

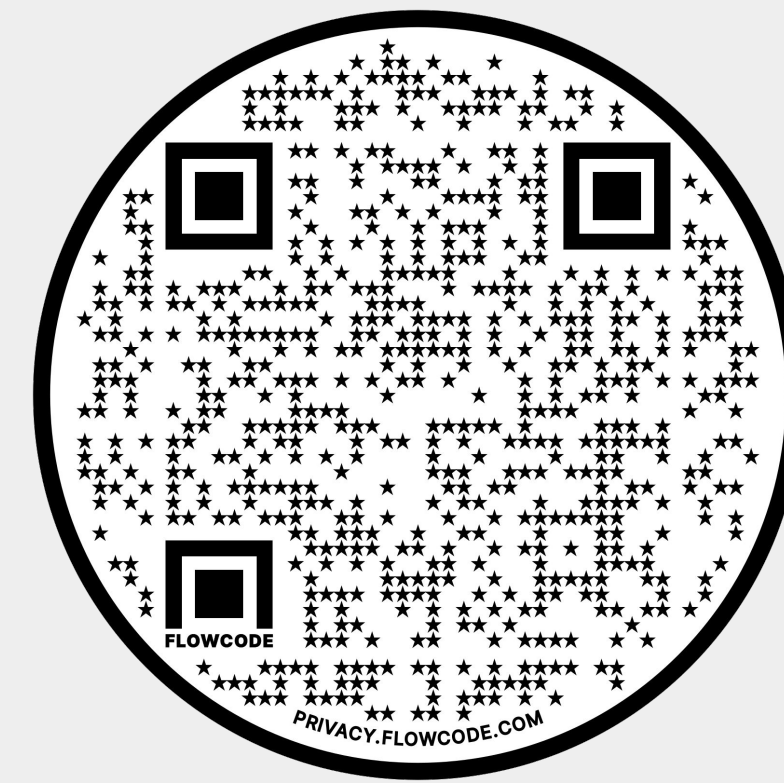
Reparative Archives

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LibGuide's QR Code



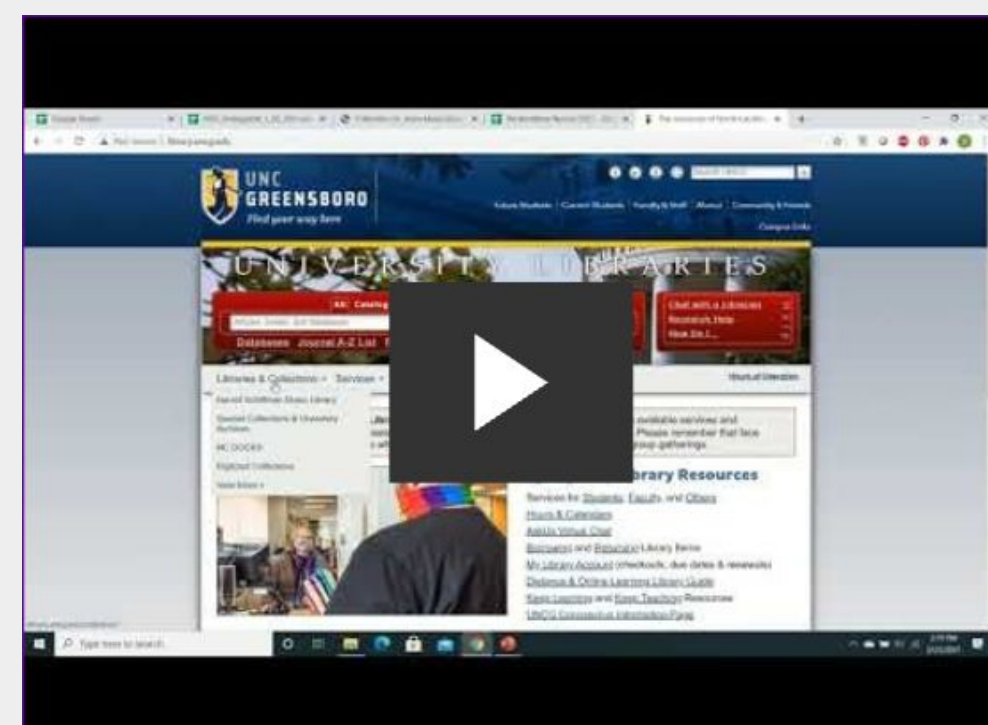
Purpose: present 2021 Capstone Project known as Reparative Archives Working Group (RAWG) in which I teamed up with UNC Greensboro's Special Collections & University Archives to review finding aids to locate and remove culturally insensitive words and phrases. I documented the process in a LibGuide for others to view as a possible path to their own reparative archive projects.

What Was Done

To see RAWG Goal's, use this QR Code

Demo of Process Video

- Finding Aids Workflow Record Google sheet made, shared among RAWG group & updated in real time.
- Only collection level descriptions reviewed due to the time constraints.
- Problematic finding aids published online were downloaded for preservation, then fixed in the following sections: Scope & Contents, Biographical/Historical Note, and the Abstract.
- ArchiveSpace served as the interface for handling the finding aids.



