## Exploring Careers in Archives and Special Collections

Thursday August 16, 2018 12-1PM Central Time

#### Panelists



Curtis Small Special Collections Department University of Delaware Library



Jose C. Guerrero Penn State University Libraries



Nathaniel Moore
The Freedom Archives



Maria Victoria Fernandez John Carter Brown Library Brown University

## Why this webinar?

#### The lack of diversity in Special Collections/Archives:

- Hiring and retention issues
- Need for greater awareness regarding diversity of collections; discoverability
- Need for greater cultural awareness in presenting materials





## Racial demographics: Rare Books & Manuscripts Section (RBMS)

<u>1997</u>	
White	95%
Afr. Amer./Hispanic	1%
Native Amer./ Alaskan Native	0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0%

<u>2015</u>	
White	87%
Latino	5%
Afr. Amer.	3%
Native Amer./ Alaskan Nat.	1%
Asian	1%
   Pacific Islander	0%

Source: RBMS Member surveys

#### **Curtis Small**

Coordinator, Public Services
Special Collections
University of Delaware Library
Newark, Delaware







#### Coordinator of Public Services - Responsibilities

#### **Public-facing Services**

- Support for researchers—reading room, virtual
- Exhibitions curation, coordination
- Teaching and learning books, manuscripts, etc.
- Outreach activities



**UD Special Collections reading room** 



**UD Special Collections exhibition gallery** 

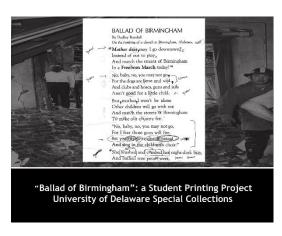


Exhibit poster: "The Ballad of Birmingham"



**UD Special Collections classroom** 

Images: www.library.udel.edu Photographer: Sean Diffendall Instructional Collaboration: Issues and Debates in African

American Literature

- Collaboration with faculty member
- Based on gallery exhibition
- Student research extends exhibition scope
- Student presentations part of exhibition programming

Top image: exhibition poster: *Issues and Debates in African American Lit.* Right image: front cover of *Home Girls: a Black Feminist Anthology* (1983) Bottom image: classroom lecture, photographed by Martha Carothers

#### Instructional Collaboration: Langston Hughes ephemera

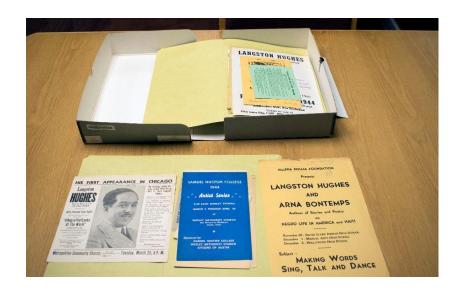
- Grant funded collections-based course
- Students create digital collection
- Student-curated library exhibition

#### Langston Hughes ephemera collection

Summary Notes Contents Names & Subjects Using these materials

#### **Biographical and Historical Notes**

Langston Hughes, a prominent African American author, was born in Joplin, Mississippi, in 1902. He began his caree Harlem Renaissance. In his 1926 essay "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain," Hughes criticized African America to White literary conventions. In contrast, much of Hughes's poetry is written in the language of the African America





Top Image: detail of finding aid for Langston Hughes ephemera collection (Univ. of Del.)

Left image: materials from Langston Hughes ephemera collection

Photographer: Curtis Small

Right image: portrait of Langston Hughes by Carl Van Vechten [public domain] via Wikimedia Commons

# Curatorial Work in Academic Libraries' Special Collections

Jose C. Guerrero
Resident Librarian
Pennsylvania State University
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## Collections and Community

A false dichotomy

• Publics gather around "matters of concern."

