

COURSE INFORMATION

Course: LIS 9670: Introduction to Archives Administration

Time: Summer term 2021, Thursdays (13 May to 12 August)

Location: Online Course – see <http://publish.uwo.ca/~dspanner/LIS9670/index.htm>

Calendar of Topics

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Week 1. May 13 | Course Intro: Review of Course Outline, Historical Overview, Types, the Archival Image, and Terminology |
| Week 2. May 20 | Archival Principles, Values, and the Relationship to Heritage and Information Disciplines |
| Week 3. May 27 | Archival Records and Uses – Understanding your Holdings |
| Week 4. June 3 | Appraisal and Acquisition - Principles and Procedures |
| Week 5. June 10 | Arrangement - Principles and Procedures |
| Week 6. June 17 | Description - Principles and Procedures |
| Week 7. June 24 | Access and Reference - Principles and Procedures |
| June 28-July 2 | MLIS Research Week |
| Week 8. July 8 | Traditional Outreach |
| Week 9. July 15 | Digital Outreach |
| Week 10. July 22 | Facilities Management |
| Week 11. July 29 | Conservation and Preservation: Environmental Elements and Caring for Analog Materials |
| Week 12. August 5 | Conservation and Preservation: Digital Media and General Disaster Planning |
| Week 13. August 12 | Future Issues |

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Please note: This course will take an asynchronous approach utilizing the course website (see above) in tandem with audio lectures and other resources delivered via OWL. There will be opportunities for Zoom discussion/feedback sessions with students throughout the term. The dates on the calendar reflect the date the audio lecture is to be delivered.

The course is designed to introduce students to the professional principles and practices that guide professional archival work. Class sessions will primarily be lecture driven. Weekly readings will acquaint students with the scholarly and professional literature. Students will gain a solid grounding in the history of the profession, an understanding of basic archival terminology, principles, theory, as well as an appreciation of current

practices and how digital technologies have impacted both archival management and public programming.

Course Objectives

1. To understand the nature of archival documents, as recorded information;
2. To understand the principles of archival science in contrast to those of related disciplines;
3. To explore how archivists acquire, appraise, arrange, describe, preserve and promote archival materials and make them available for use;
4. To consider the management issues involved in implementing archival principles and practices in an institution.

Course Requirements and Grading

Readings: There are no required texts, but there will be reading assignments as indicated on the course schedule. Readings and lecture materials will be made available via OWL.

Required Assignments: All students will write one *essay* (12-15 pages double spaced) on a topic chosen from a list distributed by the instructor in the first week of class. Students will also submit a written evaluation/critique (8-10 pages double spaced) of a digital resource (i.e. digital classroom, digital exhibit) utilizing their knowledge of such outreach instruments as found in the literature. Finally, each student will be given two practical exercises (one each on appraisal, arrangement, and reference) over the course of the term. To measure participation, 5 questions will be submitted randomly over the course of the term. The grade breakdown is as follows:

The grade breakdown is as follows:

| | Number | Unit Value | Total |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Essays | 1 | 40% | 40% |
| Digital Resource Evaluation | 1 | 20% | 20% |
| Exercises | 2 | 15% | 30% |
| Participation (5 questions) | 5 | 2% | 10% |
| Total | | n/a | 100% |

COURSE MATERIALS

There are no required textbooks to be purchased for this course. All required reading materials will be made available online via OWL. The following is a listing of required readings broken down by scheduled classes:

Week 1. Thursday, May 13

Introductions

"What are Archives" in Laura A. Millar, Archives: Principles and Practices. (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2017), pp. 3-22. Available via [Western Libraries, Databases, Proquest - E-Book Central](#).

"Given Under My Hand - The Nature of Evidence" in Laura A. Millar, A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in the Information Age. (Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2019), pp. 23-37. Available pdf at [OWL course site, Resources, Week 1](#).

Week 2. Thursday, May 20

Archival Principles, Values, and the Relationship to Heritage and Information Disciplines

Cook, Terry. "What is Past is Prologue: A History of Archival Ideas Since 1898, and the Future Paradigm Shift." *Archivaria* 43 (Spring 1997). Also found on-line at <https://archivaria-ca.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/archivaria/article/view/12175>

"Archival History and Theory" in Laura A. Millar, Archives: Principles and Practices. (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2017), Chapter 3. Available via [Western Libraries, Databases, Proquest - E-Book Central](#).

