

SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA ARCHIVISTS
May 17-19, 2007 AGM

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Welcome

Called many things, a port town, stepsister to Los Angeles, an oil town, the most ethnically diverse large city in the U.S., a navy town, Long Beach is all of that and more. Indeed it is the unexpected metropolis. A rich history takes Long Beach from the original Tongva people to the Mexicans, and Yankees running cattle across the vast ranchos Los Alamitos and Los Cerritos, to development as a seaside resort for health and pleasure, to pioneering in the early film industry, to the discovery of oil and growth as a major port and Navy base. The diversity of its population brings to Long Beach an amazing array of ethnic and cultural events throughout the year such as Scottish Games, Native American Pow Wow, Cambodian New Year, Cinco de Mayo, Juneteenth Festival, Grecian Festival, Brazilian Carnaval, and the Gay Pride Parade. Long Beach is rich in all the aspects of what it means to be a community in California.

This year's 36th Annual General Meeting of the Society of California Archivists reveals SCA as an unexpected society, the sessions reflecting our diversity of interests and issues in a community dedicated to the common goals and passions of our profession. Sessions include California subjects such as water, Orange County, and Long Beach. Technology always looms large with programs that carry such names as PAT, PAWN, e-Legacy, and Minerva. Professional development and growth are addressed in sessions on college and university archives, appraisal, acquisition, disaster preparedness, history day, consulting, and sound and image preservation.

The Renaissance Long Beach Hotel is in the heart of Long Beach close to Pine Avenue, the Queen Mary, dining, and shopping. The neighborhood is an architectural gem with many examples of Victorian, Craftsman, and Art Deco structures which have been restored and renovated during the last decade. This location provides many opportunities for walking, or riding the free Passport Shuttle, to over 100 restaurants in the 8-block area, visits to local attractions, shopping, and night life activities.

This year's plenary speaker, Charles Piller, reports on science and technology for the Los Angeles Times specializing in the social, cultural, and health implications of new technologies. The luncheon speakers, Cara Mullio and Jennifer M. Volland, researchers and writers on architecture, will show us truly that Long Beach is an unexpected metropolis for better and for worse, varied and intriguing.

The exhibit hall will be filled with vendors Friday and Saturday bringing products, information, and services to enhance our work and professional development. Be sure to take time to speak with them and find out what is on offer. You might find the unexpected.

Welcome to Long Beach. Expect to be informed and amazed, and enjoy!

Lucinda Glenn, Chair
Program Committee

THURSDAY, May 17

Pre-Conference Workshop # 1: 9:00 – 4:00

If It's Worth Keeping, It's Worth Stealing: Security for Archives

Presenters:

Robert Marshall, Head Archivist, Urban Archives Center & University Archives, California State University, Northridge

Mark Peterson, C. H. Guernsey & Company

Paul Wormser, Regional Archives Director, National Archives- Pacific Region

Has anyone ever stolen documents from your holdings? Would you know if someone had? Archivists go to great lengths to collect and preserve materials of great historic and monetary value and to ensure researchers access them too. However, we often neglect basic safeguards against theft of these same documents. This workshop will cover a wide range of topic relating to security in archives, including how to set up your research room, establishing policies and procedures to protect your holdings, how to identify those people most likely to steal, what items are most likely to be stolen and procedures for recovering stolen items.

Pre-Conference Workshop # 2: 9:00 – 4:00

The Basics of Archives

Presenters:

Laren Metzger, Deputy Director, California State Archives

Gabriele G. Carey, History Associates, Incorporated

There are many treasures in boxes of disorganized papers, fading photographs, and moldy ledgers found in the broken file cabinet, the back storage room, the hot, dirty attic. The California Historical Records Advisory Board and California State Archives present a practical workshop for people who work or volunteer in organizations that deal with the past, such as museums, historic houses, library local history rooms, school archives, or city clerk's offices. The workshop will offer advice and basic practices on collecting, protecting, and helping people use historic material. Learn what historical records are and aren't, how to decide what to keep, how to make sure you have legal title to the records, how to know what there is and where its located, how to help researchers find what they need, how to preserve historical records for the future, and where to go for help with it all.

Board Meeting: 9:00 – 12:00

Registration: 12:00 – 5:00

SCA Leadership Meeting: 1:30 – 4:00

Tours: 1:00 – 4:00 Optional

Repository Open Houses: 1:00 – 4:00 Optional

Opening Reception:

5:00 – 8:00

FRIDAY, May 18

Registration: 8:00 – 5:00

Vendor Exhibits: 8:00 – 5:00

Silent Auction: 8:00 – 5:00

Keynote Address: 9:00 – 10:00

Charles Piller, Los Angeles Times

The “Forever” Problem: How Obsolescence and Decay of Digital Records Threaten Society’s Collective Memory.