- Purveyors
  - Donors
  - Dealers

Background: Where I Am and How I Go There

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#### Where I am:

- University Park campus, Central Pennsylvania
- 40,000 students
- Special Collections contain rare books, labor archives, and the University Archives
- Instruction, exhibitions, collection development, technical services, public services



## Background: Where I Am and How I Go There

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#### How I got here:

- MLIS from Wayne State University
- IMLS-RBS Fellowship
- Colorado Antiquarian Book Seminar



### Projects: The Sanchez Library

From the Library of

Luis Alberto Sanchez



THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Historia de la conquista de Méjico [microform] : población y progresos de la América Septentrional, conocida por el nombre de Nueva España Nueva ed. Solís, Antonio de, 1610-1686.

Local system #: LIAS160597

Local system #: (OCoLC)42967280

Personal Author: Solís, Antonio de, 1610-1686.

Title: Historia de la conquista de Méjico [microform]

> : población y progresos de la América Septentrional, conocida por el nombre de Nueva España / escribíala Antonio de Solís.

**Edition:** Nueva ed.

Madrid: Impr. de los hijos de C. Piñuela, 1829-Publication info:

Physical volumes; 16 cm Description:

Series:

Content type: text microform Media type: microfilm reel Format:

**General Note:** First ed., Madrid, 1685.

**General Note:** On spine: Conquista del Nuevo Mundo.

Reproduction note: Microfilm. University Park, Pa.: Pennsylvania

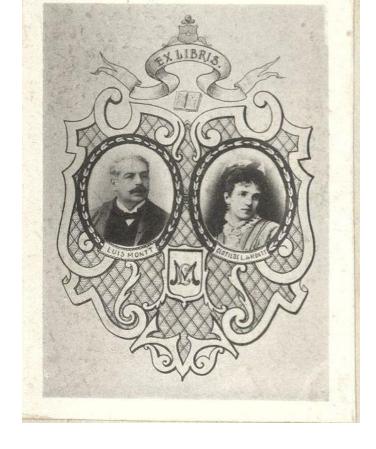
State University, 1999. 1 microfilm reel; 35 mm. (Luis Alberto Sánchez History and Political Science collection on microfilm). Archival master and print master stored at

Local note: National Underground Storage, Boyers, PA.:

service copy stored at remote facility.

Subject: Mexico--History--Conquest, 1519-1540.

> Luis Alberto Sánchez History and Political Science collection on microfilm.



Demands Made of Dr. C. L. Lewis, Vice-President for Student Affairs, by the Douglass Association on May 13, 1968

- 1. More black undergraduates. There are presently only about 200 black students attending the University. The Douglass Association demanded that the undergraduate enrollment include 400 black students by the fall of 1968, 1,000 by the following fall and 10 per cent of the undergraduate population thereafter.
- 2. That a building be named after and dedicated to the late Rev. Martin Luther King.
- 3. That a Martin Luther King scholarship fund be established.
- 4. That a course in Negro history be made a permanent part of the curriculum.
  - 5. More black professors.
  - 6. More black graduate students.
- 7. That a section of Pattee Library be devoted exclusively to black authors. ??
- 8. Reevaluation of the athletic recruiting program with regard to black students.
  - 9. More black athletes.
  - 10. Black coaches for the athletic teams.
- 11. More black literature offered in the University's English courses.
  - 12. The introduction of an African culture study program.

Brut State Tils

## BLACK STUDIES PROGRAM

#### WINTER TERM

1979

Anthropology 45	Cultural Anthropology	MWF 1	Abed
Community Development 7	Intro to Community Systems	See Sched of Classes	Fitch
Community Development 201	Youth and Societies	MWF 1	Perine
Comparative Literature 104	Intro to African Literature	MWF 4	Hale
Economics 424	Urban Economics	MWF 2	Wasylenko
English 470	Literature of British Commonwealth	MWF 4	Mann
French 458	African Lit of French Expression	MWF 6	Hale
Political Science 454	Governments & Politics of Africa	MWF 6	Callaghy
Rural Sociology 425	Poverty Analysis: People & Programs	MWF 4	Van Horn
Sociology 415	The Urban Community	MWF 1	Humphrey
Sociology 419	Race Relations	TTH 15	Taylor

These courses are offered by the appropriate departments. They may be used to satisfy the requirements for the African, Afro-American and Black Studies Options. For further information on these options, please contact Mr. Virginius Thornton in 117 Old Main phone, 865-0458.

