

Representing the Others

Preserving Evidence and Knowledge for Equity

Elaine L. Westbrook

Vice Provost for University Libraries & University Librarian

Digital Commonwealth
April 7, 2020



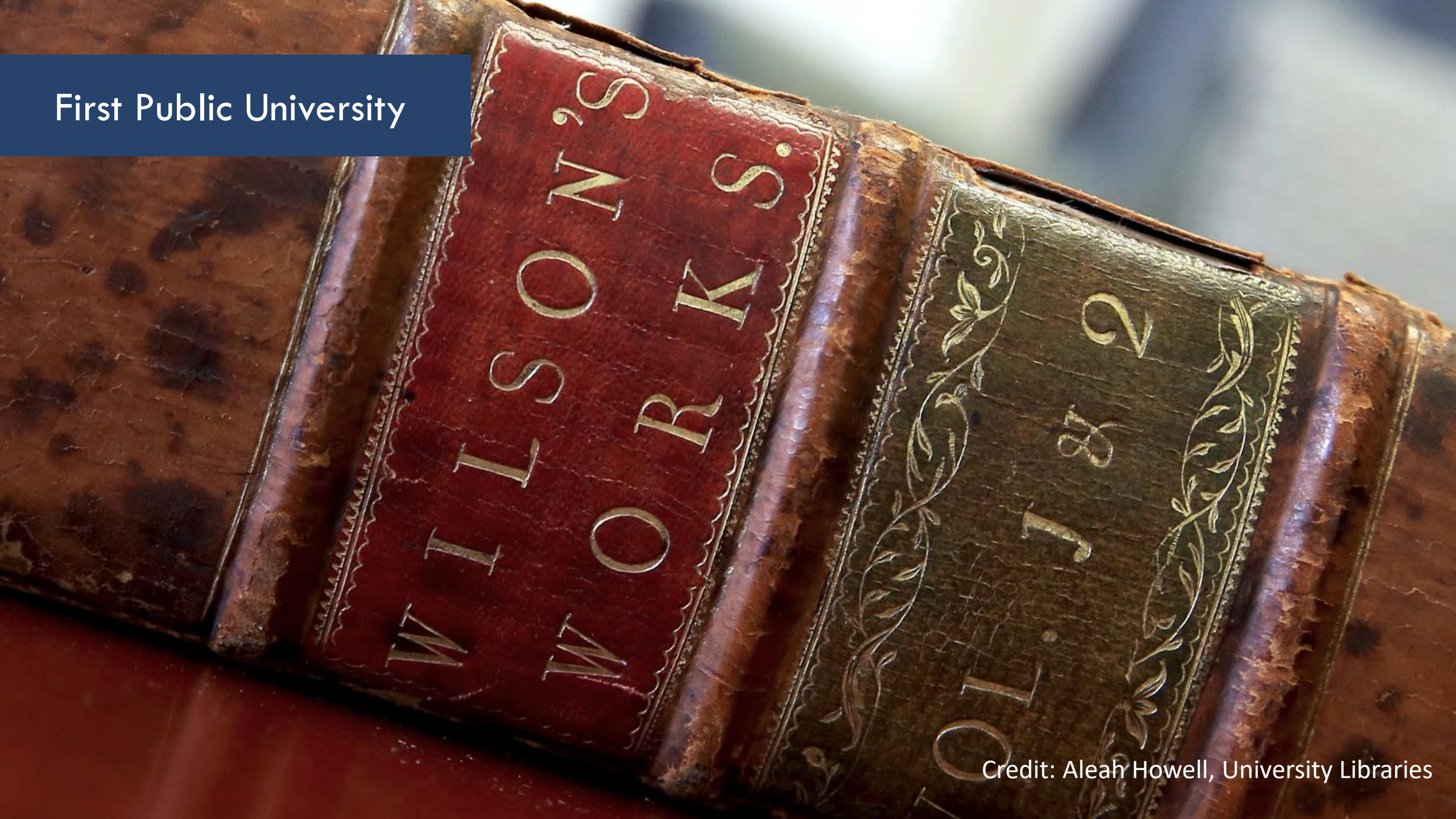


Credit: Evelyn Hockstein, Washington Post)

Who are We?

