

# The Politics of Collections



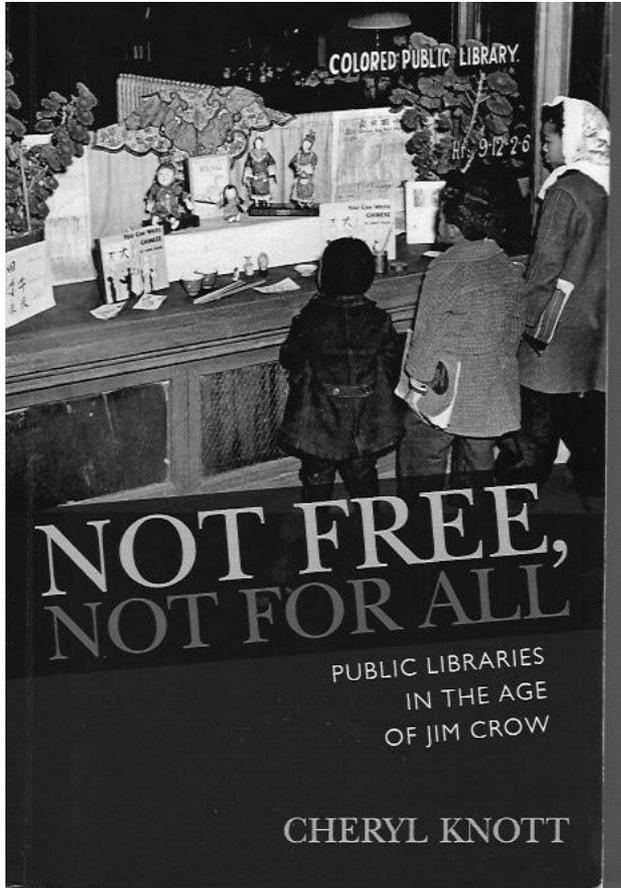
## Managing the Competing Forces of Agency, Equity and Privacy in Archival Practice

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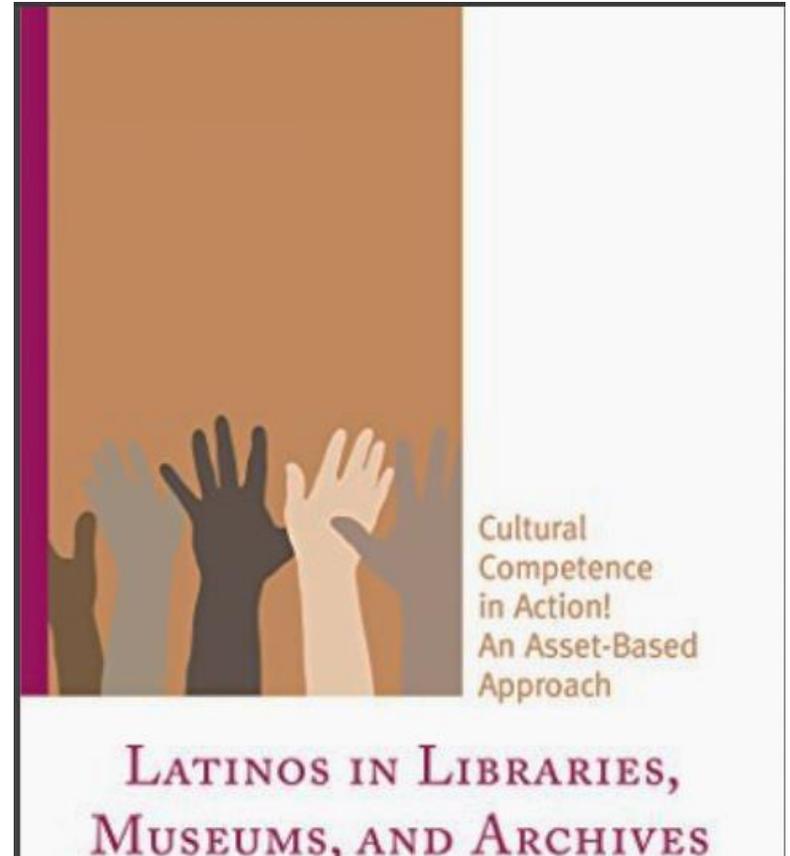
# Segregation and Public Libraries



.... 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>

A place for people to share photos and stories, telling the histories of their local communities. Create walking tours.