Digital storage methods, vastly more capacious than the paper they are rapidly replacing, have made capturing information easier than ever, but also easier to lose--forever. Heat and humidity can destroy computer disks and tapes in as little as a year. Computers can break down in a few years. A software or storage format can quickly become a quaint technical relic, rendering the information they control or contain inaccessible. No one has compiled an inventory of lost records, but a multitude of worrisome examples include key records about the U.S. nuclear stockpile, census data and voting results – all gone, without a trace. Much like global warming, the archive problem emerged suddenly, its effects remain murky and its brunt will be felt most by future generations. If the problem of digital amnesia is not solved, this era could become a gap in history – a blank spot in our collective memory.

Break: 10:00 – 10:30

Sessions 10:30 – 12:00noon

Session 1: California Water: History, Records, and Litigation

Presenters:

David Keller, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Mike Young, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Rand Herbert, JRP Historical Consulting Service

This panel highlights the history of water in California and the records related to it. It focuses on the importance of the 1930’s era Colorado River Aqueduct and the 1950’s – 1960’s work on the State Water Project. The panel will feature presentations on the records of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and provide a look at the statewide use of water records in litigation.

Session 2: Navel Gazing: A Peek into Orange County’s Local History

Presenters:

Jennifer Martinez Wormser, Sherman Library & Gardens

Phil Brigandi, Orange County Archives

Jackie Dooley, University of California, Irvine, Special Collection & Archives

This session will look at three specific archives in Orange County. Jennifer Martinez will discuss the archives at the Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona

del Mar; Phil Brigandi will discuss the nexus between local archives and local history at the Orange County Archives; and Jackie Dooley will discuss the special collections at U.C. Irvine.

Session 3: 21st Century Tools for Archivists: A Progress Report on Persistent Archives Testbed (PAT) and Producer-Archive Workflow Network (PAWN)

Presenters:

Reagan Moore, Associate Director, Data-Intensive Computing

Richard Marciano, University of California, San Diego, Data & Knowledge Systems, Sustainable Archives & Library Technologies Lab

Mike Smorul, NARA Project Coordinator, University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies

Mike McGann, University of Maryland Institute of Advanced Computer Studies

Jean Deken, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center

The SLAC Archives and History Office is participating in the Persistent Archives Testbed (PAT) Project, a collaboration between the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), the University of Maryland (UMD) and the National Archives and Records Administration. Participants in the project will present progress reports on their activities related to testing the long-term archiving of electronic records: SDSC on goals and progress to date of the Persistent Archives Testbed (PAT) Project; UMD on the development of the Producer-Archive Workflow Network (PAWN) software; and SLAC on its testing and use of PAWN and PAT.

Lunch on your own: 12:00 – 1:30

Sessions 1:45 – 3:15

Session 4: What's in the Vault: The College and University Experience

Presenters:

Danielle Moon, San Jose State University

Chuck Wilson, University of California, Riverside

Greg Williams, California State University, Dominguez Hills

This session will focus on the college and university archives experience, and will cover a broad range of topics from starting a university archives program, the challenges of arrangement and description of unprocessed university records, and use of university archive collections for fundraising and outreach.

Session 5: No Innocent Deposits: When Appraisals Clash

Presenters:

Gina Nichols, U.S. Navy Seabee Museum

Victoria Yturralde, California State Parks

The two speakers will address the issue of differing agendas and appraisal priorities within the large Archives units for the state and federal governments and their client agencies. Different perspectives and working relationships with

records bring about different results as to what has long lasting value and what does not.

Session 6: Using Open Source Software to Run a Digital Archive

Presenters:

Laura Wynholds, Queer Zine Archive Project

Milo Miller, Queer Zine Archive Project

The Queer Zine Archive Project decided several years ago to run a digital zine archive based solely on open source software. Zines (pamphlets) are by nature ephemera with small print runs and irregular distribution, and yet are a wealth of primary source information about the culture they were created in. Many open source software projects have now developed to the point where their software can be used reliably in a production-type scenario. Since QZAP first went online, it has developed a highly accessible archive that is quite simple to manage, was relatively inexpensive to install, and is highly flexible/ extensible to accommodate for future needs. This will be a hands-on interactive session for those interested in the details of building a highly accessible, online archive without a large investment or overhead.

Break: 3:15 - 3:45

Business Meeting: 3:45 - 4:45

Committee Meetings: 4:45 - 5:45

Gourmet Night: 6:00 +

SATURDAY May 19

Registration: 8:00 – 12:00

Vendor Exhibits: 8:00 – 12:00

Silent Auction: 8:00 – 12:00

Sessions: 8:30 – 10:00

Session 7: Who You Need to Meet Before Disaster Strikes: Developing Collaborative Relationships for Emergency Preparedness Response
Presenters:
Nancy Zimmelman, State Archivist, California State Archives
Julie Page, Co-chair California Preservation Program, University of California, San Diego, Geisel Library, Preservation Department
Richard Boyden, Director, Records Management Program, National Archives & Records Administration, Pacific Region

Session 8: Making National History Day Local
Presenters:
Maridean Mieres, Aliso Viejo Middle School, Capistrano Unified School District
James Keip, California History Day Coordinator, Constitutional Rights Foundation
Chuck Wilson, California History Day Judge, University of California, Los Angeles & California Historical Records Administration Board.

