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Summer 2018

Conjure Americana: Creating A Magic Book Archive

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Recommended Citation

Yvonne Patricia Chireau. (2018). "Conjure Americana: Creating A Magic Book Archive". *Conjure Americana*. DOI: 10.24968/2476-2458.dhgrants.14
<https://works.swarthmore.edu/dev-dhgrants/14>



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The project involved research "magic books," which are original texts, including grimoires, books of dream interpretation and divination that were popular in the late 19th century and the early twentieth century in the US, particularly among African Americans. Assignments: learning the basics of data compilation and annotation, scanning, and processing for a co-created digital archive that utilizes the Omeka platform to organize and manage our materials. 1) Studying the intersections between these categories by examining primary sources; 2) sort through and catalog selected items; 3) format items for digital presentation with support from library staff 4) research the origins, historical sources, and actual use of the texts by practitioners 5) research background on the publication and circulation of the texts. Use digital humanities methods for curating, classifying, and display. The product is a online database which will also allow for public/researcher accessibility.