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v xxxleaflet with G. Brooks poem	22.50
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Ovington. Hazel	20.00
Thurman. Negro Life in New York's Harlem	5.00
White. American Negro and his problems	5.00
Anderson. From Newsboy and Bellboy to Flavoright	20.00
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W342 Pattee Library

20 January 1977

814-865-1793

Donald E. Williams 4020 Northwest Ninth Court Gainesville, Florida 32605

Dear Mr. Williams:

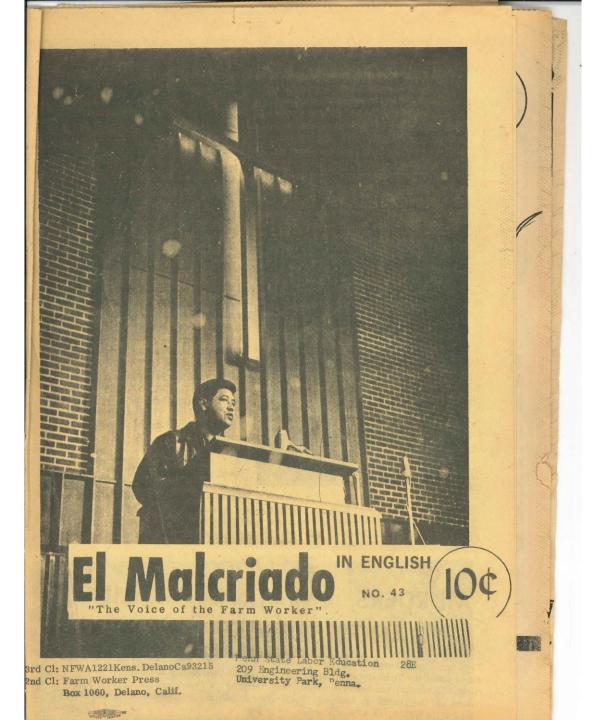
I have a note from Dr. Cyril Griffith concerning some books which you have for sale. We already have copies of most of them, but if possible I would like to order a few items: Roll, Jordan, Roll, by Julia Peterkin; and from your sheet music collection, #3 Cotton, from the Cotton Club Parada, 1935. "I'm out of place here in Harlem, that's why I want to go home;" #4 Doin the Suzi-Qu, from the Cotton Club Parade, 1936; #6 Floating Down the Nile, from the Shoo-Fly Regiment, 1906. These total \$31.00, and if you wish to seal them, kindly forward them with two copies of your invoice.

Thank you very much for allowing us to consider these titles.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Menn, Chief Rare Books and Special Collections

CWM: as



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#### Resources

- Know your colleagues (acquisitions, technical services, and subject specialists—but dealers too)!
- Visit book fairs www.bookfairs.com
- Visit bookshops www.abaa.org
- Read dealer catalogs www.abaa.org; EXLIBRIS-L
- Institutional history

## The Freedom Archives

522 Valencia Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
www.freedomarchives.org
search.freedomarchives.org

#### The Work We Do

Preserve the Past – Illuminate the Present – Shape the Future

The Freedom Archives is a non-profit educational archive located in San Francisco.

- Preserve historical audio, video and print materials documenting progressive movements and culture from the 1960s to the 1990s.
- Create educational materials using archival materials to connect historical struggles with contemporary issues and movements.
- Maintain an internship program, conduct educational outreach and work collaboratively with community to build a more just future.

#### The Founders



### The Internship Program

- Since 2003, the Freedom Archives has maintained an active youth development program that encourages engagement with historical materials, the development of reading/writing/critical thinking skills and provides media production training as well as fostering a love for progressive history.
- All internships are shaped around the specific student, their interests and their goals for the internship experience. This aspect of the program is a key element of sustaining the initial spirit that generated the materials; a genuine desire to empower young people to explore, question, challenge and create their own narrative.
- Our goal is to further liberate archive and library spaces and empower young people to engage, learn, imagine, re-define, challenge, understand, and create history.