Who am I?

First Public University



Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries

Legacy of White Supremacy @ UNC



Credit: Gerry Broome, Associated Press

UNC Board of Governors To Give Confederate Group \$2.5M To Preserve Silent Sam

By WILL MICHAELS • DEC 6, 2019

EDUCATION

The Silent Sam-UNC deal has been reversed by a judge. But many questions remain.

BY MARTHA QUILLIN

FEBRUARY 14, 2020 05:40 PM, UPDATED FEBRUARY 14, 2020 06:40 PM





Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries

The Library preserves the records of the turbulent 1960s

- Integration Sit ins
- UNC Speaker Ban
- Food Workers Strike
- Vietnam War Protests



Stories of African American Migration & Mobility



Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries




Respect4AllTarHeels @respect4allth · 30 Nov 2016

Respect For All Town Hall Flyer

[#respectforalltarheels](#)


December 7th at 11:45 am
Steps of South Building



In an email after the presidential election, Chancellor Folt told the campus community that UNC values "respect for all." But to practice respect, UNC's administration must take concrete actions. And UNC's students, faculty, and staff deserve a say in these actions. At this people's town hall, we ask: What must UNC's administration do to fulfill its promise of 'respect for all?'"
Please join us!

Sponsored by:
Respect For All Tar Heels,
a graduate and
professional student
solidarity organization

*UNC administrators will
be invited to listen.*





Live-action Clue Game

Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries

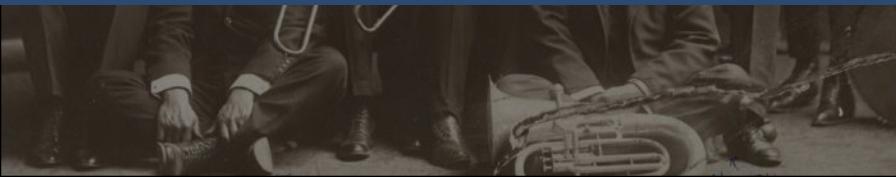
Student-Curated Exhibitions



Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries



North Carolina Digital Heritage Center
digitalInc.org



Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries



Digitizing NC's audiovisual heritage

Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries

(DE)CONSTRUCTING
DIFFERENCE:
MEDICALIZING BLACKNESS
AND THE MAKING OF RACE

BY RANA HOGARTH, PH.D.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020

5:00 p.m. Reception & Exhibition Viewing | 5:30 p.m. Program

Pleasants Family Assembly Room, Wilson Library



Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries



You could characterize these examples as
the work of a special collections unit at
a research university ... but ...

The historical record is incomplete



Archivists should use their power—in determining what records will be preserved for future generations and in interpreting this documentation for researchers—for the benefit of all members of society.

Randall Jimerson, 2007



...an increasing emphasis has been placed on rethinking the role of archives and archivists, and the ways in which each reinforces unequal power structures and the manufacturing of distorted histories.

Mario Ramirez, 2015



...think about how white supremacy affects the archives in a personal and systemic way and how those in the archival community can act to interrupt it.

