

THE REBIRTH OF APPRAISAL

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OUTLINE

APPRAISAL / SELECTION - WELCOME BACK

- Early History and Evolution
 - The "heyday"
 - The Rise of MPLP
- Appraisal - the rebirth
 - Focus on responsible collection development
 - MPLP and appraisal/reappraisal and deaccessioning

GROUND RULES & ASSUMPTIONS

- Speaking from the perspective of US archival literature and practice.
- Terminology: Appraisal - Selection
 - Selection - an action verb
 - Selecting the records that will be included in an archives;
 - Selecting the individuals/organizations/units that will be included in an archives.

“

OUR MOST IMPORTANT AND INTELLECTUALLY DEMANDING TASK AS ARCHIVISTS IS TO MAKE AN INFORMED SELECTION OF INFORMATION THAT WILL PROVIDE THE FUTURE WITH A REPRESENTATIVE RECORD OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE IN OUR TIME. BUT WHY MUST WE DO IT SO BADLY?

— *F. Gerald Ham*

”

EARLY HISTORY AND EVOLUTION

THE HEYDAY AND THE RISE OF MAPLE

- Jenkinson, Shellenberger and their echoes through the years
 - Preservation - Selection
 - Selection is a societal requirement - rational trade off between needs, wants, and resources
 - Documentation Strategy
 - "New Paradigm" / Universal Theory of Archives
 - Macroappraisal
 - Functional Analysis
 - Reappraisal (1980s)
- The rise of More Product, Less Process - 2005

APPRAISAL: THE REBIRTH

THE BACKLOG STILL LOOKS LIKE THIS . . .

MPLP ISN'T ENOUGH

- Focus on responsible collection development
- MPLP + Selection / Reappraisal



UCLA

LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- UCLA Library Special Collections Today
- Functional structure
- Curators/Collection Development - demonstrate our excellence
- Better integration - better communication - create a structure for the whole process

