Managing the Competing Forces of Agency, Equity and Privacy in Archival Practice

Richard Chabran
Christine Anne George
Natalie Milbrodt
Segregation and Public Libraries

.... important part of the public library’s past: the decades when many tax-supported libraries refused service to African Americans or provided services in segregated buildings.
Inclusion

- It is important that all groups are documented and represented in special collections and archives, and that those materials are accessible to scholars and the people whose communities they represent.

- Historically, special collections libraries and archives have primarily been repositories of records and material from mainstream populations.

- Minority groups, for instance, Latinos, have been poorly represented, despite decades of calls to action within the library and information science profession.
In what ways are we adjusting our practices to welcome, create space and share authority with communities previously excluded from history-making activities?
Places To Learn and Experiment

**Historypin:** [https://historypin.org](https://historypin.org)
A place for people to share photos and stories, telling the histories of their local communities. Create walking tours.

**Mukurtu:** [https://www.mukurtu.org](https://www.mukurtu.org)
A grassroots project aiming to empower communities to manage, share, and exchange their digital heritage in culturally relevant and ethically-minded ways

**Clio:** [https://www.theclio.com/](https://www.theclio.com/)
Create walking tours to thousands of historical and cultural sites in the United States
What support can we offer to those whose stories require additional protections in order to be preserved?
Building a Framework for
Transparent and Responsible Decision Making

● Archival preservation is just one of many ways to provide service
● Consulting trusted colleagues and resources
  ○ Witness publishes extremely helpful guides
● Aligning with existing collection development guidelines
● Getting a review process down on paper for future reference
● Not making promises you cannot keep
What are your recommendations for concrete actions an archivist can take to address these issues in a meaningful way?
Meaningful Action is within Reach

Recommendations by the New York State Historical Records Advisory Board

● Education
● Access
● Representation
● Agency
● Partnerships
What are our national organizations doing to support this work?
Where does support come from for doing this work?
Are these unfunded mandates?
Decision Making

Elizabeth Martinez
A Jaguar in the Library:
The Story of the First Chicana Librarian
Sustainable Funding

Recommendations for funders

Support Capacity Building and Capital Investment
Require Equitable Partnerships in Funded Collaborative Projects
Promote Community Compensation
Adopt Inclusive Funding Practices

Recommendations for University Library Partners

Don’t be Extractive
Practice Equity
Be Transparent
Honor the Wisdom of the Community

Architecting Sustainable Futures:
Exploring Funding Models in Community-Based Archives