

# Week Seven: Theory, Standards, and Best Practices

INFO 6850: Special Topics in Information Management: Archives II (Fall 2015)

<http://hdl.handle.net/10222/64434>

October 26, 2015 | Rowe 5001 | 5:35 to 8:25 p.m.

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## WEEK SEVEN OBJECTIVES

- 1) Examine current and emerging practices for archival description
- 2) Debate the role of provenance and assess its impact on contemporary archival description
- 3) Apply international standards for authority records and archival institutions
- 4) Produce multi-level archival descriptions

## GUEST SPEAKER

Roger Gillis (Mount Saint Vincent University Library) will deliver this session.

## ACTIVITIES

Series-level description

## ASSIGNED READINGS

Barney, Brett et al. "Ordering Chaos: An Integrated Guide and Online Archive of Walt Whitman's Poetry Manuscripts." *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 20, no. 2 (2005): 205-217.

<http://llc.oxfordjournals.org.ezproxy.library.dal.ca/content/20/2/205.full.pdf+html>.

Pitti, Daniel et al. "Social Networks and Archival Context: From Project to Cooperative Program." *Journal of Archival Organization* 12, no. 1-2 (2014): 77-97.

<http://www.tandfonline.com.ezproxy.library.dal.ca/doi/abs/10.1080/15332748.2015.999544#.VR15xuEI92A>.

"History Research Tool." Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) Project.

<http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/snac/search>.

Yeo, Geoffrey. "Archival Description in the Era of Digital Abundance." *Comma* 2013, no. 2 (Spring 2015): 15-26. doi:10.3828/comma.2013.2.2. (available in course website).



## **INFO 6850 (Fall 2015): Week Seven: Theory, Standards, and Best Practices**

### **AGENDA**

- 1) Announcements
- 2) Review the role of provenance in archival description
- 3) Discuss readings
- 4) Introduce ISAAR(CPF) and EAC standards
- 5) Demonstration of “History Research Tool”

### **PREPARE FOR DISCUSSION**

Use the assigned readings to prepare for seminar style discussion that addresses questions such as:

1. How did the Walt Whitman Archive project team integrate Encoded Archival Description (EAD) archival descriptions with Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) transcriptions of Whitman’s poetry?
2. How did the Walt Whitman Archive team overcome the challenge of untitled manuscripts?
3. How does the Walt Whitman Archive integrate digital objects into the descriptions?
4. What would you do differently if you were going to “rebuild” the Walt Whitman Archive? How would you “migrate” the site to a new platform?
5. How has the “Social Networks and Archival Context” (SNAC) Project “set the stage” for a sustainable international cooperative program for maintaining names of creators of archival material?
6. What standards are used in the SNAC Project? How did the SNAC team extract name information from existing EAD files?
7. What are some of the challenges associated with maintaining an international standards-based bank of names?
8. What tools do archivists create to “map” elements from descriptive standards to XML standards that are used to disseminate and exchange descriptive information?
9. How can the “History Research Tool” be used to support archival reference and research services? What improvements would you make?
10. What are some of the new approaches to archival description that Geoffrey Yeo describes? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach?
11. Can you think of other approaches to help archivists describe digital records?