Documenting New York State

Lake Ontario Archives Conference

13-14 June 1997

State University College at Fredonia

Program Overview

Thursday, June 12
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Registration
5:30 p.m. Tours and Dinner

Friday, June 13

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Registration and Refreshments
9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Plenary Session: The Role of the State Archives in Preserving the Historical Record of New York State.

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Session I: The Future of New York's Past: The New York State Historical Records Advisory Board Strategic Planning Project.

12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. Lunch
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Session II: Extra Help -- Interns, Volunteers and Student Workers in the Archives

2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Session III: Folklore and Archives

3:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Session IV: Archives Confront the Brave New World of Digital Photography

4:00 p.m. Carpool to Lily Dale Assembly
4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Walking tours

6:00 p.m. - 8 p.m. Banquet and Address: The History of the Lily Dale Assembly

LOAC Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 14

8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.  Registration and Refreshments

9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  Session V  EAD and SGML: The Next Rung on the Finding Aid Ladder
                         Session VI  Documentation Research Roundtable

Program

Thursday, 12 June 1997

Registration
Thursday, June 12, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. / Reed Library

Tours and Dinner
Thursday, June 12, 5:30 p.m. / Reed Library

Conference sessions begin on Friday, June 13th, but participants who arrive on Thursday, are invited to meet at 5:30 p.m. in the registration area. Those who wish may join with other participants in an informal tour of the Chautauqua Institution, visits to local bookstores and dinner at Webb's in Mayville, New York.

Friday, 13 June 1997

Registration and Refreshments
Friday, June 13, 8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m./ Reed Library

Plenary Session

Friday, June 13, 9:45 a.m. - 11:00

Address: The Role of the State Archives in Preserving the Historical Record of New York State. V. Chapman Smith, State Archivist  New York State Archives and Records Administration

Comment and Discussion: The Audience< P> Break 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions (I-II), 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.


As New York approaches the year 2000, with nearly 2000 historical records repositories in tow, the state continues to address the challenge of informing the present and the future by preserving the records of the past. The State Historical Records Advisory Board has received a planning grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to develop a long-term strategic plan to ensure the preservation of historical records and increase access to these records. Geoffrey P. Williams, co-chair of the State Board, will lead a discussion with the audience of the findings of the project so far. Everyone is invited to bring their ideas and concerns about this important project to this session.

Speaker: Geoffrey Williams, University Archivist, University at Albany

II: Extra Help -- Interns, Volunteers and Student Workers in the Archives

Archives large and small make use of "extra help"-- interns, volunteers and (in colleges) part-time student workers. The three presenters will describe how their institutions used interns, volunteers, and part-time workers, giving special attention to developing assignments, supervising and monitoring work, and complying with laws and regulations (for example, worker's compensation). The question about the benefits and drawbacks of "extra help"-- "Is it worth it?"-- will be discussed by the presenters and the audience.

Presenters:

James D. Folts, Head, Research Services, New York State Archives and Records Administration

Carolyn A. Davis, Head, Reader Services, Department of Special Collections, Syracuse University

James Corsaro, Associate Librarian, Manuscripts and Special Collections, New York State Library

Lunch/Williams Center 12:30 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Poster Sessions/Reed Library, 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Documentary Heritage Program
Vickie Weiss, New York State Archives and Records Administration

New York's Services to Local Government Records Programs
James Tammero, New York State Archives and Records Administration, Region 8 Office (Buffalo)

The Buffalo and Erie County Shared Research Facility
Mary Bell, Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

Iroquois Records
Jack T. Ericson, State University College at Fredonia

A Successful Publishing Plan for a Small Organization
Norwood and Lois Barris, Chautauqua County Genealogical Society

The Holland Land Company Records
Franciska Safran, Director, Holland Land Company Project

Concurrent Sessions (III-IV), 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

III: Folklore and Archives

Folklorists have generated and collected a wealth of material, both historic and contemporary, that documents the lives of regional, ethnic, occupational, religious and other communities in New York State. During the past few years, folklorists and archivists have been working together to preserve these valuable resources and make them accessible to researchers and community members.

