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Margaret Cross Norton/New Author Awards Committee Report

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Margaret Cross Norton/New Author Awards Committee Report

By Amy Cooper Cary, Chair; Elizabeth Clemens; and Natalie Morath

The Margaret Cross Norton/New Author Awards Committee would like to congratulate all authors who published articles in *Archival Issues*, volume 37 (2016) and 38 (2017). The committee was impressed with the quality of all submissions and especially appreciated the breadth of topics addressed. Case studies showed diverse practices, representing everything from K–12 web archiving, to crowdsourcing, to surveying the Billy Ireland Cartoon Collection. Submissions that addressed archival identity, archival theory, and a new framework for electronic records management showed the committee that the journal continues to engage in high-level discussions pertinent to the place of broader archival theory in the profession. The scope of these two volumes of *Archival Issues* and the quality of the writing and editorial work exemplify the vitality of our journal and the continued excellence for which it is known. Kudos to all involved in the ongoing efforts of writing for and publishing such a successful journal.

The committee has unanimously agreed on the following award winners:

Margaret Cross Norton Award Winner

Donna E. McCrea, “Creating a More Accessible Environment for Our Users with Disabilities: Responding to an Office for Civil Rights Complaint,” *Archival Issues*, volume 38, number 1, 2017, pp. 7–18.

Donna McCrea’s article, “Creating a More Accessible Environment for Our Users with Disabilities: Responding to an Office for Civil Rights Complaint,” possessed the dual merits of taking on a topic that is rarely addressed and providing a highly readable and relevant discussion. Every repository across the profession—small or large, academic or corporate, museum, library, or historical society—has the potential to serve users with disabilities. The impact on our professional ethics, as well as on our legal mandates, is at once immediately apparent and rarely discussed. McCrea’s article incorporates significant, useful concepts and brings new insights into the discussion of this topic. McCrea brings together data that many of us probably do not yet know about and forges a new path in the profession calling for additional research. The recognition of our need to commit to diversity in access—both to users and to archival professionals—is a tremendously important topic and one that needs increased visibility. As McCrea states, “A professional commitment to diversity includes

striving to make content equally available. A professional commitment to access and use means consciously increasing awareness of accessibility issues and working proactively—individually and collectively—to eliminate accessibility barriers for people with disabilities” (p. 14). This message deserves amplification via this award.

Honorable Mention: Note that the Committee would like to recognize

Elizabeth Joffrion and Lexie Tom, “Broken Promises: A Case Study in Reconciliation,” *Archival Issues*, volume 27, number 2, 2016, pp. 7–22.

The committee recommends that the Editorial Board send a letter of recognition to the authors for their work on this article. It was extremely readable and well researched, and it provided a useful reminder and discussion of the issues surrounding Native cultural resources held in non-Native repositories. This is an important topic, and the article provided an excellent and applicable case study. The committee recommends that the Editorial Board make an Honorable Mention to Joffrion and Tom for their work, with congratulations on a very worthy submission.

New Author Award Winner

Christine McEvilly, “Painless Portal Partnerships: Collaboration and Its Challenges for Small Organizations,” *Archival Issues*, volume 38, number 2, 2017, pp. 20–41.

Christine McEvilly’s article, “Painless Portal Partnerships: Collaboration and Its Challenges for Small Organizations” goes beyond the standard article on collaborative partnerships. In a profession where collaborative efforts are frequently standard and always desirable, this article provides a new view on collaboration that has the potential to exert a serious influence on the profession’s approach to community archives. This fresh perspective offers balanced research, underpinning a case study that seeks to apply a fresh look at long-standing challenges common to smaller repositories, such as standardization of data, barriers to use of technology, staff availability and workflow, working with metadata, legacy descriptions, and rooting out unexpected costs in a collaborative project. The project’s goal to respect the autonomy of partners while developing a unified and cohesive portal for

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research explores the need to respect the value of smaller repositories. McEvelly states that “Archivists and librarians have already realized the importance of representation for a wide range of cultural groups, and we have begun to recognize the need for authentic voices, not just in the records we keep, but in their selection, management, and presentation. We cannot preserve those voices without creating true partnerships with the local organizations that can solicit input from their constituencies” (p. 37). The call to recognize the value of collaboration in raising awareness of the identity of small archival communities is one that archivists in all repositories need to hear.

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