UCLA LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

THE BACKLOG

Inaccessible Archival Collections

mystery acquisitions

3%

accessioning backlog

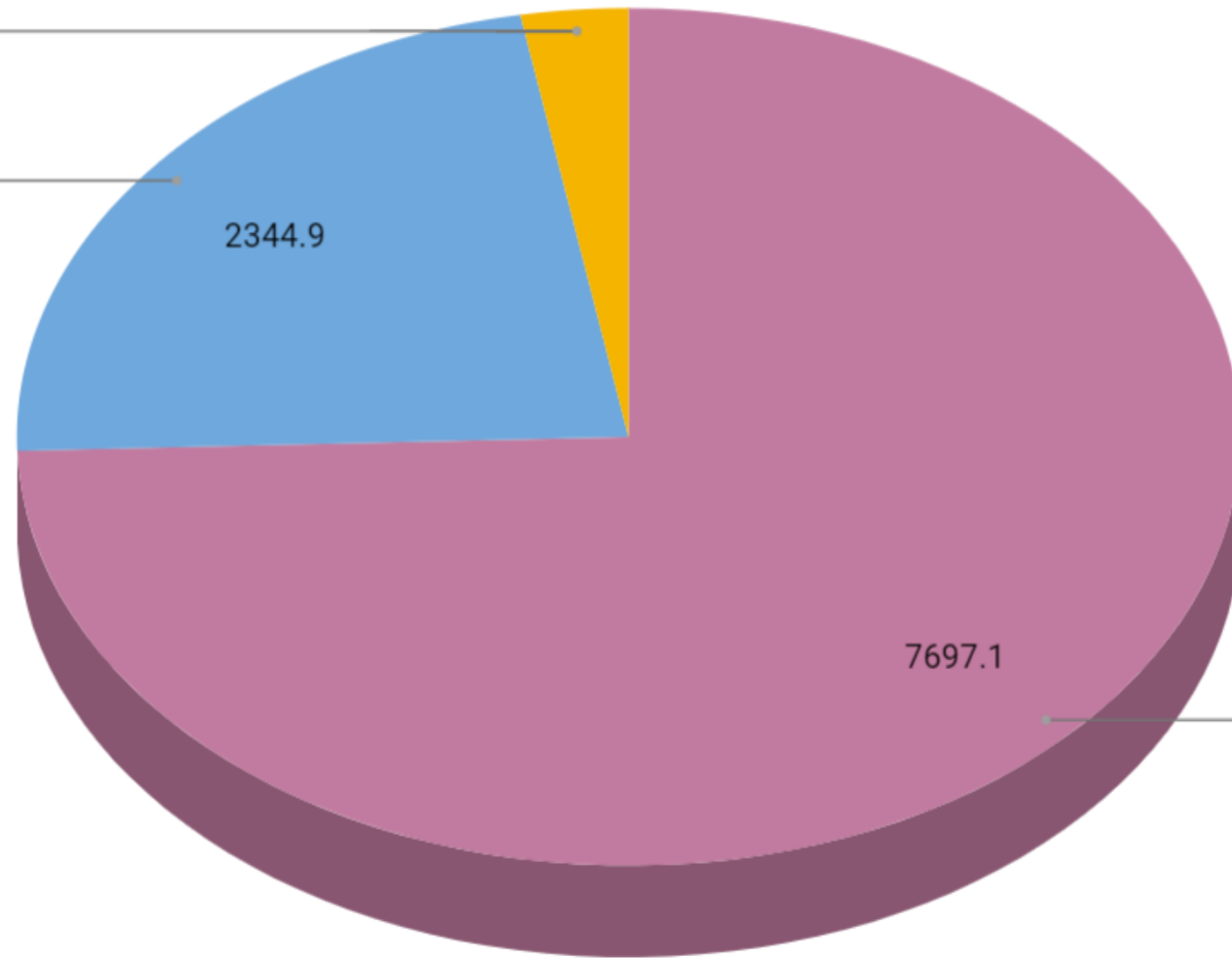
17%

2344.9

7697.1

Processing backlog

74%



UCLA LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT COSTS OF NEW ACCESSIONS

Operational Impact of New Acquisitions Between March 2018 thru February 2019

Number of linear feet acquired	2437 linear feet + 20 GB of known born-digital materials
Estimated total accessioning time	1240.9 hours
Estimated total processing time	9114 (processed to series-level) - 21933 (processed to file-level expedited)
Estimated accessioning preservation interventions	20 hours (freezer prep + vacuuming)
Actual total transfer costs	\$9,460.51
Estimated total offsite deposit costs	\$21,904.16
Estimated total accessioning cost	\$85,418.10
Estimated total processing costs	\$450,519.72 (processed to series-level) - \$1,061,746.04 (processed to file-level expedited)
Estimated total post-acquisition costs	\$567,302.49 (processed to series-level) - \$1,178,528.82 (processed to file-level expedited) *includes costs for transfer, deposit, accessioning, low-level preservation interventions, and processing

CHALLENGES OF SELECTION

ARCHIVAL SILENCES AND PRAGMATISM

- Bias
 - Documenting selection decisions
 - Documented criteria
- Cook “literally co-creating archives as records, as we create archives as institutions.”
- Selection - “Defendable, accountable, well-researched, participatory, and transparent.” - Cook

COLLECTION BUILDING AND OPERATIONAL IMPACTS WORKING GROUP

OCLC RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

- 20 members, 19 institutions in US
- Output - white paper
 - Communications toolkit
 - Cost calculators
 - Literature review

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

THE WAY FORWARD

- A whole conference dedicated to these issues and experience.
- More training for archives students and professionals.
- Learn from others and take what will work in your institution and support your mission.
- The most important thing is to actually select - ultimately all of the discussion and theorizing won't get it done.
- We must apply our theory to practice, document, and do it.