National History Day (NHD) “helps teachers meet educational standards; disseminates high quality curriculum materials; and sponsors challenging contests that teach students the critical skills they need to be effective citizens in the 21st century.” The session is intended to help California’s rich array of archival repositories actively participate in assisting students and educators with NHD topics, curriculum, and research. NHD provides a great opportunity for California archives, libraries, museums, and other organizations increase patronage, provide access to historical materials, and boost the telling of California’s local and regional histories.

Session 9: Using Technology to Preserve and Access Sound Archives and Moving Image Archives
Presenters:
Nancy Goldberg, Digital Media Center
Joseph Olivier, Cinetech Laboratory
Tom Regal, BluWave Audio, Universal Studios

Archivists working with sound and moving image archives have always been faced with a series of technical choices when preserving and providing access to their collections. This panel discusses the variety of technologies that assist with library and archival functions. The areas covered include: film and sound

preservation/restoration as well as improving and increasing access through digital asset management.

Break: 10:00 – 10:30

Sessions 10:30 – 12:00 noon

Session 10: e-Legacy: Working Toward Preserving California's Geospatial Records

Presenters:

Brent M. Rogers, Graduate Intern, California State Archives

Richard Marciano, Director, Sustainable Archives & Library Technologies,

University of California, San Diego, Supercomputer Center

The NHPRC-funded e-Legacy project, undertaken by the California State Archives and the San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC), plans to implement the emerging hardware and software infrastructure developed at the SDSC in order to preserve California's geospatial records currently housed at the California Spatial Information Library. This project will develop guidelines and strategies for the appraisal and accessioning of complex geospatial records. Furthermore, this collaborative project will incorporate and build on existing best practices to develop a useful model for preserving geospatial information created in California state government. This facilitated discussion will serve as an opportunity to introduce the archival community to this developing project while providing an avenue for dialogue and contemplation on a plethora of geospatial records issues.

Session 11: Hiring an Outside Expert: Issues in Archival Consulting

Presenters:

Gabriele G. Carey, History Associates, Incorporated

Thomas T. Taylor, Southern California Edison

Tim Gregory, Public Historian Consultant

Not all archivists work in institutions; some work as consultants. This session will provide three different perspectives on archival consultant. We will hear from an archivist who works for a large archival and historical services firm, an archivist who works as an independent contractor, and a corporate manager who has contracted with an archival consultant. Each speaker will explore the benefits and pitfalls of working as, and hiring, archival consultants.

Session 12: Authoring the Archive

Presenters:

Jean-Francois Blanchette, University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Information Studies

Katherine Shilton, University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Information Studies

Stacey Meeker, University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Information Studies

"Authoring the Archive" thinks about archivists as *authors* of their collections. By exploring an authoring metaphor, we hope to highlight the communicative role that archivists play in society and strengthen archival practice. Our panelists will explore the following authorship functions:

"Shared Workspace": Co-authoring collections with marginalized communities to strengthen appraisal, arrangement, and description for multicultural archives;

"Track Changes": Today's institutional flux highlights the authorial role of archives' parent organizations and the archival community's participation in assuring continuity in the face of change;

"Undo": Models for editing collections to balance ethical remembering and forgetting.

Awards Luncheon

and Speaker Address: 12:00 – 1:30

Jennifer Volland and Cara Mullio, "Long Beach Architecture: The Unexpected Metropolis"

This lecture will be an adaptation of a previous lecture Mullio and Volland presented at University of California Santa Barbara, which focused on the architectural climate of Long Beach in the 1950s and 1960s.

Sessions: 1:45 – 3:15

Session 13: Revealing Your Holdings to Yourself and Others: Minerva at the California State Archives

Presenters:

Rebecca Wendt, California State Archives

Lucy Barber, National Historical Publications & Records Commission

Steve Kwan, Eloquent Systems, Inc.

The panel will discuss what archivists have to do as they automate their processes and will touch on the merits of a catalog approach (rather than/in addition to EAD) to searching a large collection. We also will address the real technological and social challenges of such projects: from communication, staff acceptance, workflow issues, working with IT, etc. to making decisions and implementing them. We will follow the issues from the start (in 2001) of an

ambitious project at the California State Archives to “going live” nearly six years later.

Session 14: Long Beach History Projects

Presenters:

Karen Harper, Southwest Oral History Association

Laurel Howat, Historical Society of Long Beach

Leticia Montoya, Historical Society of Long Beach

The three panelists, all associated with the Historical Society of Long Beach as researchers and/or volunteers, present an eclectic mix of individual projects that illustrate the historical and social richness of this culturally maturing coastal city. This diverse group of presentations will focus on the art and architecture of the Long Beach airport’s streamline moderne terminal building, the history of the KKK in Long Beach, and as a counterpoint, ongoing efforts to document the culture and art of the substantial Hmong population in Long Beach through oral histories and painting.

Board Wrap-Up:

3:30 – 5:00