Welcome Message — ASA President

Welcome to the 2023 ASA Conference: Care for the People in the Archives!

Archives are social spaces where staff, volunteers, and researchers come together to explore our communities’ stories through records. Since the last time we congregated, COVID has continued to take a toll and residential school grave discoveries have been at the forefront. These and other realities weigh upon us, as people as well as professionals.

My hope is that by gathering and learning we are reminded to take time to ensure we care for ourselves, to let our colleagues know that we are there for them, and to always be mindful of others, whether a researcher in our reading room or a person represented in the documents for which we care.

I would like to thank our Conference Program Committee; Jason Nisenson, Vino Vipulanantharajah, Jennifer Willard and Curtis Frederick, as well as Ericka Chemko, Conference Coordinator and ASA staff for making this program possible.

Sincerely,

Philip Pype, ASA President
Message from His Worship
Mayor Amarjeet Sohi

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, welcome to the Archives Society of Alberta Conference.

Archives play a critical role in our society. They show us where we have been and how we got there. The City of Edmonton is proud to maintain an extensive archives collection at the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre.

Archives help people connect with distant memories of family and communities and tell stories of important moments in our history.

They also play an important role in government’s accountability and transparency by providing proof of our actions and decisions, both positive and negative.

Archives can shine a light on injustices, and help us learn how we can do better as a city and as a community.

I would like to thank the attendees for the painstaking work they do to preserve and protect our records, documents and heritage.

Enjoy your conference!

A. Sohi

Amarjeet Sohi
MAYOR, CITY OF EDMONTON
# Conference Schedule — May 25 – 27

| Thursday, May 25 | Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre  
10440 108 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00am – 12:00pm | **Compassion Fatigue Workshop**  
(Online only) | |
| 12:00 – 1:00pm | **Lunch** (not provided) |
| 1:30 – 3:30pm | **Alberta on Record (AOR) Database Workshop**  
(ASA Office / in-person only) |
| 6:30 – 7:00pm | **Conference Registration** —  
Provincial Archives of Alberta (8555 Roper Rd) |
| 7:00 – 9:00pm | **Opening Reception** —  
Provincial Archives of Alberta In-person only |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, May 26</th>
<th>Governor’s Room</th>
<th>ASA Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8:30am – 9:00pm | **Conference Registration**  
(Prince of Wales Armouries foyer) | |
| 9:00 – 10:00pm | **Session 1 — Keynote Address** — Jennifer Douglas  
*Keep Running Towards the Danger: The Transformative Potential of Archival Care* | |
| 10:00 – 10:30am | **Health Break** | |
| 10:30 – 12:00pm | **Session 2A — Content Warnings**  
**Session 2B — Case Studies in Emotions and Archival Work** | |
| 12:00 – 1:00pm | **Lunch** (catered) | |
| 1:00 – 2:30pm | **Session 3A — Climate Anxiety and Donor Care**  
**Session 3B — Trauma-Informed Approach** | |
| 2:30 – 3:00am | **Health Break** | |
| 3:00 – 4:30pm | **Session 4A — Implementing Trauma-Informed Practice**  
**Session 4B — Workplace Investigations: Professional Approaches in an Archival Setting** | |
| 4:30 – 6:00pm | **Institutional Forum** (ASA institutional members only) | |
| 7:30 – 9:00pm | **Film Screening: Unarchived** | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, May 27</th>
<th>Governor’s Room</th>
<th>ASA Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8:30 – 9:00am | **Conference Registration**  
(Prince of Wales Armouries foyer) | |
| 9:30 – 10:15am | **Session 5 — Care in Activist and Community Archiving Contexts** | |
| 10:15 – 10:30am | **Health Break** | |
| 10:30 – 12:00pm | **Session 6 — Residential School Records and User Experience** | |
| 12:00 – 1:00pm | **Lunch** (catered) | |
| 1:00 – 2:00pm | **Advocacy Meeting** (ASA members) | |
| 2:00 – 2:15pm | **Health Break** | |
| 2:15 – 3:15pm | **Annual General Meeting** (ASA members) | |
**Program Details**

**Thursday, May 25 — Pre-Conference Workshops**

---

**Compassion Fatigue — May 25, 9:00am – 12:00pm (Online only)**

**Instructor:** Megan Hunter, CMHA

Compassion fatigue, also called “the cost of caring,” can be experienced by archival workers as there is a high chance of exposure to secondary trauma. Archival workers are at risk of potential mental health challenges, relationship problems and the inability to perform work responsibilities.

The symptoms of compassion fatigue are hard to recognize and require adequate support for the individual experiencing it. This workshop will help employers, employees and volunteers who may develop compassion fatigue.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of the training, participants will:

- Understand symptoms and effects of compassion fatigue and fatigue risk factors;
- Recognize personal and systemic barriers to receiving help;
- Learn how to manage daily perceived threats and stress in more effective ways;
- Create a self-care plan with resiliency-building skills and steps to improve workplace mental health.

---

**Alberta On Record (AOR) Workshop — May 25, 1:30 – 3:30 pm (In-person only, ASA Office)**

**Instructor:** Jia Jia Yong, Database Administrator, ASA

Description: The AOR Training session is an introduction to contributing content to AOR. The training is intended for those with little to no experience using AOR or for those who would like a refresher on how to use the database.

ONLY available to ASA Institutional Members; Pre-registration required.