Kept old finding aids in "Legacy Finding Aids" server for users to access

Findings

Euphemisms

- Racist language, tone, & POV
- Shapes distorted colonial narratives
- Espouses misinformation

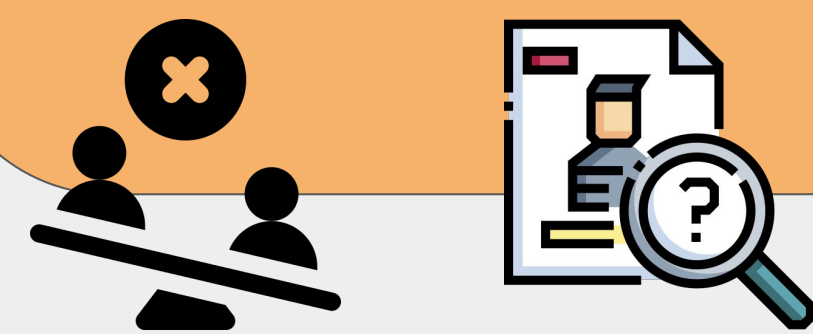


Euphemism Resolution

Replace offensive terms with accurate ones & put descriptions into historical context

Creator's Positionality

- Context of info creation matters
- Creators' backgrounds matters

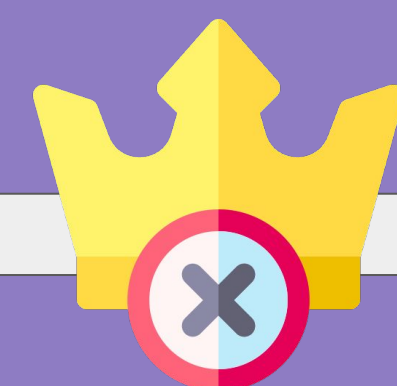


Positionality Resolution

- Placing info & its creators into context, so time period matters
- Creators from the hegemony studying marginalized peoples
- Upholds colonial structures of controlling image/voice of minorities
- presents power imbalance

Valorizing Language

- Needless language that boosts images of collection creators --
- White men = traditional, central figure of collections
- To boost their image is to boost their supremacy
- The victors tell the story & make themselves look good



Valorizing Language Resolution

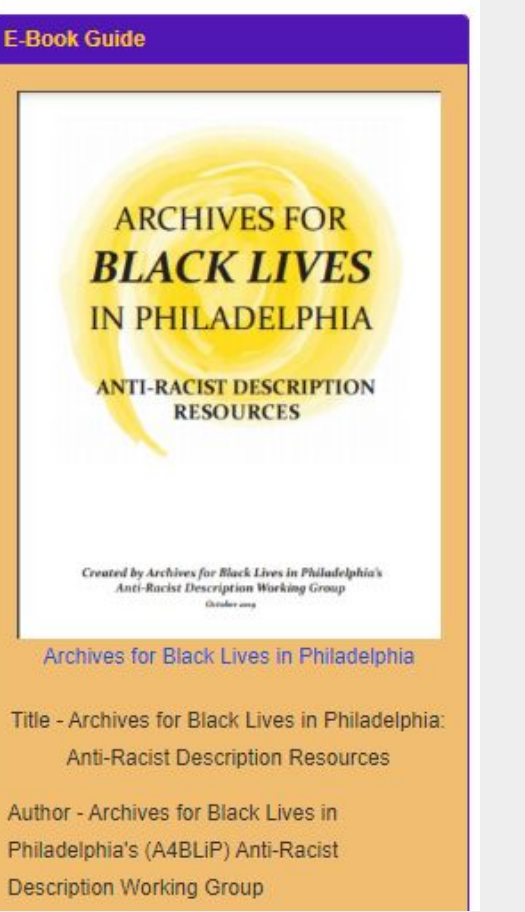
Valorizing Lang. Deleted - stick to the pertinent facts

Why Do It



SCUA's Mission

The Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro collects, preserves, and makes accessible unique and historical materials for learning and research. The department promotes the use of these materials by the University's academic community, scholars, and the public. Its goal is to advance scholarship and to further the educational and service missions of the University.



- Archives shape history & society
- The words we use matter
- Change descriptions that distort & erase minorities
- Act of reparative archives improves info accuracy & society

Articles

Anti-colonialist resources for reparative archives

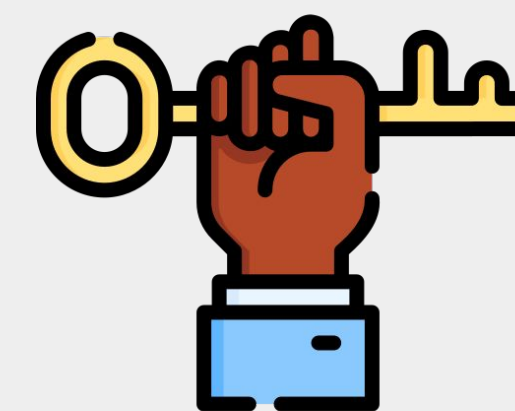
Hughes-Watkins, L. (2018). Moving Toward a Reparative Archive: A Roadmap for a Holistic Approach to Disrupting Homogenous Histories in Academic Repositories and Creating Inclusive Spaces for Marginalized Voices. *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*, 5(6), p. 1-17.

