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

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
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
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
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.
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
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

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.
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
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

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Questions & Discussion