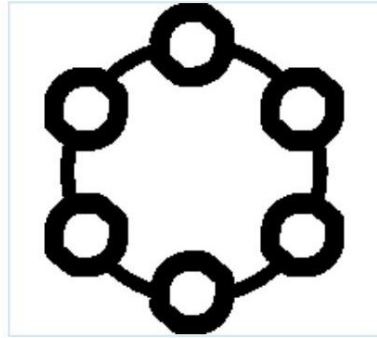
Michelle Caswell, 2017

Preservation, archiving, and custody can only be
done one way

Community Driven Archives



About



Collaborations



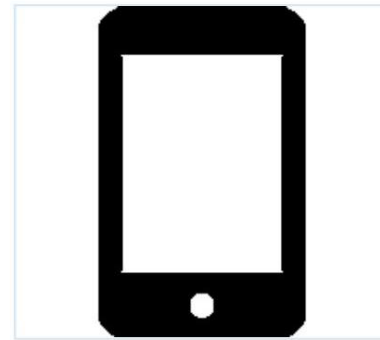
How-To Guides



Archivist in a Backpack

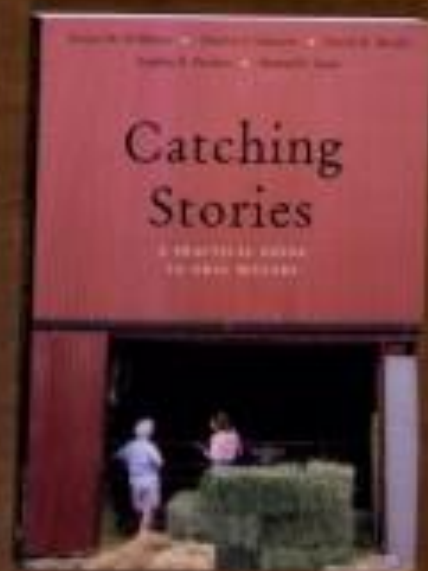


News



Contact Us

Archives in a Backpack



Carolina's Conscious Editing Initiative

1. Re-envision our descriptive practice so that whiteness is no longer the presumed default
2. Language in description is inclusive and accessible
3. Description does not obscure sources of information about the lives of enslaved people.

Sustainable Scholarship



Deep and Accessible Research Collections



Credit: Aleah Howell, University Libraries

#News

#Books And Publishing

UC Drops Elsevier

After months of negotiating over open-access fees and paywalls, the University of California System follows through on threat to cancel its journal subscription deal with Elsevier.

By [Lindsay McKenzie](#) // March 1, 2019

31 COMMENTS 

Source: Inside Higher Ed



Open Access not only questions the multiple barriers to equitable knowledge making and circulation, it also raises important questions about power and inequality, such as whose knowledge counts, who has the power to set research agendas, and how knowledge is legitimized.

-Leslie Chan, 2018



The implicit message is that research from the South has to mimic that from the North, even if it means abandoning research that would contribute to local well-being, while favouring research with international appeal, which means finding readers in journals published in the North.

