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## Archeota, Spring 2017

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Rebecca Leung

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# Archeota

Volume 3, Issue 1, Spring 2017

May 8, 2017

*Official publication of the  
San José State  
University  
Society of American  
Archivists  
Student Chapter*

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## Welcome to the issue

*By Kimberlee Frederick  
Managing Editor*

A very warm welcome to the Spring 2017 issue of *Archeota*. This is a special release for me, as it marks my first as managing editor.

I have a dedicated place in my heart for organization-specific publications. I have a background in student journalism, and I currently create and release six issues per year of an internal staff newsletter for the university library at which I'm lucky enough to be employed. I have a firm belief that the voices of the many must have an outlet for an organization to realize its potential. *Archeota* has established itself as an impressive voice indeed, and I feel terribly fortunate to be a part of it.

I'm finding that recently my mind has been focused on the many varied ways the concerns of archives embed themselves into our daily lives, and this issue takes a stab at attempting to explore the ways in which we're affected by the archival mindset. From the books we read and the work we set out to do all the way up to how our politics influence archival practices, the thoughts in the following pages look at how the very fabric of our day-to-day lives depend on a dedication to preservation and archiving.

Thank you, very sincerely, for reading.

My best,  
Kimberlee



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Archivists**

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## Learning about media preservation with Kathy Rose O'Regan

By Rebecca Leung

When I first saw the post for a media preservation intern at the [Bay Area Video Coalition](#), I was intrigued, but thought it was beyond my reach.

I am graduating this semester, and I already completed one internship. In addition, I have little experience with media preservation and digitization. My most relevant experience was *Preservation Management* (INFO 259) with Professor Katherine Skinner. However, I could not stop thinking about the internship!

I recommended it to classmates in hopes that someone would be interested, and I could live vicariously through their experience. Finally, I succumbed to my own curiosity and applied. Every day that I walk into BAVC, I am so happy that I did! I am learning amazing things about media preservation from amazing people like Kathy Rose O'Regan.

Not only is Kathy a star preservationist, she also genuinely loves moving image media. In the below interview, Kathy answers some of my most pressing questions about what life is like for a media preservationist.

**Please introduce yourself - what is your name, your role, where do you work?**

Hi! My name is Kathy Rose O'Regan, and I am the Lead Preservationist at the Bay Area Video Coalition (BAVC) in San Francisco.

**What kind of educational background do you have in your field?**

I have a BA in Art and Design with a specialization in Fine Art Printmaking from GMIT in Galway, Ireland (as I am



Irish), and a Certificate in Film Preservation from the Selznick School at George Eastman Museum in Rochester, NY. While my BA may not appear to have a connection to moving image preservation, there is some cross over. Film is printed from negative to positive, similar to many paper printing processes. I also work extensively with visual artists to preserve their video content in my current role.

**What do you do on a daily basis?**

Many, many things! Interact with clients, inventory, clean, bake, digitize tapes, observe and aid technician transfers, quality control, format hard drives, create derivatives from master files ... for a start!

**Would you describe some preservation standards and practices you observe in your work?**

At BAVC we are committed to generating digital preservation master files that, as closely as is viably possible, reflect the information contained in the analog

***Interview continued on page 6***



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## SAA resources for students and more!

### **General information for students:**

<http://www2.archivists.org/students>

### **Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Roundtable:**

<https://snaproundtable.wordpress.com/>

### **SAA Online Career Center, Job Seekers Page:**

<http://careers.archivists.org/jobseekers/>

### ***A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology:***

<http://www2.archivists.org/glossary>

### **Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Curriculum and Certificate Program:**

<http://www2.archivists.org/prof-education/das>

### ***The American Archivist* online:**

<http://americanarchivist.org/>

**SAA's 2017 Annual Meeting** is in Portland, Oregon from July 23 to 29, 2017 (<http://www2.archivists.org/am2017>).

### **Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA):**

<http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>

### **ArchivesGig:**

<https://archivesgig.wordpress.com/>

### **Derangement and Description: A chaotic little archives webcomic:**

<https://derangementanddescription.wordpress.com/>

### **Free Publications:**

<http://www2.archivists.org/publications/epubs>

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## Archivists continue to preserve government data

By Kimberlee Frederick

*In the fall of 2016, a group of institutions – Internet Archive, Library of Congress, CA Digital Library, and libraries from the University of North Texas, Stanford University, and George Washington University – organized to preserve a snapshot of the federal government website. This is the third time this End of Term (EOT) group has organized with the goals of identifying, harvesting, preserving, and providing access to a snapshot of the federal government web presence. They do this for two important reasons. The first is that the transition of elected officials in the federal government's executive branch prompts a reset of sites like [www.WhiteHouse.gov](http://www.WhiteHouse.gov), so it's critical to document the changes. The EOT group's work also provides a broad snapshot of the federal domain once every four years; it's replicated among a number of organizations for long-term preservation.*

—SJSU Special Library Association

*Student Chapter introduction to **The End of Term Web Archive: Collection and Preserving the .gov Information Sphere.***

I was sitting at the monthly members' meeting of the Librarian's Association of the University of California-Riverside (LAUC-R) when I first heard about the End of Term archiving project.