**Mukurtu:** <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/>

Create walking tours to thousands of historical and cultural sites in the United States



#### SUMMARY:

This is a Historypin tour of Salsa's Cantina in Clovis, CA

#### DESCRIPTION:

Background for interview from Alicia Diaz Wrest: "I began working in Old Town Clovis, California in September 2015. Soon after beginning my job, I started to explore some of the local restaurants, and was fortunate to find Salsa's Cantina. When I opened the menu, I was surprised to find a variety of gourmet chili rellenos. While I was skeptical that these would be more of the same omelet battered stuffed canned chilis that I had had at other places, I was absolutely delighted when I was served a relleno that could rival my abuelita's. Therefore, when I was assigned a project to document a Latinx food establishment in my community, I knew exactly what restaurant I wanted to explore. I had a hunch that maybe this food was from the same region as my family, and this project was the perfect opportunity to learn if my suspicions were correct."

#### CULTURAL NARRATIVE:

On June 22, 2017, I sat down with Jesse G. Mendoza, co-owner of Salsa's. He is a warm and lovely man that was happy to share the history of Salsa's with me. Salsa's passionately prepares Mexican food that is from recipes that has been handed down for generations. The recipes are those of Leticia Mendoza's family, and were taught to her by her grandmother, Andrea Cortina. Mrs. Cortina lived to the ripe age of 90. While Mrs. Mendoza was born in Donna, Texas, she was raised in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, by her grandmother, Mrs. Cortina. Incidentally, this is the birthplace of my father and the reason the food was so familiar to me. It is the food of my personal culture. Mrs. Mendoza learned her art in the kitchen at the back of her grandmother's convenience store. There they would prepare food for local farm hands. Mrs. Mendoza grew up making tortillas by hand and all that enter Salsa's are the fortunate beneficiaries of this fact.

While Salsa's would not be in existence without these roots, its modern history goes back about 30 years when Mr. and Mrs. Mendoza operated

#### CATEGORY:

Web resources

#### KEYWORDS:

Chili rellenos, Carnitas, Arroz, Tortillas, California

#### COLLECTIONS:

Storytelling Sabor

#### ORIGINAL DATE:

2020

#### CONTRIBUTOR:

Alicia Diaz Wrest

#### LANGUAGE:

English

#### TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE LABEL



TK NC

#### LICENSING OPTIONS:

 Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International

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#### EXTERNAL LINKS:

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

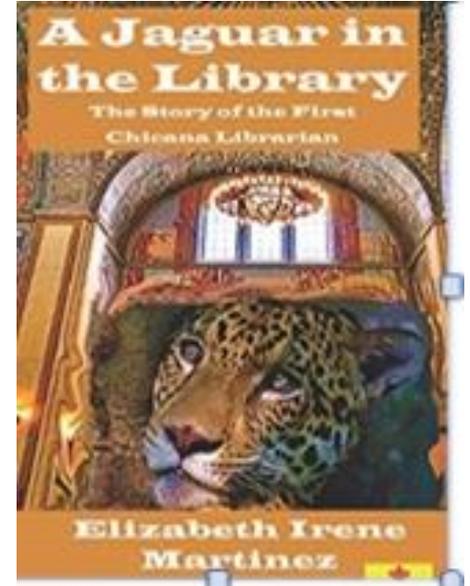
- Education
- Access
- Representation
- Agency
- Partnerships

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