

COURSE INFORMATION

Course: LIS 9670: Introduction to Archives Administration

Time: Fall term 2022, Thursdays. 1:30-4:20 pm (8 September to 8 December)

Location: FNB 2230

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Don Spanner Ph.D., M.L.I.S.

E-mail: dspanner@uwo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the MLIS program. The course is designed to introduce students to the professional principles and practices that guide professional archival work. 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. **Class sessions will be in-person and primarily lecture driven.**

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 website. Readings will be available as on-line resources on the course website or, as indicated, posted on OWL.

Required Assignments: Students must submit one major essay over the course of the term, a critique on an exceptional archival outreach resource (i.e. digital exhibit), and three practice-based exercises on applying learned principles of archival appraisal, arrangement/description, and reference services respectively.

Attendance: Attendance at classes is an essential part of the learning experience. Students should therefore notify the instructor if they need to be absent from class due to inclement weather, conference

attendance, serious illness, family emergencies or co-op or other job interviews. If the situation involves more than one absence, particularly in more than one course, the student should contact FIMS Graduate Student Services at 519-661-2111 Ext. 88494 or e-mail bborman@uwo.ca. Attendance requirements also include punctual arrival at classes. Late arrivals are discourteous, disruptive and unprofessional.

Missing a class, or repeated late arrivals of 10 minutes or more, may require the student to complete a special assignment to verify coverage of the course material. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 2% per day.

The grade breakdown is as follows:

	Number	Unit Value	Total
Essays	1	35%	35%
Digital Resource Evaluation	1	20%	20%
Exercises	3	15%	45%
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, Sept. 8

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, Sept. 15

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, Sept. 22

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, Sept. 29

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, Oct. 6

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, Oct. 13

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, Oct. 20

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

Week 8. Thursday, Oct. 27

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

OCT. 31 to NOV. 4: MLIS RESEARCH WEEK

Week 9. Thursday, Nov. 10

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, Nov. 17

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, Nov. 24

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, Dec. 1

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, Dec. 8

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 35% of their overall grade. On the first day of class (Sept. 8) they will be given a choice of essay topics, due no later than Monday, Nov. 7 (after Reading Week).

Digital Archival Resource Evaluation

Students are given the task of finding an exceptional archival outreach resource (i.e. digital exhibit, digital classroom, etc.) and submitting a critique (8-10 pages). Students are encouraged to discuss their choice with the instructor. The critique is worth 20% of the overall grade. Instructions on this assignment will be given on Sept. 8 (Week 1) and the assignment is due on December 1 (Week 12).

Exercises

Students will be given three practice-based exercises, each worth 15%. Exercise 1 (handout Sept. 29; due Oct. 13) is based on applying learned principles of archival appraisal; Exercise 2 (handout Oct. 6; due Oct. 20) is based on applying learned principles of arrangement/description; Exercise 3 (handout Oct. 20; due Nov. 10) is based on applying learned principles of reference service.

Expectations:

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

1. Mastery of sources;

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

Key dates and deadlines are as follows:

Assignment	Handout Date	Due date
Essay Submission (35%)	Week 1 (Sept. 8)	Monday, Nov. 7. Refer to Essay Topics
Digital Archival Resource Evaluation (20%)	Week 1 (Sept. 8)	Week 12 (Dec. 1)
Exercise #1 - Appraisal (15%)	Week 4 (Sept. 29)	Week 6 (Oct. 13)
Exercise #2 - Arrangement (15%)	Week 5 (Oct. 6)	Week 7 (Oct. 20)
Exercise #3 – Reference Services (15%)	Week 7 (Oct. 20)	Week 9 (Nov. 10)

SGPS REQUIREMENTS

Graduate Course Level Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Upon successful completion of readings, assignments, and class participation, students will be able to:

1. Articulate and explain to various stakeholders the nature of archival documents, and their role in information institutions (PLLO 5);
2. Recognize how archival principles and practices relate to, but differ from, the principles and practices of other information collections (PLLO 3);
3. Understand how archival principles and practices interact with other academic disciplines; (PLLO 2);
4. Understand at a basic level the practices of acquisition, appraisal, description, preservation and promotion of archival materials (PLLO 6);
5. Engage enthusiastically in the challenging management issues in archival practice (PLLO 3).

Course Timeline and Format

Week 1. Sept. 8	Course Intro: Review of Course Outline, Historical Overview, Types, the Archival Image, and Terminology
Week 2. Sept. 15	Archival Principles, Values, and the Relationship to Heritage and Information Disciplines
Week 3. Sept. 22	Archival Records and Uses – Understanding your Holdings
Week 4. Sept. 29	Appraisal and Acquisition - Principles and Procedures
Week 5. Oct. 6	Arrangement - Principles and Procedures
Week 6. Oct. 13	Description - Principles and Procedures
Week 7. Oct. 20	Access and Reference - Principles and Procedures
Week 8. Oct. 27	Traditional Outreach
Oct. 31 – Nov. 4	MLIS Research Week
Week 9. Nov. 10	Digital Outreach
Week 10. Nov. 17	Facilities Management and General Disaster Planning
Week 11. Nov. 24	Conservation and Preservation: Environmental Elements and Caring for Analog Materials
Week 12. Dec. 1	Conservation and Preservation: Digital Media
Week 13. Dec. 8	Future Issues

This course is primarily lecture-driven and in-person. Weeks 5 and 6 will include an in-class team-based activity. Week 10 will entail a tour of a working archive. Please note that should a COVID surge demand unforeseen restrictions, the instructor is prepared to move the class to an online environment.

Enrollment Restrictions

Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in (Insert name of program(s)), as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

[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

Additionally,

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

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. Please refer to the following downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

The link below is also helpful regarding appeals and discipline.

<https://grad.uwo.ca/administration/regulations/13.html>