For three election cycles now, an ever-growing band of organizations have diligently employed existing internet archiving software and developed new techniques to harvest as many of the data and web pages put online by the U.S. government as possible.

It's a tall order, but it has not failed to attract the attention of multitudes of institutions interested in gathering information.

The result is a vast (though still significantly underfunded) project that gains a little more traction with every cycle. The archivists and metadata experts at

UC Riverside who have become involved through the California Digital Library have done so in a manner consistent with many involved in the initiative: it's off-duty work in addition to their other projects that is not funded by any library departments or external sources.

The lack of funding is an ongoing issue of the EOT group, although it has yet to stop the project from moving forward. In the presentation offered by Jefferson Bailey (of the Internet Archive) and James Jacobs (of Stanford University Libraries) in a joint event by SJSU SLASC and SAASC, both noted that the lack of funding means that everything that ought to be archived simply cannot be. For that, dedicated staff would be necessary.

Despite these obstacles, more partners continue to offer involvement.

For more information about the mechanics and the breakdown of the project, please visit SAASC's Past Events page to listen to the recording: <http://sjsusaasc.weebly.com/2016---2017.html>.

### goals of the end of term project



United States Central Command  
Sept 16, 2008



U.S. Department of State Official Blog  
Feb 13, 2013



Healthcare.gov Twitter  
Feb 15, 2013

- work collaboratively to preserve public U.S. Government websites
- document federal agencies' presence on the web during the end of Presidential terms
- enhance the existing research collections of the partner institutions
- raise awareness about the need for preservation
- engage with researchers and subject experts

Jefferson Bailey from the Internet Archive and James Jacobs from Stanford University Libraries each presented slideshows as they discussed the genesis, difficulties, and successes of the EOT project.

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## Summer reading with an archives focus

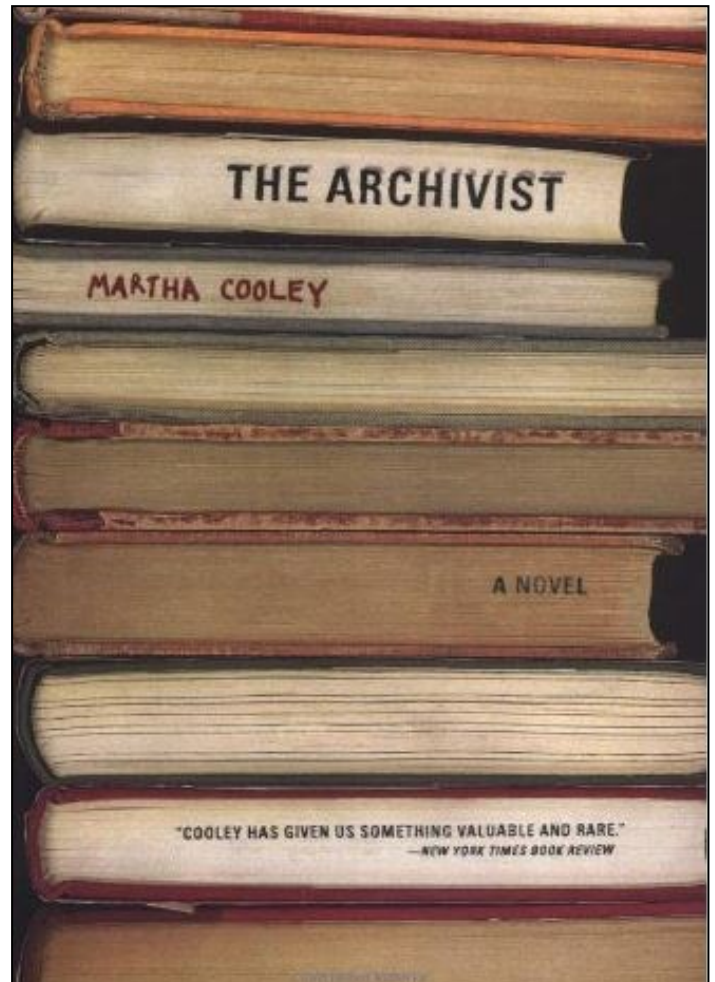
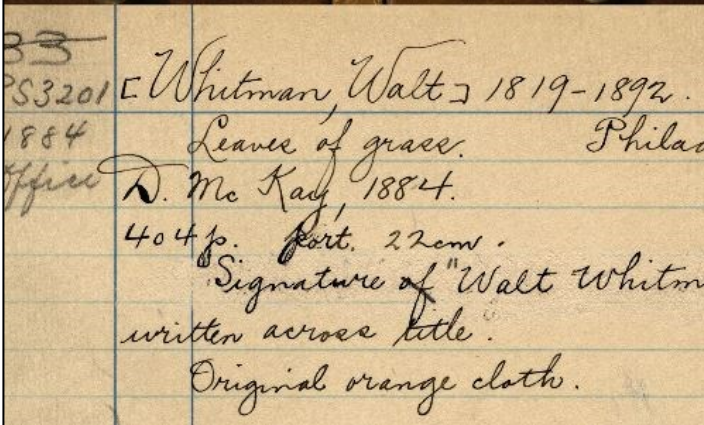
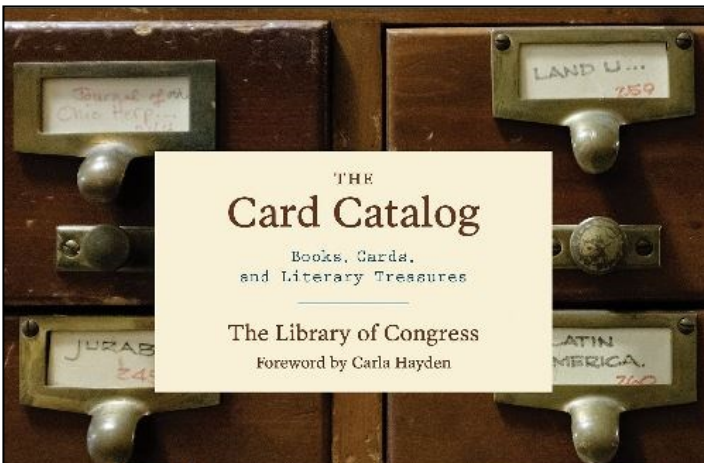
### NONFICTION

