

2014

Editor's Note

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Recommended Citation

Oestreicher, Cheryl, "Editor's Note," *Provenance, Journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists* 32 no. 1 (2014) .

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/provenance/vol32/iss1/2>

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Editor's Note

Cheryl Oestreicher

Scholarship is important to the archives profession. In the past few years, several new, and many online and open-access, archives journals have been started. Archivists have many ideas, practices, and theories to share and the ongoing discussions are crucial to furthering the profession. At its founding in 1972, *Georgia Archive* was the second, and for several years only, scholarly journal in addition to *American Archivist*. In more than 40 years, there have been roughly 60 issues published of *Georgia Archive* and its successor, *Provenance*. In spring 2014, the back issues of both publications were made available online: http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/georgia_archive/. As of December 12, 2014, less than nine months after the journals were available online, there were more than 20,000 views and downloads. After more than two years of work to make that possible, I am extremely pleased that the profession accesses this rich resource.

Founded by David B. Gracy II, *Georgia Archive* offers insight into how archives and archivists evolved in Georgia and the southeast. It includes articles, book reviews, lists of acquisitions, and lists of processed collections. To quote from Gracy's introduction in the first issue: "neither the most ambitious researcher nor the best informed resource person knows the full extent of the state's documentary heritage. GEORGIA ARCHIVE undertakes to provide that knowledge."

In 2002, *Provenance* published Linda Matthews' (former editor of *Georgia Archive*) proposal for an electronic journal, including these select points:

- "Electronic publishing would enhance the recognition and readership of *Provenance* by making it more visible and useful to readers throughout the world, likely increasing the number of submissions for publication.
- The full text of the journal from its first to current issues could be made fully searchable online.
- Users would be able to print those articles of immediate use without having to give shelf space to the whole issue or many issues.

- The Society of Georgia Archivists could be in the forefront of the archives world in making its journal accessible to a worldwide audience and searchable through the Web.”¹

While working on this project, I was continually amazed at the topics and depth of the articles. Initially, *Georgia Archive* focused on collections and institutions in Georgia. In the 1970s, the issues included lists of newly acquired collections. To do that today seems nearly impossible, as the institutions have cemented themselves as important repositories in communities and lists of acquired collections would take many, many pages today.

The transition to *Provenance* indicates the reception of the journal and that SGA realized they could make even more contributions by broadening the journal to not focus entirely on Georgia. Online tools have transformed the publishing industry. I recall when all the back issues of *American Archivist* went online (before I became *Provenance* Editor), and I was excited. I regularly access the articles for research, teaching, or to discuss with my staff. I am grateful for the opportunity to take *Provenance* to this level, and to provide access to its content to enhance future scholarship, education, and development of the archival profession.

The topics covered in both journals are applicable to archivists and institutions of all varieties: how to start an archives, legislation, processing, description, care of photographs, privacy, oral history, career expectations, education, record groups, records management, slave records, black genealogy, copyright, appraisal, and technology, academic archives, access, appraisal, archival administration, archival education, arrangement, automation, cataloging, collection development, congressional papers, description, electronic records, ethics, GLBT collections, government records, indexing, information management, military archives, Native Americans, oral history, photographs, preservation, presidential libraries, privacy, processing, records management, religious archives, use and users, user studies, volunteers, and women's archives and history. Plus some specific topics such as circus records, folklore collections, Grand Turk Island, internet gopher, and Project Jukebox.

¹ Linda Matthews, "Bringing *Provenance* to a Wider Audience," *Provenance* 20 (2002): 18.

Authors include David B. Gracy II, Terry Abraham, Karen Benedict, Frank Boles, James Gregory Bradsher, Maynard Brichford, Richard Cox, Bruce W. Dearstyne, Pam Hackbart-Dean, Gerald F. Ham, Margaret Hedstrom, Peter B. Hirtle, Gregory S. Hunter, Glen McAninch, James M. O'Toole, Harold T. Pinkett, Michael Plunkett, Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, Kathleen Roe, Helen Willa Samuels, Peter E. Schinkel, Margery N. Sly, Carl Van Ness, and Peter J. Wosh, and many others.

There are many people to thank that helped with this project: Teresa Brinati, Christine Wiseman, Traci Drummond, Amanda Pellerin, Lynette Stoudt, Marie Force, Faye Phillips, Susan Hoffius, Bill Hardesty, Marty Olliff, Cathy Miller, Heather Oswald, Richard Pearce-Moses, Georgia Historical Society, SGA Board members, *Provenance* Editorial Board. A special thanks to Jon Hansen and Aajay Murphy at Kennesaw State University for creating, hosting, and uploading content.

I look forward to continuing to advance and develop *Provenance* as a quality resource for all archivists.