Papers:

Folklorists and Archivists: From Confrontation to Collaboration
John Suter, Executive Director, New York Folklore Society

What Do Folklorists Collect?
Kate Koperski, Curator of Folk Arts, Castellani Art Museum, Niagara University

Developing a Folklore Archives Within a Repository
Todd DeGarmo, Director Center for Folklife, History and Cultural Programs Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, New York

IV: Archives Confront the Brave New World of Digital Photography
This session will explore how and why digital photographs are being used, their quality, storage medium, and their eventual transferability to and use in archival settings.

**Papers:**

The How, What, When and Why of Digital Photographs  
Mark Schmidt, Director of Photographic Imaging University at Albany

General Principles for Archival Management of Electronic Records, with Special Attention to Digital Photographs  
Michell Arpey, Senior Archivist, New York State Archives and Records Administration

**Carpool to Lily Dale Assembly Friday, June 13, 4:00 p.m.**

The modern Spiritualist movement began in western New York in 1848. The Lily Dale Assembly, near the village of Cassadaga, founded in 1879, is the oldest continuous Spiritualist camp in the United States. Visitors to Lily Dale have included Mahatma Gandhi, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Mae West, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

**Walking Tours, Lily Dale Assembly/ Lily Dale Assembly Museum**  
Friday, June 13, 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

**Banquet and Address/Andrew Jackson Davis Lyceum, Lily Dale**  
Friday, June 13, 6:00 p.m. - 8 p.m.

**Address: The History of the Lily Dale Assembly**

Joyce LaJudice, Historian, Lily Dale Assembly

Immediately following the banquet, LOAC will hold a brief business meeting, followed (in turn) by the address.

**Saturday, 14 June 1997**

Registration and Refreshments/ Reed Library  
Saturday, June 14, 8:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

**Concurrent Sessions (V-VI), 9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**
V: EAD and SGML: The Next Rung on the Finding Aid Latter

Seeking a more effective way to provide access to finding aids, archivists are now looking at EAD [Encoded Archival Description] as the next step in standardized archival description. EAD, a standard markup language based on SGML [Standard Generalized Markup Language] is viewed by many as the follow on the MARC. Tom Ruller, manager of Network Access Services at SARA, will provide an overview of how EAD works and the benefits it will provide. Rachel Kartch and Peter Verheyen will discuss an RLG-sponsored project to encode archival finding aids using SGML.

Presenter:

Tom Ruller
Associate Archivist,
Center for Electronic Records,
New York State Archives and Records Administration

Comment:

Rachel A. Kartch
Technical Services Librarian
Special Collections, Syracuse University

Peter D. Verheyen
Conservation Librarian
Syracuse University Library

VI: Documentation Research Roundtable

This session will focus ongoing and projected research projects documenting special issues and populations in New York State history, projects that may incorporate traditional archival and library research with oral history, folklore studies, artifact studies and historical preservation. This session is also an opportunity to engage in a discussion about research problems, the innovative use of sources, the evaluation of historical information and the future of documentation projects in the state. The audience will be encouraged to participate in the exchange of ideas and strategies in this working session.

Presenters:

Reconstructing the Battle of Oriskany
Joy Bilharz, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, State University College at Fredonia

Abolitionists, Spiritualists and Woman's Rights: Tracing Reform Networks in Western New York
Christopher Densmore, University Archives, University at Buffalo
The Underground Railroad: Collecting and Evaluating the Evidence  
Carol Kammen, Senior Lecturer, Cornell University

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For more information about LOAC itself or its annual conference, contact Christopher Densmore, Conference Chair, at

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or visit the LOAC homepage at

http://www.ithaca.edu/library/archives/loac/index.html

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