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Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene Collection

Digital

2017 May 13, 14

10 video recordings

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In May 2017, a group of archivists and librarians convened at the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts for a two-day colloquium on the impact of environmental change on historical memory institutions. The speakers in the Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene colloquium explored the profound implications of cataclysmic climate change on the missions and practices of cultural heritage institutions, the challenges confronting them, and the opportunities for future efforts and investigations.

This digital collection consists of video recordings of each of the sessions held at the Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene colloquium. Following the keynote address by Roy Scranton, each day of the colloquium consisted of two or three panels of twenty-minute talks, a round of five-minute lightning talks, and a concluding plenary and discussion.

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Background on Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene

In May 2017, a group of archivists and librarians convened at the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation Program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts for a two-day colloquium on the impact of environmental change on historical memory institutions. The speakers in the Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene colloquium explored the profound implications of cataclysmic climate change on the missions and practices of cultural heritage institutions, the challenges confronting them, and the opportunities for future efforts and investigations. The call for participants laid out the dire conditions that form the background for the colloquium:

As stewards of a culture's collective knowledge, libraries and archives are facing the realities of cataclysmic environmental change with a dawning awareness of its unique implications for their missions and activities. Some professionals in these fields are focusing new energies on the need for environmentally sustainable practices in their institutions. Some are prioritizing the role of libraries and archives in supporting climate change communication and influencing government policy and public awareness. Others foresee an inevitable unraveling of systems and ponder the role of libraries and archives in a world much different from the one we take for granted. Climate disruption, peak oil, toxic waste, deforestation, soil salinity and agricultural crisis, depletion of groundwater and other natural resources, loss of biodiversity, mass migration, sea level rise, and extreme weather events are all problems that indirectly threaten to overwhelm civilization's knowledge infrastructures, and present information institutions with unprecedented challenges.

Speakers at the colloquium included a diverse assemblage of archivists, librarians, artists, scientists, and technologists, with Roy Scranton providing the opening keynote address, and plenary discussions featuring Howard Besser, Amy Brunvand, John Burgess, Jill Kubit, Rick Prelinger, Jodi Shaw, and Eira Tansey. The colloquium was organized by Casey E. Davis Kaufman (American Archive of Public Broadcasting at WGBH), Madeleine Charney (Sustainability Studies Librarian at UMass Amherst), and Rory Litwin (former librarian and the founder of Litwin Books, LLC).

Scope of collection

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Inventory

Scranton, Roy: **Keynote address**

2017 May 13

00:54:04

Session 1: Archival theory and the crisis

2017 May 13

02:01:52

Prelinger, Rick: **Collecting Strategies for the Anthropocene**

2017 May 13

Hoyer, Jen and Nora Almeida: **Living Archives (View the talk transcript)**

2017 May 13

Kubit, Jill: **Dear Tomorrow (View the talk slides)**

2017 May 13

Magier, Aruna P.: **Water, Land, and Forests: Documenting India's Environmental Activism**

2017 May 13

Goldman, Ben: **Things the Grandchildren Should Know: Archives and the Origin of an Ecocentric Future (View the talk transcript)**

2017 May 13

Session 2: Crisis and survival

2017 May 13

01:30:31

Burgess, John: **Adaptability and Resilience: A Core LIS Value**

2017 May 13

Templeton, Billy: **School Libraries and the Anthropocene: A Curricular Hail Mary to the Future**

2017 May 13

Irons, Ellie and Anne Percoco: Next Epoch Seed Library: An Archive of Weedy Species ([View the talk slides](#))

2017 May 13

Stoss, Fred: Preparedness Matters: Library Roles in Planning for Disaster

2017 May 13

Session 3: Lightning talks

2017 May 13

00:37:16

Zastrow, Jan: Back to the Future: Everything Old is New Again

2017 May 13

Bonnet, Jennifer: Engaging with the Human Dimensions of Climate Change ([View the talk slides](#))

2017 May 13

Berger, Monica and John Carey: Open Scholarship and Climate Change: The Imperative for a New Information Ecosystem for the Anthropocene

