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%
Processing backlog: 0.7%

Processing backlog: 7697.1
2344.9
### Operational Impact of New Acquisitions Between March 2018 thru February 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of linear feet acquired</td>
<td>2437 linear feet + 20 GB of known born-digital materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total accessioning time</td>
<td>1240.9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated total processing time</td>
<td>9114 (processed to series-level) - 21933 (processed to file-level expedited)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated accessioning preservation interventions</td>
<td>20 hours (freezer prep + vacuuming)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actual total transfer costs</td>
<td>$9,460.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated total onsite deposit costs</td>
<td>$21,904.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated total accessioning cost</td>
<td>$85,418.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated total processing costs</td>
<td>$450,519.72 (processed to series-level) - $1,061,746.04 (processed to file-level expedited)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated total post-acquisition costs</td>
<td>$567,302.49 (processed to series-level) - $1,178,528.82 (processed to file-level expedited)</td>
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</tbody>
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*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
• 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.