Tai, Jessica. "The Power of Words: Cultural Humility as a Framework for Anti-Oppressive Archival Description," in "Radical Empathy in Archival Practice," eds. Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, Jasmine Jones, Shannon O'Neill, and Holly Smith. Special issue, *Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies* 3.

- Highlights how archives upheld colonial structures
- Participatory Archives boost Inclusivity
- Turn archives into an advocate of social justice
- Espouse importance of cultural humility

- Created by white archivists
- Response to Black Lives Matter
- Compiles resources of anti-oppressive metadata descriptions

Future Considerations



Preventative Measures

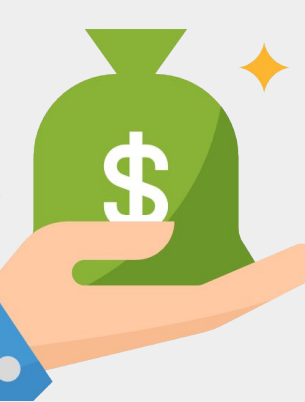
- Copy-Cataloging Warning: Past descriptions may hold colonialisms
- Partner w/source communities based on cultural humility
- Prioritize source ownership
- Source communities control info mgmt.



Ongoing Measures

Crowdsourcing Note: The Sensitivity Statement asks users to call out your institution = Chance for Change

If Partnering w/Source communities, Pay them



Post-Custodialism

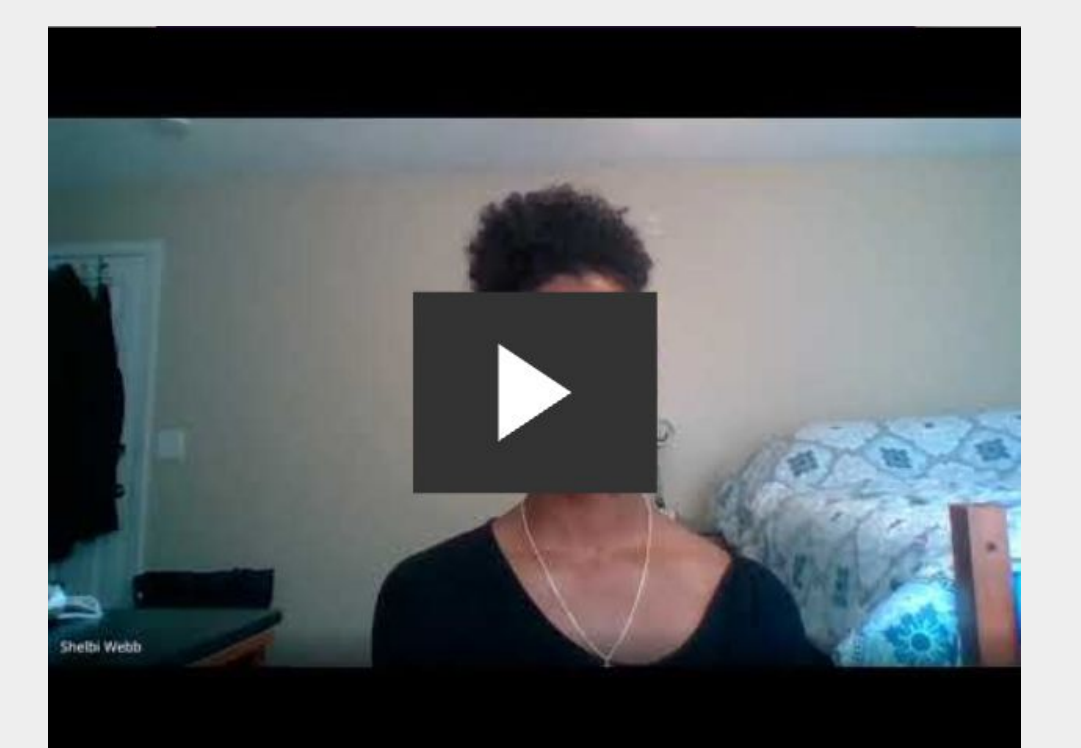
Speech Video: "Decolonizing archival practice and diversifying the historical record through post-custodial human rights archiving"



Video's Main Idea: Post-custodialism supports human rights by raising voices of the marginalized

History told straight from the source =

Info's Validity



- Video Interview of Black Lives Matter Collection curators
- Highlights their deference to & collaboration w/source comm. in collecting & describing artifacts
- Shows archival practice shift from issues ID'd in RAWG review to post-custodial practices incorporated now