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Creating a network: starting & strengthening local conversations on archival best-practices, collection preservations, and collection longevity.

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Creating a network: starting & strengthening local conversations on archival best-practices, collection preservations, and collection longevity.

Derek Malone, MLIS, MBA University of North Alabama

Why create a network?



History - UNA Friends of the Library Council

- Previously an advisory council for capital campaign
- Converted to Friends of the Library Council in 2018
- Three-member council, with expanded membership. Council membership consists of members at the "UL Circle" level.

Nancy Gonce

- Inaugural member of the Friends of the Library Council
- Librarian background
- Interest in preservation efforts both for the University of North Alabama AND local agencies
- Grant development and project development experience
- Community partnerships

Friends of the Library Council



services, and needs to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the local community.

Archives & Special Collections



Archives & Special Collections

The purpose of the University of North Alabama Archives is to collect, preserve, index, and make available to researchers records of the history of the University of North Alabama and the **northern Alabama region**. The first priority of the collection is material directly relating to the University of North Alabama. The histories of the Quad-Cities (Florence, Sheffield, Muscle Shoals, and Tuscumbia) are the second priority of the collection. The third collection area is historical material pertaining to Lauderdale and Colbert counties.





- Regional focus with regional mission for Archives
- Bicentennial celebration for the state of Alabama

Celebrating Our History: Inventory of Archival Collections in Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Lawrence Counties, Alabama: Past, Present, and

Future



- Document different archival and special collections
- Assessment of archival institutions in four counties in northwest Alabama (Lauderdale, Colbert, Lawrence, Franklin)
- Locations sought out specifically
- Locations contacted personally by Ms. Gonce and asked to complete survey
- All archival locations/collections for these areas were sought out in the process. If more collections were discovered, they too were asked to complete the survey.
- 2018-2019

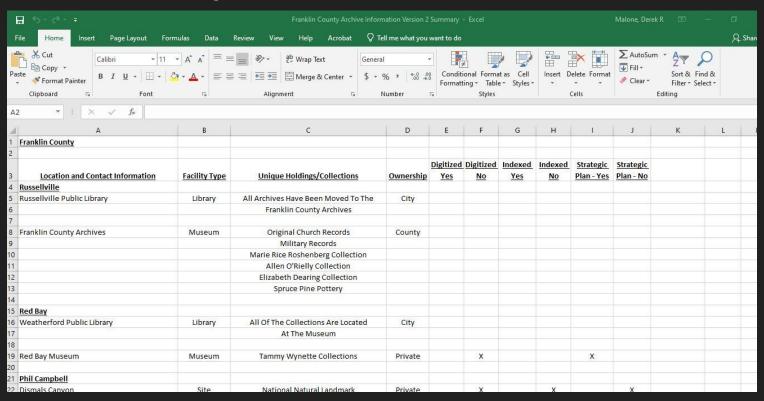
Survey questions asked:

- Facility type
- Unique holdings
- Ownership
- Digitized (Y/N)
- Indexed (Y/N)
- Strategic Plan (Y/N)
- And more...

Initial survey document sent to those that were identified by Ms. Gonce

2019 Archive Inven	tory For	m – Phase 1		Draft 7/3/19 NCG	
				<u> </u>	
			Survey Date: _		
			Location:	-35	
		Archival Resour	ce Analysis		
Resource Analysis					
1) Name, Loca	ation, a	nd Other General Informati	on		
A) Host In					
I)	Museum/Institution Name:				
ii)	Phone Number(s) :				
iii)	Fax Number:				
iv)	E-mail Address:				
v)	Admin	strator/Curator Contact Inf	ormation:		
10.75.8		Name:			
	b)	Title:			
	c)	E-mail Address:			
	d)	Phone Number:			
	e)	Cell Phone Number:			
vi)	Additional Contact Information:				
		Name:			
	b)	Title:			
	c)	E-Mail Address:			
	d)	Phone Number:			
	e)	Cell Phone Number:			

- Results are indexed by county, type, and location
- Number of institutions obviously varies by county
- Lauderdale County had 21 responses, in the first phase, for example
- Commonalities began getting explored
- Same response...



Information highlights:

- Considerable number of institutions present in the four counties
- A lot of difference in practices throughout
- Lots of eager participation in the survey

Lessons Learned

- Significant number of collections in our general vicinity
- The collections are scattered across many areas of interest
- Digitization numbers are low or non-existent and technology capability is scattered
- Strategic planning has variance

Future need

- A stronger network for those involved in the Bicentennial Project
- More professional development programming around the area for those involved (and not involved) in the Bicentennial Project
- Possible outlets for future donation/permanent preservation of private collections

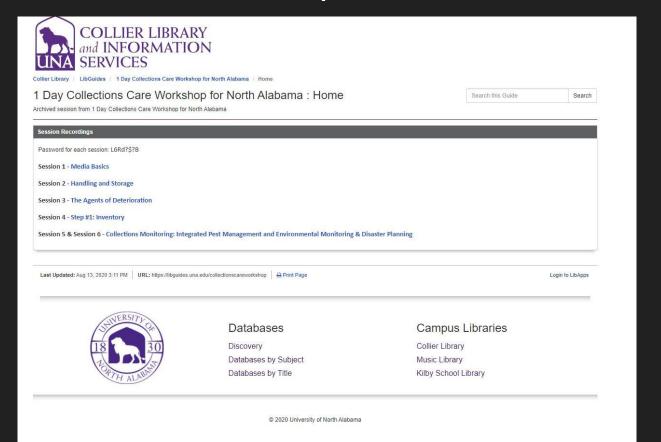
Professional Development/Network Planning

- AHF grant (complimentary missions) provided opportunities to host event
- Event was originally planned for in-person, switched twice to a later date, then Zoom due to Covid-19
- Title "1 Day Collections Care Workshop for North Alabama"
- Alabama Department of Archives and History facilitation of the workshop (thanks)





Collections Care Workshop for North Alabama



Future possible planning/workshops

- The desire for more professional development is present
- There is a need and desire for a network

Name of Agency				
Location: City		County		
Collection Format: On Site	%Off-Site %	% Digitized	% On-Line	
Name of Attendee and Posi	tion/Title:			
Please rate the following a		ale of 1 to 10 with 1 bein	g the lowest and 10 bei	
the highest and add any co	mments you may have:			
Subjects, Format & Content				
Session	Subject			
Collection Care	General		17	
Inventory	Collections			
Collection Monitoring	Content/			
_	Pest Management			
Disaster Planning	Components			
Networking	Regional Planning			
Goals: Current & Long Rai	nge Planning			
Please rate the following ar	eas you may have an add	ditional interest in for fut	ture programs using a	
scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being have:	g the lowest and 10 being	g the highest and add any	comments you may	
Possible Follow-Up Presenta	ations .			

Questions/Comments

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