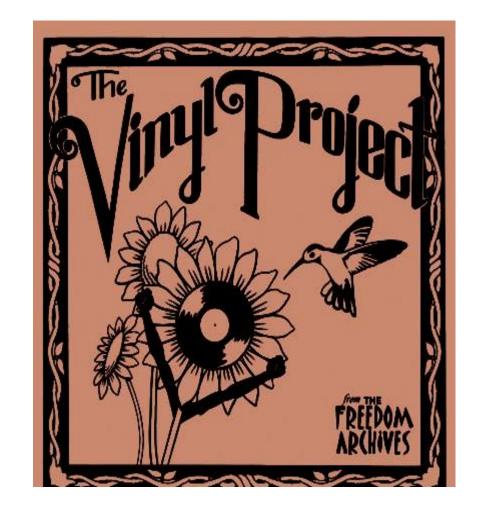
## In the Archives





### Accomplishments

- The Vinyl Project (2003) 12" vinyl record was the culmination of extensive audio editing and contains very short, dramatic, and historic sound bites for use by spoken word and performance artists, and DJs.
- A video and supplemental one-page leaflet containing step-by-step directions on how to locate and properly address a letter to a friend or loved one in a California prison.
- Classroom curricula, countless archival collections, online book supplements, timelines, etc.



#### Experiences at the Archives...

"There is a profound power in hearing, reading, and seeing these marginalized histories and narratives directly. It wasn't hard to get lost down the rabbit hole that is the Archives, that's for sure. I felt privileged and humbled to actually hear the voices of resistance fighters, read through meeting notes on the work of artists to combat imperialism, or view art and posters of resistance and justice. It makes me imagine a parallel universe: what if a core part of our public education system was to just let all students loose in archives like these? What would happen? How would students become more curious, more critical? How would minds be liberated? What movements would form, what fights, how would the future of our country and world be transformed? These typically erased histories, legacies, knowledge they are vital. I hope that, like me, more people will find their way here to the Archives, making that parallel universe a little bit more of a reality." (January 2018)

#### Lessons to Share

- Demystify who makes history, libraries, archives, intellectual spaces and challenge accepted notions of power and knowledge production.
- All skill sets are transferrable even if we don't end up working in archives or special collections how can we center empowerment, community engagement and challenge systems of oppression in all the work we do?
  - Content and Practice
- Building community is vital to building power.

## The Intersection of Special Collections & Digital Scholarship

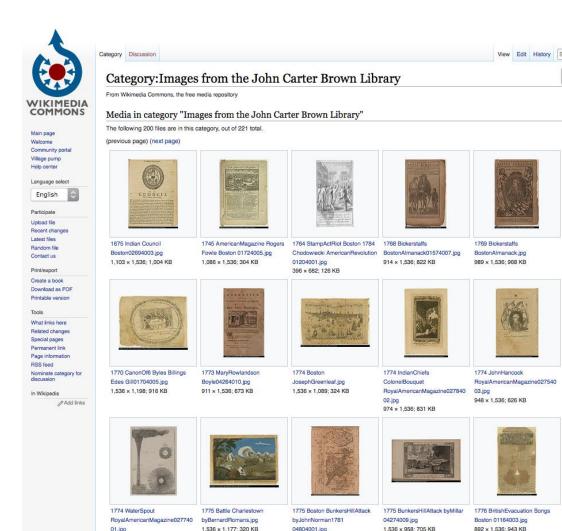
María Victoria Fernández

Assistant Curator for Digital Outreach
John Carter Brown Library
maria\_victoria\_fernandez@brown.edu

#### Digital Engagement and Curation







1,076 × 1,536; 907 KB

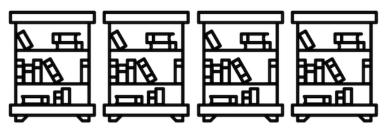
768 × 1,140; 364 KB

## Opportunities at the Intersection of Special Collections & Digital Scholarship

- Digital engagement and curation
- Digital asset management and preservation
- Metadata records and linked open data: searching across institutions and collections
- Expand computational use of digitized cultural heritage collections