Week 3. Thursday, May 27

Archival Records and Uses - Understanding Your Holdings

Cook, Terry. 1997. "Archives, Evidence, and Memory: Thoughts on a Divided Tradition". Review of The Memory of the Modern. *Archival Issues* 22 (2). Midwest Archives Conference: 177-82. Available online via JSTOR https://www-jstor-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/41101980?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

"A mysterious and malleable thing - evidence, memory and narrative" in Laura A. Millar, A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in the Information Age. (Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2019), pp. 81-93. Available pdf at [OWL course site, Resources, Week 3](#).

Week 4. Thursday, June 3

Acquisition and Appraisal - Principles and Procedures

"Acquiring Archives" in Laura A. Millar, Archives: Principles and Practices. (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2017), Chapter 10. Available via [Western Libraries, Databases, Proquest - E-Book Central](#).

Bailey, Catherine. "From the Top Down: The Practice of Macro-Appraisal." *Archivaria* 43 (Spring 1997), pp.89-128. Available online via <https://archivaria-ca.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/archivaria/article/view/12177>

Huth, Geoff. "Appraising Digital Records (Module 14)" in Michael Shallcross and Christopher Prom, eds., Appraisal and Acquisition Strategies. (Chicago: SAA, 2016), pp. 10-48. Available pdf at [OWL course site, Resources, Week 4](#).

Week 5. Thursday, June 10

Arrangement - Principles and Procedures

"Arranging and Describing Archives" in Laura A. Millar, Archives: Principles and Practices. (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2017), Chapter 11. Available via [Western Libraries, Databases, Proquest - E-Book Central](#).

Krawczyk, Bob. "Cross Reference Heaven: The Abandonment of the Fonds as the Primary Level of Arrangement for Ontario Government Records." *Archivaria* 48 (Fall 1999), pp. 131-153. Available online via <https://archivaria-ca.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/archivaria/article/view/12720>

Week 6. Thursday, June 17

Description - Principles and Procedures

"Arranging and Describing Archives" in Laura A. Millar, Archives: Principles and Practices. (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2017), Chapter 11. Available via [Western Libraries, Databases, Proquest - E-Book Central](#).

Schaefer, Sibyl and Janet M. Bunde. "Standards for Archival Description (Module 1)" in Christopher Prom and Thomas J. Frusciano, eds., Archival Arrangement and Description. (Chicago: SAA, 2013), pp.12-54. Available pdf at [OWL course site, Resources, Week 6](#).

Week 7. Thursday, June 24

Access & Reference - Principles and Procedures

"Making Archives Available" in Laura A. Millar, Archives: Principles and Practices. (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2017), Chapter 12. Available via [Western Libraries, Databases, Proquest - E-Book Central](#).

Barnett, Leroy. "Standing on the Other Side of the Reference Desk," *Archival Issues*, v. 19, #2 (1994): 119-129. Available online via JSTOR https://www-jstor-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/41101885?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

JUNE 28 - JULY 2: MLIS RESEARCH WEEK

Week 8. Thursday, July 8

Traditional Outreach - Principles and Practice

Ericson, Timothy L. "Anniversaries: A Framework for Planning Public Programs" in Advocating Archives: An Introduction to Public Relations for Archivists by Elsie Freeman Finch [ed.] (Metuchen, NY: The Scarecrow Press, 1994), pp. 65-82.

Finch, Elsie Freeman. "Making Sure They Want It: Managing Successful Public Programs." *American Archivist*, vol. 56 (Winter 1993): 70-75. Available online via JSTOR https://www-jstor-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/40293715?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Week 9. Thursday, July 15

Digital Outreach

Baggett, Mark et al. "Pin pointing Success: Assessing the Value of Pinterest and Historypin for Special Collections Outreach" in Kate Theimer, ed., Outreach: Innovative Practices for Archives and Special Collections. (Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield, 2014), pp. 61-76. Available pdf at [OWL course site, Resources, Week 9](#).