2017 May 13

Chen, Robert S.: Enabling Interdisciplinary Use of Scientific Data on Human Interactions in the Environment

2017 May 13

Hamalainen, Hannah: Humanitarian Crisis Mapping in the Library

2017 May 13

Session 4: Plenary and discussion

2017 May 13

00:53:15

Howard Besser, Eira Tansey, Jill Kubit, and John Burgess

Session 5: Rethinking libraries

2017 May 14

01:41:41

Brunvand, Amy: Re-Localizing the Library: An Environmental Humanities Model ([View the talk slides](#))

2017 May 14

Shaw, Jodi: Climate Change, Libraries, and Survival Literacy: A Practical Guide

2017 May 14

King, Jennifer Gunther: A Changing Library for Rising Tides ([View the talk transcript](#))

2017 May 14

Berg, Jacob; Angela Galvan; and Eamon Tewell: Academic Libraries and the False Promises of Resiliency

2017 May 14

Session 6: Maintaining access, digital resilience

2017 May 14

01:31:47

Demb, Sarah R.: When the Lights Go Out: Digital Information and Existential Risk

2017 May 14

Christenson, Heather: The Large-scale Digital Library and Response to the Anthropocene

2017 May 14

Lamdan, Sarah: Improving Access to Environmental Information and Records

2017 May 14

Montoya, Robert: Documenting Biodiversity: Information, Libraries, and Professional Ethics

2017 May 14

Session 7: Architectures of resilience

2017 May 14

01:33:50

Mickiewicz, Paulina: The Library of 2114

2017 May 14

Macquarie, Charlie: Libraries, Landscapes, Stewardship: The Library of Approximate Location

2017 May 14

Tansey, Eira; Ben Goldman; Tara Mazurczyk; and Nathan Piekielek: Climate Control: Vulnerabilities of American Archives to Rising Seas, Hotter Days and More Powerful Storms

2017 May 14

Wolfe, Mark: Efficiency: Friend or Foe of Sustainability? Exploring the Impact of Jevons Paradox on the Archival Profession

2017 May 14

Session 8: Lightning talks

2017 May 14

01:11:02

Leitao, Carla: Foundation Landscapes of Massive Oblivion

2017 May 14

Highby, Wendy: The Tesseract, The Tesla, and the Anti-Reflexivity Thesis: How Librarians Can Save the World

2017 May 14

Denton, William: GHG.EARTH ([View the talk transcript](#))

2017 May 14

Atkins, Andrea: Libraries and Sustainability in the Former Soviet Union

2017 May 14

Williams, Beth Filar: Integrating Sustainability into the Daily Work Practices: Lessons Learned as a Manager ([View the talk transcript](#))

2017 May 14

Klett, Evi: Supporting Regenerative Practices in Denver: Programming and Networking @DPL ([View the talk slides](#))

2017 May 14

Cahalan, Sarah Burke: Libraries and Laudato Si' ([View the talk transcript](#))

2017 May 14

Avery, Amanda: Our Dark Materials: A Steampunk Future for Libraries? ([View the talk transcript](#))

2017 May 14

Session 9: Plenary and discussion

2017 May 14

00:39:39

Rick Prelinger, Jodi Shaw, and Amy Brunvand

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Madeleine Charney, 2017.

Digitized content

Videos of the presentations at Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene were recorded digitally and may be [Viewed online through SCUA's digital repository, Credo](#).

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Aug. 2018.

Language:

English

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Cite as: Libraries and Archives in the Anthropocene Collection (MS 1010). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

Archives--Social aspects

Climate change

Libraries--Social aspects

Tisch School of the Arts

Contributors

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Chen, Robert S.
Christenson, Heather
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Lamdan, Sarah
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Mazurczyk, Tara
Mickiewicz, Paulina
Montoya, Robert
Percoco, Anne
Piekielek, Nathan
Prelinger, Rick, 1953-
Shaw, Jodi
Stoss, Fred
Tansey, Eira
Templeton, Billy
Tewell, Eamon
Wolfe, Mark
Zastrow, Jan

Genres and formats

Video recordings (Physical artifacts)

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