#### Collections as Data

#### **Always Already Computational**

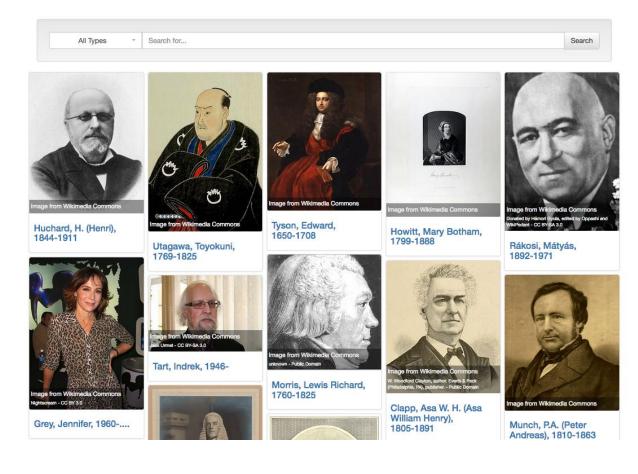








#### Social Networks and Archival Context





#### Rare Books and Manuscripts Section

Association of College and Research Libraries A Division of the American Library Association

- Professional standards and practices
- Annual Conference
- Scholarly Journal (RBM)
- Conference Attendance Scholarships
- Mentoring Program
- Professional Development Resource Guide
- RBMS Diversity Stories

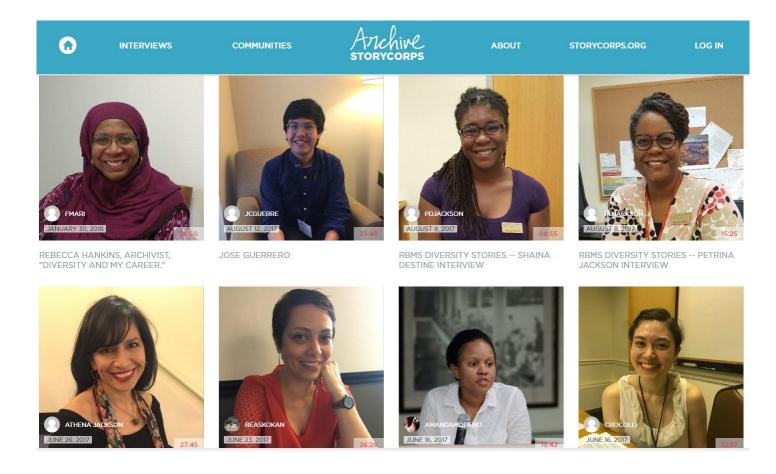






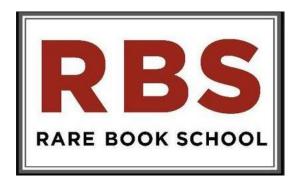


## **RBMS** Diversity Stories



https://archive.storycorps.org/communities/rbms-diversity-stories-2/

#### Learning Opportunity: Rare Book School, University of Virginia







The IMLS-RBS Fellowship for Early-Career Librarians 2016 IMLS-RBS Fellows













Recipients of the 2016 IMLS-RBS Fellowship for Early Career Librarians

- Courses in book history, bibliography, etc.
- Global History of the Book courses and fellowship opportunities
- RBS-RBMS Diversity Fellowship: two per year
- Several other scholarships and fellowships

#### Learning & Professional Development Opportunities

- ARL/SAA Mosaic Program Scholarship
- ARL Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce
- ALA Spectrum Scholarship
- SAA Scholarships
- SAA Mentoring Program
- AERI Emerging Archival Scholars Program
- ALA ALCTS Preservation & Reformatting Section (PARS)
- Minnesota Institute for Early Career Librarians











#### Thank you and feel free to reach out to us!

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Jose Guerrero jcg38@psu.edu

Nathaniel Moore <a href="mailto:nathaniel@freedomarchives.org">nathaniel@freedomarchives.org</a>

Maria Victoria Fernandez maria victoria fernandez@brown.edu

## **Q&A Session**

What is your interest in Special Collections and Archives?

What questions or comments do you have about the profession?