#### **The Card Catalog: Books, Cards, and Literary Treasures**

Compiled by *The Library of Congress*  
With a Forward by *Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress*

"From the Library of Congress, *The Card Catalog* takes readers on a treasure hunt through the history of our most beloved books. Teeming with over 200 images of original catalog cards, first edition book covers, and photos from magnificent archives of the Library of Congress, this collection is a visual celebration of one of the world's most famous libraries and the brilliant catalog system that has kept it organized for hundreds of years."

—Chronicle Books, publisher of *The Card Catalog* (2017)



### FICTION

#### **The Archivist** *Martha Cooley*

"A young woman's impassioned pursuit of a sealed cache of T. S. Eliot's letters lies at the heart of this emotionally charged novel—a story of marriage and madness, of faith and desire, of jazz-age New York and Europe in the shadow of the Holocaust. *The Archivist* was a word-of-mouth bestseller and one of the most jubilantly acclaimed first novels of recent years."

—Little, Brown, publisher of *The Archivist* (2008)

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## Continued from page 2: A deeper dive into media preservation

signal we are digitizing. To ensure this, we maintain many legacy decks, and work with a variety of time base correctors in an effort to be as faithful as we can to the source material. We follow [CAVPP \(California Audio Visual Preservation Project\)](#) digitization specifications. We keep meticulous notes on every aspect of the digitization process. This information is then exported to a transfer log which we provide all clients and maintain in our own records.

### What is the most interesting part of your job?

The wide range of wonderful content I encounter. From experimental video art, to passionate social activism, to kooky home movies, I am constantly dazzled by people's ingenuity, talent, and enthusiasm.

### What would be the worst case scenario that you might face while doing your job?

The worst case scenario is that a tape is too degraded to extract any information from. This is a scenario that is becoming more and more prevalent as time goes on. Magnetic media has an extremely limited lifespan, and it is estimated that by 2025 the vast majority of videotape will be beyond saving.

*"Not only is Kathy a star preservationist, she also genuinely loves moving image media."*

**What resources (books, articles, videos, websites) do you recommend?**

[This](#) format guide from the Texas Commission of the Arts is great - lots of detailed pictures and overviews of each format, backward compatibility, and known rates of degradation/obsolescence. Charles Bensinger's [The Video Guide](#) is something of an industry bible for

all things video. *How Video Works* is also a great, accessible intro to video. *Deadline 2025* is the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia's overview of the magnetic media crisis.