-Leslie Chan, 2018

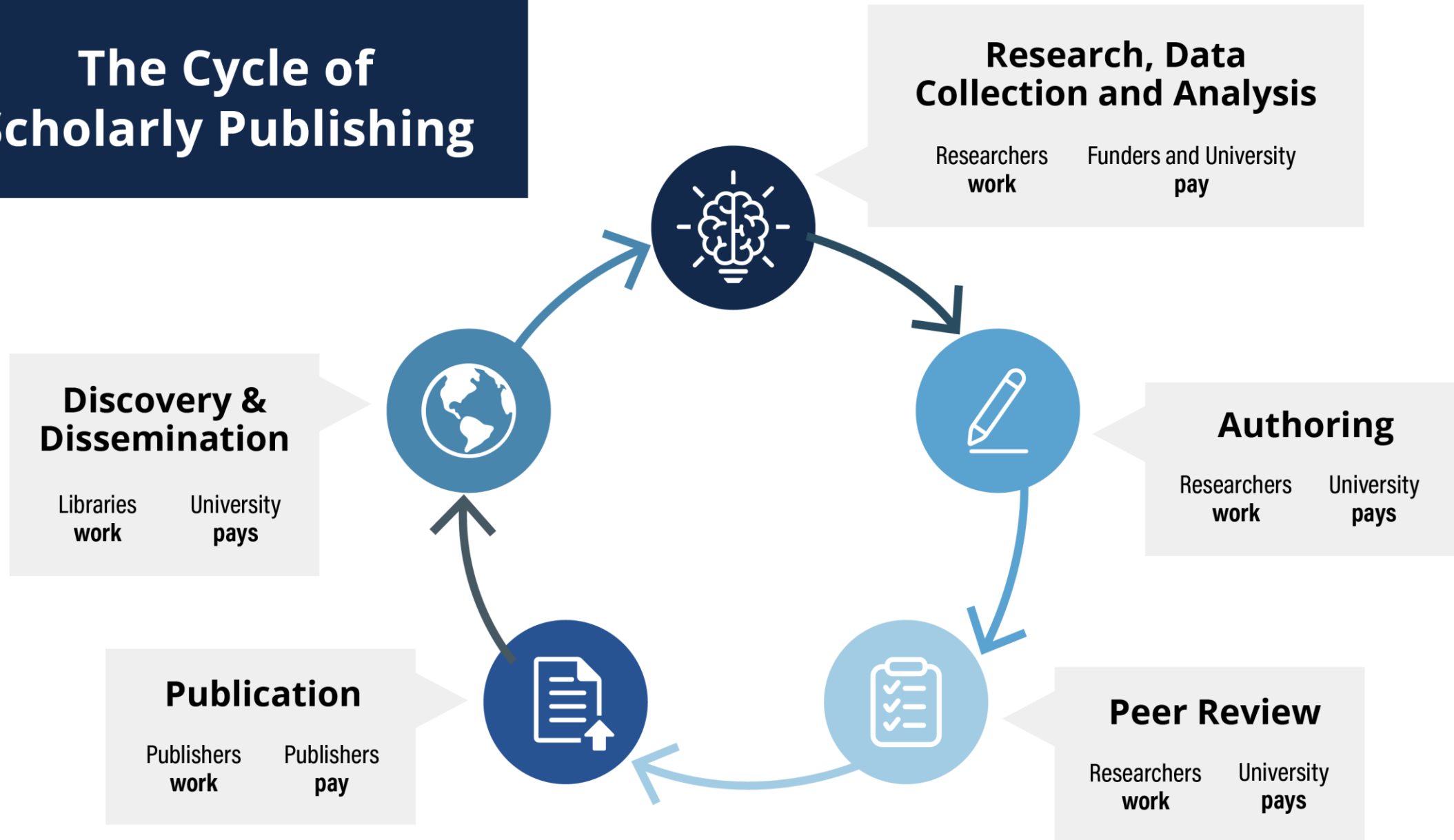
Inequities of Scholarly Publishing

1. Knowledge Creation
2. Peer Review
3. Cost of Research
4. Pay to Play
5. Research metrics

Oligopoly

A state of limited competition, in which a market is shared by a small number of sellers.

The Cycle of Scholarly Publishing



Values in Negotiation



Affordability



Sustainability



Transparency



Open (Public)
Access

Approaching Equity



Inclusive Excellence

- We empower diverse populations for full participation in the learning community and in a democratic society.
- We eliminate barriers to the use of library spaces, collections, services, and activities.
- We embrace diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility for our workforce and for library users.

Reckoning



Baltimore Museum of Art



Credit: Ron Solomon/The Baltimore Museum

"Building a permanent collection is building a story for all time."

Christopher Bedford, Director



Credit: Photo by Kirby Griffin



“Why did a male’s call to action seem to resonate so loudly in this instance when women are the subject and have been calling for the same action forever?...Is this initiative an exceptional act of inclusion or exceptional because of pervasive exclusion?”

The Baltimore Museum of Art Made a Pledge to Buy Art by Women. Is It Just a Stunt?

