public library and local government.

Susan Sheldon said she is leaving her job the Office of the State Engineer Library. The OSE Library will be hosting the SALSA Consortium meeting on Friday, June 27.

Jonathan said that the State Records Office is close to being able to upload/update its finding aids in New Mexico Archives Online.

Ada said that her continuing ed counterparts in other states have been receiving some threatening calls that have a script in which the caller describes libraries in negative terms. They are asking whether there are trainings for front-desk employees in how to respond to threatening calls. She said she has not heard of it happening in New Mexico yet. People send various links in the chat.

[How to Respond to Challenges and Concerns about Library Resources | ALA](#)

[Dealing with Difficult Patrons - Public Library Director Toolkit - LibGuides at North Dakota State Library](#)

[Personal safety and security - Bomb threat readiness](#)

Jonna Paden mentioned a call that the SAA has put out to support tribal communities and provides a link to the statement: [The Society of American Archivists Calls on Our Members to Support Tribal Communities | Society of American Archivists](#)

## **7. Next meeting: Wednesday, August 20, 2025**

[About the Archives & Archivists SIG](#)

Our 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.