FOSTERING COLLABORATION BETWEEN RESEARCH LIBRARIES AND COMMUNITY ARCHIVES TO PRESERVE THE 'NETWORK OF MUTUALITY'

Ruby Martinez and Nathan Tallman

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WHY COMMUNITY ARCHIVES MATTER

- iPRES Keynotes for the past two years have called out the important work of community archives

  - Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty in 2022

  - Sherry Williams and Ricardo Punzalan in 2023

- Community archives document lives often left out of institutional archives. They perform critical labor, often without sustainable funding for staff, supplies, or infrastructure.

- Research libraries are well positioned to help, but often encounter barriers, sometimes self-imposed.

KEY BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION

BARRIER 1: COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

- **Historical Biases**: Archival frameworks once assumed objectivity and neutrality
- **Community Archives**: Linked with activism and social justice, offer alternative
  - Ex. The Digital Archives and Marginalized Communities Project (DAMC) uses participatory archiving, driven by community priorities.
- **Representational Belonging**: Communities reclaim narratives, challenging traditional collecting practices.
  - Ex. South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA)
- **Ongoing responsibility**: Historical exclusion reflects broader systemic issues, necessitating continued efforts toward inclusivity and equity.

BARRIER 2: PATERNALISTIC ATTITUDES

- Roots and causes of paternalistic attitudes

- Impact on collaboration

  - Epistemic asymmetry

- Examples

  - Legalistic, rights-based frameworks

BARRIER 3: MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Financial, technical, and content-related challenges when community archives try to use networks designed for research libraries.

- Open-source and community-based solutions are out of reach.

- Content requirements to be accepted for preservation are geared towards research libraries.

BARRIER 4: INCOMPATIBLE DIGITAL PRESERVATION WORKFLOWS

- Challenges in digital preservation for different institutions

- Digital exclusion

- Echo chamber effect

STRATEGIES FOR BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

DIVERSIFYING COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

- Community-driven collecting practices

- Joint exhibitions and research projects

- Engaging with the Community

- Addressing ownership and copyright concerns

DISMANTLING PATERNALISM

- Identify and challenge privilege

- Adopt radical empathy

- Build long-term relationships

- Promote self-determination

RETHINKING MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Flexible membership models

- Training and education programs

- Partnerships for skill development

- Leveraging library staff

DEVELOPING INTEROPERABLE WORKFLOWS

- Focus on human elements

- "Good Enough" digital preservation

- Scalable solutions

- Collaborative partnerships

- Community archives programs

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. Need for further research and case studies

2. Importance of documenting successful collaborations

3. Call to action for research libraries and community archives

CONCLUSION

- Essential role of Community archives

- Barriers to collaboration

- Overcoming barriers to collaboration

- Future Directions

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, FEEDBACK

THANK YOU

Ruby Martinez and Nathan Tallman
rubylm2@illinois.edu | nathan.tallman@aptrust.org