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# Toward Inclusivity in the Documentation of Student Struggle: Continuing the Discussion

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*Toward Inclusivity in the Documentation of Student Struggle:  
Continuing the Discussion*

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Project STAND (STudent Activism Now Documented) is a consortium of college and university archivists working to ethically collect material that documents contemporary student activist activity and uncover and share archival collections about student organizing. It has created an online clearinghouse <standarchives.com> where academic institutions can provide researchers a centralized access point to archival documentation about the development and on-going occurrences of student dissent.

Archival reference questions about the absence of black students in documentation of the Kent State Shootings, coupled with the resurgence of campus political activism in recent years, inspired Lae'l Hughes-Watkins (University Archivist at the University of Maryland, then University Archivist at Kent State University) to found Project STAND in 2016. The consortium is dedicated to better documenting the organizing activities and concerns of today's students--particularly those from historically marginalized groups--and to increasing access to documentation of historic student struggle held (and sometimes hidden within) in institutional repositories.

Though it originated as a group of Ohio archivists dedicated to meeting this need, Project STAND quickly grew as other college and university archivists learned about the project. The group currently consists of archives and archivists from over fifty institutions of higher education across the country. In the New England region, members include Connecticut College, University of Connecticut, and University of Rhode Island, as well as two of Project STAND's newest members, Brandeis University and the University of Maine.

At the Spring 2019 meeting, Benjamin Panciera (Connecticut College), Rebecca Parmer (UConn), Graham Stinnett (UConn), student organizer Reed Puc (URI), and the author introduced the work of Project STAND in a session entitled "STANDING Together: Collaborating to Document Student Activism of Historically Marginalized Communities." The presenters also invited discussion on how archivists can best engage with student activists from vulnerable communities to ethically document their experiences and activities.

That discussion will continue at "Centering the Marginal: Toward Inclusivity in the Documentation of Student Struggle," a Project STAND symposium hosted by URI's Carothers Library on Monday, June 3, 2019. The symposium is part of a series funded by a National Leadership Grant for Libraries from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The series will build additional partnerships and help to solidify the project's goals and objectives. The URI symposium is the second of the four IMLS-funded symposia, which are also meant to provide a forum for discussion of best practices, challenges, and successes in documenting the

activism of traditionally underrepresented student populations and to provide a platform for student organizers to discuss their work and to dialog with archivists.

Issues surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion have historically been the most consistent area of student activism at the University of Rhode Island and that history will serve as the backdrop for the symposium. Dr. Adrienne Keene, Assistant Professor of American Studies and Ethnic Studies at Brown University and author of the blog *Native Appropriations* <<http://nativeappropriations.com/>>, will be the keynote speaker for the event. Confirmed panelists include Libby Coyner (Archivist, Elon University), Chaitra Powell (African American Collections and Outreach Archivist, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina), and Cynthia Tober (Head of Archives, Brooklyn Community College). Student organizers (current students and recent alumni) of different intersectionalities will be active participants in the symposium. The program will also include papers solicited from students, archivists, faculty, librarians, independent scholars, and community members via a CFP.

Feedback from the first symposium--which was held at Atlanta University Center's Robert W. Woodruff Library on February 21, 2019--informed the program for the June event. In addition to creating space for more informal discussion among symposium presenters and attendees, the program will continue a thematic thread from the AUC forum. Traditional archival praxis within the realm of social media will be further explored and participants will be encouraged to discuss ways to increase the agency of records creators in the context of archival collection development.

The conveners of the second Project STAND symposium have developed a program which will provide vital discourse between memory workers and student organizers. Participants will examine student activism through the lens of difference (including, but not limited to ability, class, gender, race, and sexual orientation) as well as the roles and responsibilities of archivists tasked with documenting student life and culture on their campuses. Dialog with student organizers will highlight the importance of engaging with students as stakeholders. Practitioners will share best practices for doing so.

NEA members are welcome to attend the free symposium. Information about the symposium is available at <<https://standarchives.com/stand-symposium-university-of-rhode-island/>>. Travel grants are available for attendees without institutional support.