Gelfand, A. (2013). If we build it (and promote it) they will come: History of analog and digital exhibits in archival repositories. *Journal of Archival Organization*, 11(1-2), 49-82. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15332748.2013.882160>

Mason, Marissa K. "Outreach 2.0: Promoting Archives and Special Collections through Social Media." *Public Services Quarterly*, vol. 10 (2), April 2014: 157-168. Available online via Scholars Portal <https://www-tandfonline-com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/doi/pdf/10.1080/15228959.2014.904212>

Samouelian, Mary. "Embracing Web 2.0: Archives and the Newest Generation of Web Applications." *American Archivist*, vol. 72 (Spring/Summer 2009): 42-71. Available online via JSTOR https://www-jstor-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/stable/40294595?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Week 10. Thursday, July 22

Facilities Management

["Facilities for Academic Archives," Society of American Archivists \(SAA\)](#)

Walsh, B. Salvage Operations for Water-Damaged Archival Collections: A Second Glance. Canadian Council of Archives: 2003. Available online at http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/salvage_en.pdf

Elgin County Archives Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response Plan, revised 2007. Available pdf at OWL course site, Resources, Week 10.

Week 11. Thursday, July 29

Conservation and Preservation: Environmental Elements and Caring for Analog Materials

Canadian Council of Archives. *Basic Conservation of Archival Materials* (Revised edition, 2003), Chapter 6 "Collections", pp. 51-73: http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/RBch6_en.pdf

"Preserving Archives" in Laura A. Millar, Archives: Principles and Practices. (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2017), Chapter 9. Available via Western Libraries, Databases, Proquest - E-Book Central.

Week 12. Thursday, August 5

Conservation and Preservation: The Dilemma of Digital Media

"Electronic records, paper minds - Evidence and Assumptions" in Laura A. Millar, A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in the Information Age. (Chicago: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2019), pp. 111-126. Available pdf at OWL course site, Resources, Week 12.

Week 13. Thursday, August 12

Future Issues

[Interview with Terry Cook, 26 July 2012](#)

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Essay

Students must submit one major essay over the course of the term, 12-15 pages double-spaced and worth 40% of their overall grade. On the first day of class (Sept. 10) they will be given a choice of essay topics, due no later than November 1.

Digital Archival Resource Evaluation

Students are given the task of finding an exceptional archival outreach resource (ie. digital exhibit or archival digital classroom) and submitting a critique (8-10 pages). Students are encouraged to discuss their choice with the instructor. The critique is worth 25% of the overall grade. Instructions on this assignment will be given on Sept 10 and the assignment is due on December 3 (Week 12).

Exercises

Students will be given two practice-based exercises, each worth 15%. Exercise 1 is based on applying learned principles of archival appraisal; Exercise 2 is based on applying learned principles of arrangement.

Participation

Over the course of the term, five questions will be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Each question will be worth 2% (totalling 10%). Each will pertain to the chosen week's particular lecture/readings. Students will have until the following week to submit a written answer, no longer than half a page.

Expectations:

All assignments will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Mastery of sources;
2. Quality of thought and expressive force;
3. Factual accuracy, clarity, conciseness and comprehensiveness.

Key dates and deadlines are as follows:

| Assignment | Handout Date | Due date |
|--|---------------------|---|
| Essay Submission (40%) | Week 1 (May 13) | Week 7 (June 24) or earlier. Refer to Essay Topics |
| Digital Archival Resource Evaluation (20%) | Week 1 (May 13) | Week 12 (August 5) |

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|---|---|---|
| Exercise #1 - Appraisal (15%) | Week 4 (June 3) | Week 6 (June 17) |
| Exercise #2 - Arrangement (15%) | Week 6 (June 17) | Week 8 (July 8) |
| Participation - 5 Questions (10% - 5x2) | Randomly given at instructor's discretion | Within a week of question being issued. |

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

If written work will be assigned in the course and plagiarism-checking software might be used, the following statement to this effect must be included in the course outline: “All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

SUPPORT SERVICES

For the Policy on Accommodation for Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

[downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on illness grounds for any assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Western's “Health and Wellness” http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.