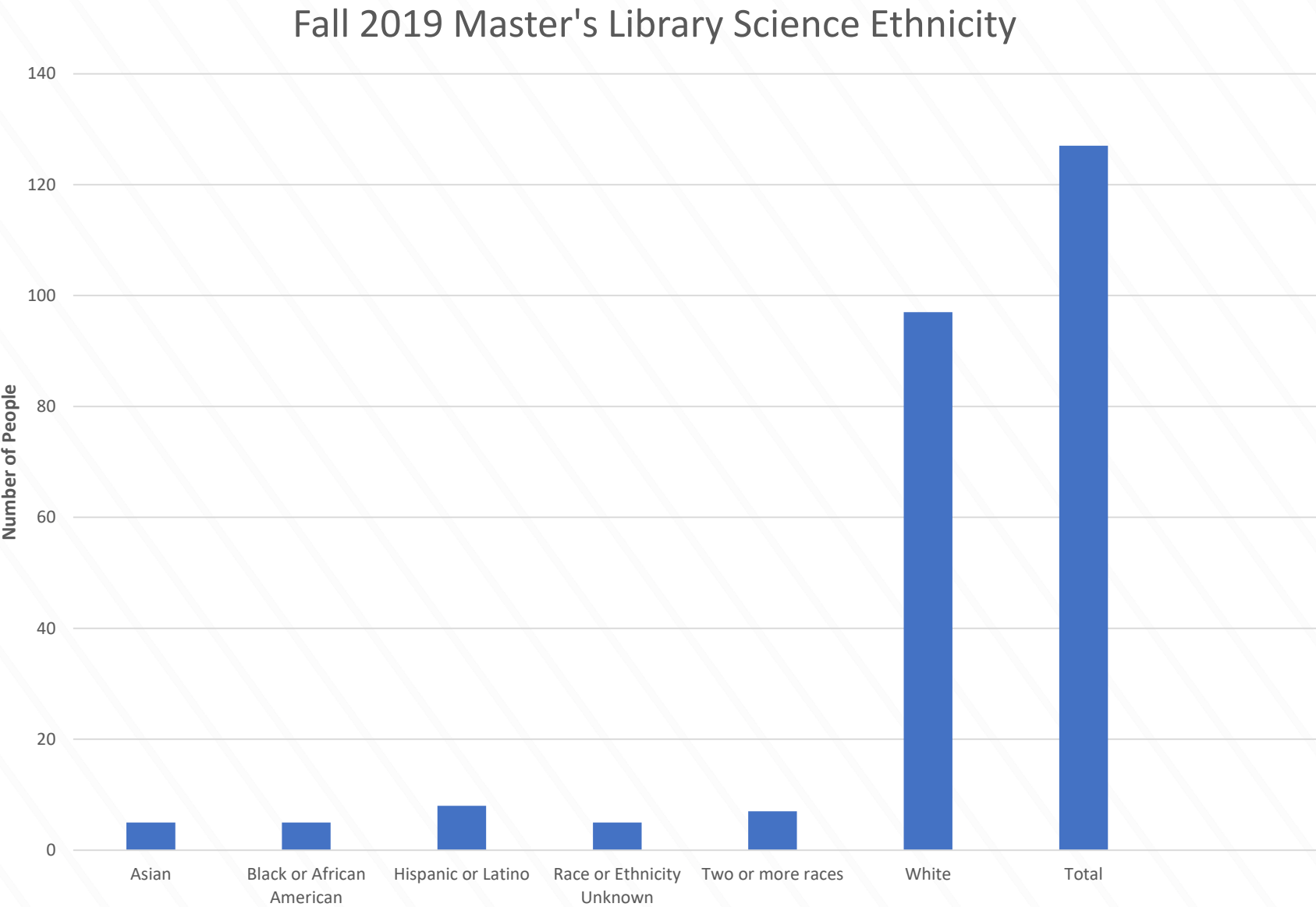
Examine the Systems

1. Human Resources
2. Budget
3. Virtual & Physical Space
4. Development/Fundraising
5. Communications
6. IT
7. Collections

Examining Education & Training



North Carolina School of Information & Library Science



Examining Collections



Collections Examined

1. Representation
2. Acquisitions
3. Description
4. Arrangement
5. Preservation & Conservation
6. Selection criteria
7. Vendors/Suppliers

In conclusion

1. Many institutions have taken steps to rethink what they do
2. These actions may not matter without reckoning
3. There is not shortcut to this work

Thank You!



UNC_Librarian

elainelw@email.unc.edu

Questions & Discussion