



Super Serious

Play and Archival Understanding

Why Play

“In contrast, games foreground the processes—the rules and structures of games provide many different choices that must be considered—and the final product that results from the gameplay is the accumulation of those choices.” (Hergenrader, 2017)





Pedagogy - Reacting to the Past

“3. RTTP seeks to promote deep reading of complex evidence (including written, visual, audial, and material culture), a finer understanding of interactions among peoples at the center of conflicts, and a recognition of the complexity, circumstances, and development of individual and group decisions and actions.

4. RTTP is not a re-enactment of specific historic events but rather a pedagogy that encourages students to understand controversies through deep study and participation in acts of written and verbal persuasion. Games should be written in that context.” RTTP Author Guidelines



Pedagogy

“Dialectical education not only explores tensions among relevant concepts, but also seeks to expose the various ways knowledge is constructed.”

“Exposing the processes by which certain information is validated or invalidated”

(Davis, 2013)



Goals Archival Education in General: Seeing the (Archival) Ditch

- What are the processes that we use to create knowledge, i.e Archival Collections?
- What are the unfair power dynamics in those processes?
- What ethical considerations are we making when writing policies and procedures?
- What are explicit and implicit biases in those process?
- What measures can we use to correct these issues?
- What skills and understandings do we need to face these challenges?



Further Reading

- Michael F. Young. Exploding the Castle: Rethinking How Video Games & Game Mechanics Can Shape the Future of Education. Psychological Perspectives on Contemporary Educational Issues. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing, 2017.
<https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip.shib&db=nlebk&AN=1576861&site=eds-live&scope=site&custid=cla1>.
- Davis, Tracy, Laura M. Harrison, and Laura M. Harrison. Advancing Social Justice: Tools, Pedagogies, and Strategies to Transform Your Campus. Somerset, UNITED STATES: John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2013.
<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/claytonstate/detail.action?docID=1318207>.
- Reacting to the Past - Game Development Resources -
<https://reacting.barnard.edu/resourceshome/gamedev>
- Michael Harriot - The Root's Clapback Mailbag: The Ditch and the Dookie - A Movement in Three Parts
<https://www.theroot.com/the-roots-clapback-mailbag-the-ditch-and-the-dookie-1845523583>



Learning Objectives

1. Students will collaborate on making appraisal decisions given specific scenarios based on roles that they are assigned.
2. Students debate and justify their decisions based on archival ethics and standards.



What is “Super Serious”

A game about appraisal



What is Super Serious

- Semester long process (Collection Policy)
 - Mission
 - Scope and Criteria
 -
- Case Study Game
 - Roles with Abilities
 - “Special Knowledge”



What we will be doing.

- Examining archival collections from various perspectives of archival staff
- Discussing whether to acquire collections based on a collection development policy



Let's Play

<http://popin.live> code bn9rf3



Notes on Process

- Examine sample policy
- Examine “donations”
- Make decisions via popin
- Reflect



Collection Development Policy Highlights

- Collecting Areas
 - Community Organizations
 - Farming
 - Festival and Events
 - Students and Alumni (Only Recognized Organizations)
 - Faculty and Staff (Research and Writing)
 - Administrative Records
- What Will Not Be Collected
 - Things out of scope of this document
 - Objects, unless they are significant for our collecting areas
 - Materials without clear title or copyright status.



Collection 1: Faculty Office

A faculty member is retiring, Professor Nada Thinn. Professor Thinn was a large presence on campus. You've been called to help this faculty member move their paper collection to the archive. The faculty member was involved with creating several new varieties of apples. His materials comprise his work computer that has research data, lecture notes, and email. His paper records contain faculty senate papers, some research notes, patent information, and materials related to his teaching. Note that all of his research was funded by a private company that is not based in the region.



Collection 2: Men's Right Student Group

Before the ALT-right, was at a common term shouted over the American dinner table, SSU had it's own men's right group that fits right in with the current alt-right understanding of the world. This group created in reaction to the push for the Equal Rights Amendment and has been operating in some fashion since that time. They call themselves National Organization of Men Against Amazonian Masterhood (NO MA'AM). This group has an on-again-off-again relationship with student affairs. They have previously been a recognized student organization but were booted in 1999. The group is currently fighting their rejection as a formal student organization from last year. You've been offered their materials up to 2000. These are exclusively paper records.



Collection 3: Alumni Group

A group of alumni has been very active on twitter, @SSUBLM. This is a group of former students very active in the Black Lives Matter movement and Bernie Sanders Presidential campaign. In addition to their advocacy for progressive causes, they have challenged the institution on some of its policies related to minority students. As part of their activity, they've created an unofficial funding source for students of color that help with tuition, housing, and food support. The group is not officially recognized by the university.



Collection 4: Indengious Community

The archives has a collection of audio visual materials from a local indegious group. These materials were collected, created by a faculty member of the university from 1970 through the late 1990's. Some of the materials have individuals consent for their records, other do not. The professor recently died and his estate would like to transfer some more records under the previously signed agreement the professor had with the institution. This new batch of materials contains some records without consent documents, the professor's personal papers, and photographs of the indegious peoples at various events, ceremonies.



Collection 5: Local Rodeo Organization

The local rodeo organization would like to work with your archive to help it maintain its vast holding. This is an LGBTQ organization that previously had their events in secret. The group known as the Gay Caballeros has become a regional cultural institution. It currently has materials going back to the 1960s and the founding of the rodeo. This includes paper and photographs, but also audiovisual materials, including concert records and filmed events. The event also has a small collection of digital materials that will continue to grow over the years.



Collection 6: Women's Civic Organization

You've been offered a collection for women's organizations that form to support the ERA. This group, Socially Awkward Sisters of the South, or SASS, did not disband after the amendment's failure but continued on to become a group that supported women's issues through a combination of activism, community service, and fundraising. This group's materials are mostly paper-based, but they've become extremely active on Twitter in recent months.



Collection 7: Home Movie Collection

You've been offered the materials of a local camera shop that has gone out of business. Included with the business records are many duplicates of home movies that the shop had made in agreement with local customers. The shop was to hold the duplicates as a backup for the community. The agreements for all of these duplicated movies are intact and apart of the collection. In addition, the owner of the shop collected rare prints of Hollywood and international films, including some nitrate films.



Collection 8: A Prominent family

A prominent family in your community, one that has had multiple legislators and a state official among their number, would like to donate a family collection to your archives. The donor is one of the family's son Jefferly Vanhelvington. This collection will comprise family records as well as the personal papers of several political persons who were members of the family. The catch is that this donation includes a lot of large pieces of furniture, including desks, sofas, painting, etc. The family will not separate out the furniture pieces.



Collection 9: Family Farm

You've been offered a small family farm collection. This includes several journals, scrapbooks and a box of letters. The family has some concerns about one of the scrapbooks created by a late aunt. They are worried that the contents will paint the family in a bad light. This aunt was a lesbian and activist in the women's civic group.



Collection 10: Student Newspaper

The organizing committee of the underground newspaper, “The Truth is Bollocks” has heard of the meeting and has asked to talk to someone in the archives about collecting their paper. This paper has existed for almost 20 years, originally as a ‘Zine’ and now as a print paper that features, news, art, short stories, and poems. They also have a small website.

Results and Reflection

What and why did we take things

