

END OF FUNDING PERIOD REPORT

LAUC Statewide Grants, Research & Professional Development Committee

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TITLE OF PROJECT: Shifting Roles (and Identities) for Archivists in the 21st Century Academic Library

Time Period of Grant: Spring 2017

Amount of Award Received: \$350

Original Abstract as Submitted:

Archivists in the academic library domain have typically maintained professional identities that are distinct but complementary to those of their more numerous librarian counterparts. This has ranged from training and education, to job descriptions and responsibilities, to professional societies and publishing circuits. However, today, in the midst of the slow sea change that will ultimately define the 21st century library, the roles and professional identities of archivists, librarians, and other information professionals are changing and blurring, shaped by the common forces of the digital information age. These forces include the open access movement, the increasing currency of research datasets and big data, the increasing complexity and distribution of the scholarly record, and the growing importance of special collections and institutional repositories to the distinctive identity of academic libraries. In this presentation, I will discuss how UC Davis has responded to these forces by reimagining the “university archives” (and its University Archivist) through its Archives and Institutional Assets Program (AIAP). At the center of this program is a pivot towards stewarding the born digital assets of UC Davis faculty and researchers in “real time,” tracking, preserving, and making accessible assets created in the course of research, teaching, and community service. Concomitant with this shift are new professional roles and responsibilities defined by partnerships and collaborations within the library and units across campus, new relationships with faculty and researchers, and a deeper involvement with technology and digital initiatives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS and EVALUATION

The \$350 LAUC Presentation Grant provided critical financial assistance, enabling me to attend and participate in the [Identity, Agency, and Culture in Academic Libraries](#) conference in Los Angeles, sponsored by the University of Southern California. (Conference dates were May 22 and 23). Although the conference offered free registration, required travel expenses—including airfare and accommodations—quickly added up.

The conference provided the strongest, most concentrated gathering and discussion that I have experienced in the profession around issues relating to what *makes* a librarian, archivist, or information professional, in terms of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, educational background, job classification, etc., and what we as librarians should *do* through our work vis-à-vis the communities we serve. The talks, panels, and round-tables were variously informative, aspirational,

inspirational, and practical. The participants were truly national, and in some cases international, providing a wide range of perspectives at a critical time in the profession.

Needless to say, there was a lot that I got out of the conference and brought back to my institution, but I was also pleased to present my 50 minute paper, as I was the only archivist on the program to do so. In a conference dominated by academic *librarians*, I presented on these issues in the archivist community and in the context of the history of archival science. I am very grateful to LAUC for supporting me in this endeavor.