

Archives of Interest

WordPress Documentation

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General notes

This page in the Wordpress site was created with the purpose of giving a space to showcase the other archive sites that were found throughout the research process in the second half of 2020. It was conceived as a way to invite the user into the larger world of digital and physical archive projects and sites other than our own and point out some of the points of interest that caught our attention about them.

Page name: The first discussion that was had regarding this page was about what to call it. The initial instinct was to call it something like “Resources” or “Other Resources” or something around that idea, but it was decided that the terminology didn’t quite fit what we wanted to convey through the page’s name. “Resource” carried a connotation of generality and seemed to speak of a pile of things to be rummaged through in order to rescue something useful, which didn’t exactly match the careful consideration and grooming of each archive site included in this research process. Thus, “Archives of Interest” was settled on as a better matching title, which works but could be changed in the future as the site evolves.

Archives to be included: The next big question in the process of creating this page was whether to include and describe every single archive that was found through this research project or to include just an overview of the kinds of materials found and a focused description of only a handful. The reason for moving away from immediately showcasing every single archive was to avoid creating a page that was too long and text-dense so as to distract the user and become an obstacle. On the other hand, choosing a few archives to showcase and others not to showcase presented an uncomfortable selection decision that would unavoidably convey preference and create an arbitrary “hierarchy” of archive sites. Because of this, the way chosen was to showcase four archives of each main type (digital and physical), with a disclaimer note about selection and the intention to create a rotating spread that could change at any given frequency (weekly? monthly?) and therefore present a chewable amount of information to the user while not giving preference to any archives over others. Lastly, the possibility of linking the spreadsheets with the information was discussed so all archive details could be available at any given moment (even if not currently showcased!).

Clean Spreadsheets: For cleaning up the spreadsheets with digital and physical archives to be linked in the Wordpress page, I alphabetized them so as to emphasize the equal importance of each of them. To do so, I cleaned up the names of each archive in the digital page by placing the

name of the institution first if it wasn't first already (e.g. Boston College - Digital Collections), but in the physical archives page, I decided not to do the same since the very nature of these archives is more about the specific collection rather than the institution housing it, so I kept the names exactly as found on each respective site. In the process of cleaning up the spreadsheets, I also deleted some columns in the digital page that did not seem useful to our websites' users (e.g. Handwriting present? column). The physical archives page had information that I considered useful for our users so I kept every category.

Archive Descriptions: For the short bios/descriptions under each showcased archive, I included a brief narrativized overview of the archive based on the research captured in the spreadsheets, so that those not currently showcased can be accessed with the same depth through the spreadsheets. For the digital archives, I included a "Notable feature" since this was a big part of the research. For the physical ones, I explained how they differ intrinsically from the digital archives in nature and in what they present to their users and how they do so, so there was less to say about each.