



STS 721: Archiving of Contemporary Science & Technology
Generic syllabus
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Topics

- What is an archive? What are the key elements of archives? How are *S&T archives* different? How are *contemporary archives* different? Which leads to, of course: how are *contemporary S&T archives* different?
- Principles of archiving
- Practicals of archiving
- Digital history
- Oral history, interviews, anthropology of science...and the archive
- Applied projects: ornithology, nanotechnology, genomics, or....

Resources

Individual readings listed for each week and available in a packet. Some books will be available at campus store. In addition, students should be aware of:

Society of American Archivists, <http://www.archivists.org/>

- Code of Ethics: http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/app_ethics.asp
- Overview of archival profession: <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/arprof.asp>
- *American Archivist*: <http://www.archivists.org/periodicals/aa.asp>

Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

“So you want to be an archivist?” <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/arprof.asp>

Week 2: Basic ideas in archiving

- Cox, Richard J. 2004. *No Innocent Deposits: Forming Archives by Rethinking Appraisal*. Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press.
Ch. 4: The Traditional Archival and Historical Records Program in the Digital Age: A Cautionary Tale
Ch. 10: Archival Appraisal Alchemy
- Lewenstein, Bruce. in press for 2006. The History of Now: Reflections on Being a "Contemporary Archivist". In *Writing the History of Recent Science*, edited by R. Doel and T. Söderqvist. London: Routledge.

Week 3: Historiography of contemporary science

- Doel, R., & Söderqvist, T. (Eds.). (2006). *Writing the History of Recent Science*. London: Routledge.
- Söderqvist, T. (Ed.). (1997). *Historiography of Contemporary Science and Technology*. London: Harwood Academic Publishers. Selections:
- Söderqvist, Thomas. "Who Will Sort out the Hundred or More Paul Ehrlichs? Remarks on the Historiography of Recent and Contemporary Technoscience." Pp. 1-18.
 - Lindee, M. Susan. "The Conversation: History and History as It Happens." Pp. 39-50.
 - Holmes, Frederic L. "Writing About Scientists of the near Past." Pp. 165-78.

Week 4: Documenting controversy: Cold fusion, OJ Simpson, Y2K, voting technology archives

- Lewenstein, B. V. (1991). Preserving data about the knowledge creation process: Developing an archive on the cold fusion controversy. *Knowledge: Creation, Diffusion & Utilization*, 13(1), 78-85.
- Lewenstein, B. V. (1994). *Cornell Cold Fusion Archive (Collection #4451): Finding Aid* (5th ed.). Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Library.

Week 5: Documenting current science and technology, especially "big" science

- Haas, J. K., Samuels, H. W., & Simmons, B. T. (1985). *Appraising the records of modern science and technology: A guide*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Selections (pp. 5-20).
- Samuels, Helen Willa. "Who Controls the Past." *American Archivist* 49, no. 2 (Spring) (1986): 109-24.
- Warnow-Blewett, J., Genuth, J., & Weart, S. R. (2001). *AIP Study of Multi-Institutional Collaborations: Documenting Multi-Institutional Collaborations* (Final Report). College Park, MD: American Institute of Physics. (Available at <http://www.aip.org/history/pubslst.htm#collabs>; look for the separate *Highlights and Project Recommendations*, online at <http://www.aip.org/history/pubs/collabs/highlights.html> or in .pdf form at the same site as full report, which lists the key points)

Supplementary:

Chompalov, I., Genuth, J., & Shrum, W. (2002). The Organization of Scientific Collaboration. *Research Policy*, 31(5), 749-767.

Genuth, J., Shrum, W., & Chompalov, I. (2000). How Experiments Begin: The Formation of Scientific Collaborations. *Minerva*, 38, 311-348.

Shrum, W., Chompalov, I., & Genuth, J. (2001). Trust, Conflict, and Performance in Scientific Collaborations. *Social Studies of Science*, 31(5), 681-730.

Week 6: Digital archives

" Science and Technology in the Making. A pilot project using the World Wide Web for investigating and documenting contemporary events in the history of science and technology." (The "STIM" project). <http://sloan.stanford.edu>, accessed 23 Feb 2006.

Cohen, D. J., & Rosenzweig, R. (2005). *Digital history: a guide to gathering, preserving, and presenting the past on the Web*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. (Available online at <http://chnm.gmu.edu/digitalhistory/>)

Week 7: Preservation and metadata

Video conference with Josh Greenberg, Center for History & New Media, George Mason University

Week 8: Example – Newman Labs and Arecibo

Guest panel: Elaine Engst & David Corson (Cornell)

Week 9: Example – ArXiv

Guest lecture: Marcie Rosenkrantz (Cornell)

Week 10: Challenges of “intentional” archives

Guest panel: Richard Strassberg on "intentional" archives, Peter Hirtle on legal issues (Cornell)

Week 11: Let’s try it: Ivory-billed woodpecker

Visit with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology staff

Week 12: Identifying particular challenges for “emerging technology”

Guest panel: Tom Hickerson, Elaine Engst (Cornell)

Weeks 13 & 14: Final project presentations

Finals week: Final paper due