### Do you have any other recommendations for students who would like to do what you do?

Read all you can. Join AMIA (Association of Moving Image Archivists) and subscribe to their Listserv. Volunteer or intern if you can at an organization that has moving image holdings. Never stop watching movies - and know the difference between a film and a video ;)

*Many thanks to Kathy for sharing her knowledge with the iSchool community! To learn more, check out the iStudent blog post: [A Day in the Life of SJSU iSchool Student and SAA Student Chapter Chair Rebecca Leung](#).*

## SAASC Needs You!

The SJSU student chapter of the Society of American Archivists releases this official newsletter each semester. The goal of *Archeota* is to represent the collective efforts of archival students and experts so we can learn and grow with each other within the profession. For that, we need your submissions!

Keep a lookout for the call for newsletter content put out at the beginning of each semester. In the meantime, keep thinking about how your archival job, internship, or classes could be fodder for an *Archeota* feature!



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**“The great use of a life is to spend it for something that outlasts it.”**

—William James, 1842-1910

Quote  
Corner

**“It depends on those who pass whether I am a tomb or treasure, whether I speak or am silent; the choice is yours alone. Friend, do not enter without desire.”**

—Paul Valery, 1871-1945. Inscribed on the building housing the archives at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris.

**“Of all our national assets, archives are the most precious; they are the gift of one generation to another and the extent of our care of them marks the extent of our civilization.”**

—Arthur G. Doughty, Dominion Archivist, 1904-1935

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## SAASC events

### *Past*

**May 1, 2017: The End of Term Web Archive: Collecting & Preserving the .gov Information Sphere.** Click [here](#) to listen to the recording.

**April 24, 2017:** Sutro Library tour. Read more about the tour [here](#) or go [here](#) to view the photos!

**April 4, 2017:** Click [here](#) to listen to a records of our **Open House & Election Q&A**. Learn what current officers do and how you can get involved!

**March 14, 2017:** A presentation on completing the e-portfolio from Catherine Folnovic, a recent MARA grad and immediate past president of SAASC. Collaborate recording available [here](#).

**March 10, 2017:** Huntington Library Tour, San Marino, CA

**February 7, 2017: *iSchool Publications Panel*** is a presentation from various iSchool student groups about their publications.

**February 2, 2017: An Introduction to Oral History** by Lauren Kata

**January 30, 2017: *Benefits of SAA membership*:** A webinar highlighting the benefits of SAA membership and preparation for the ACA exam presented by Brenda Gunn and Sammie Morris. You can view the collaborate recording [here](#).

**January 11, 2017:** The **Student Association Panel** was a one-hour panel presentation from the iSchool's student association chapters: ALA, ASIS&T, iSchool Connex, SAA, SLA, and VCARA. Watch the recording [here](#).

### ***Link to event recordings:***

<http://bit.ly/2gacaWs>

### ***Link to participate in 2016-2017 events:***

<http://bit.ly/2eniUwU>

### ***Check out our Youtube channel!***

<http://bit.ly/2qfnR4s>

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## Meet your 2017-2018 SAASC Executive Team

The Society of American Archivists Student Chapter (SAASC) would like to formally congratulate the incoming officers for the 2017-2018 academic year!



### Jennifer Castle Chair

I'm a Master of Library and Information

Science student on the Archival Studies and Records Management career pathway, and I plan to graduate in December 2018.

Being on the east coast, participating in SAASC provides me opportunity to interact with other students outside of course work (as I'm unable to attend any in-person meet-ups in California),

and to feel a sense of camaraderie. I volunteered this academic year to be an editor for *Archeota*, which is allowing me to put my writing and editing skills to good use, and I've enjoyed seeing the inner workings of how the SAASC executive committee operates.

I would love the opportunity to help the chapter continue and thrive. I believe I have some fresh ideas on programming and marketing, and I relish the prospect of collaborating with other present and future archivists.



### April Austin Vice-Chair

Hello! I'm focusing on Archives and Records Management and am planning to graduate in Spring 2018.

I have done research in manuscript archives as a graduate student, so my passion lies in preserving rare books and materials to show students, scholars, patrons, and the public

what we as a society have done, said, and created over time.

Since the events hosted by the SAASC have been important for my professional development, including archive tours and online lectures, I hope to help plan these activities to introduce the students at SJSU to the many benefits of the SAA and this career path.



### Theresa Berger Secretary

Hi Everyone, I'm Theresa. I'm a first-year student in SJSU's MLIS program and very happy to be here.

I have a B.A. in American Studies from UC Berkeley and a serious passion for history and archives. Right now, I'm fortunate enough to work as an archival intern at the Hoover Institute Library &

Archives at Stanford University.

I also volunteer with my local historical society in processing and digitizing collections. I'm excited to be a part of the SJSU SAASC and as secretary, would like to use the chapter's web platforms to grow our membership and spread as much archival-related news as possible.

When I'm not studying or organizing, I can usually be found on the couch reading a history book or watching Star Wars. I look forward to working with all of you and continuing to build the SJSU SAASC together.