---

**Opening Reception**

**Opening Reception — Thursday, May 25, 6:30 – 9pm**

Provincial Archives of Alberta, 8555 Roper Rd

To kick off our conference, ASA is hosting a reception. The reception will include tours of the Provincial Archives of Alberta, appetizers and an opportunity to network with colleagues.
Session 1: Keynote Address, Keep Running Towards the Danger: The Transformative Potential of Archival Care

Jennifer Douglas is associate professor and program chair of the Master of Archival Studies program at the School of Information, University of British Columbia, situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the xʷməθkəy̓əm (Musqueam) people. Her current research explores ideas about care in archival creation and preservation, recordkeeping as grief work, and recordkeeping as an act of love. She is also deeply interested in questions of archival representation. She teaches courses on arrangement and description, personal and community archives, and research approaches in archival studies.

The title of this talk borrows unabashedly from Canadian writer and film director Sarah Polley’s recent memoir, in which she recounts how a doctor who treated her for a traumatic head injury advised her that in order to regain her strength and health she had to learn to run towards the danger, the very activities that caused her pain and anxiety. Throughout the book of essays, in which she addresses other forms of trauma, including the death of her mother, experiences of sexual assault and traumatic childbirth, Polley engages this advice in different ways but to the same ends: to run towards the danger is to find a way through, rather than to, as one CBC reviewer put it, “live in a protective crouch.”

In this talk, I wish to explore what it can mean to run towards the danger in archives and to keep running towards the danger. Drawing on ten years of my own research on bereavement and recordkeeping and on the emotional dimensions of archival work, as well as on the ever-increasing archival literature on affect, emotion and liberatory practices, I will reflect on how discourses on archives and grief, trauma and care have unfolded and gained currency in both scholarship and professional practice. I will attempt to trace some of the effects of this currency in terms of changes to how these topics are received, talked about and considered in the development of new educational curricula, professional practices and standards. Most importantly, this talk aims to issue a warning — or maybe more generatively a call to action — to keep paying attention. It’s tempting to turn away from difficult topics like grief and trauma, but as with all efforts towards transformative change, and especially when the stakes are so high for so many, we need to continue to engage in this work with heart, to avoid assuming we’re done because we’ve done something, and to resist retreating back into our collective protective archival crouch. Keep running!

Irish government was able to pass legislation repealing the Eighth Amendment. The repeal of the Eighth Amendment of the Irish constitution during the 2018 referendum to repeal the amendment for reproductive justice in Ireland, especially created by grassroots organisations working together. The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), a Wellcome-funded project coordinated by Archiving Reproductive Health (ARH) is the work of Dr Lorraine Grimes, Ireland. Presenters: Clare Lanigan & Dr Lorraine Grimes, Ireland

**Session 2A — Content Warnings**

**Trigger Warnings as a Component of Archival Instruction**

**Presenter:** Kim Geraldi, Calgary, Alberta

In this presentation, I will discuss the value of the use of trigger warnings and/or content notes in the classroom while teaching with archival material. This is a practice I adopt and recommend to others. Many items found in archives can be triggering for researchers as they can describe scenes of violence, sexual assault, racism, gender and sexuality-based discrimination, and other forms of intolerance. The language used within these records and used to describe these records can be difficult to encounter. By using a trigger warning at the beginning of a session, we can hopefully avoid retraumatizing researchers.

We also must discuss why this language appears in archival records, and why we can’t just cover it up. This language reflects the very real lived experiences of many marginalized people. We risk historical erasure by removing it from the record, and dismiss real harm done to individuals. While we work to use more inclusive language while processing archival records, we must prepare researchers that they will likely come across problematic language in their work, and that it’s okay to step back and remove themselves from these situations if need be. By preparing students, who are researchers at the beginning of their career, we are setting them up for success in archival research.

This presentation will look at this issue from the perspective of the presenter’s experience as an Archivist primarily with the Glenbow Archival Collection, and her experience with instruction for the UCalgary community, which includes UCalgary’s campus community and Glenbow’s active community users, and will include examples of possible trigger warnings that the presenter has used in a classroom setting.

**More than just “Content Warnings” — The Role of Educators in Mental Health and Moving Image Preservation**

**Presenter:** Michael Marlatt, Toronto, Ontario

In a 2021 Salary and Demographics survey conducted by the Association of Moving Image Archivists, 36 percent of respondents identified having some form of difficulty with mental health, which is a rate much higher than many national averages. Examples included depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Film, as an audio-visual medium, brings with it the potential to exacerbate mental health difficulties that are not present in other material found in the archive. This potential trauma is only magnified when working with problematic material that often intersects with forms of identity currently underrepresented in the field. Archival education and training are often where this problematic relationship with the preservation of audiovisual material begins.

This presentation argues for the role that archival education must play in normalizing the discussion surrounding moving image archival trauma and the impact that can have on the mental health of the archivist. Themes include how programs can partner with campus accessibility services, archival professional organizations, and internship host sites. Strategies for archivist mental health awareness in course material include readings, class discussions, guest speakers, and site visits. The need for action is not only shown through the results of the Salary and Demographics survey but also interviews done with students/ alumni for my dissertation on lived experiences of disability, chronic illness, and neurodiversity in North American graduate level education. These themes are also guided by my own experiences navigating the field as a trained film archivist with epilepsy and related mental health disorders.

**Session 2B — Case Studies in Emotions and Archival Work**

**Developing a self-care protocol for archivists working with potentially traumatic data — the Archiving Reproductive Health experience**

**Presenters:** Clare Lanigan & Dr Lorraine Grimes, Ireland

Archiving Reproductive Health (ARH) is a Wellcome-funded project coordinated by the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), which is working to preserve digital material created by grassroots organisations working for reproductive justice in Ireland, especially during the 2018 referendum to repeal the Eighth Amendment of the Irish constitution. The repeal of the Eighth Amendment meant that the Irish government was able to pass legislation enabling elective abortion in Ireland for the first time in the nation’s history.

A key part of the ARH collection are stories posted on a Facebook page called “In Her Shoes”, where people anonymously shared their experiences of being refused abortion care, having to travel or illegally order pills online, and the emotional impact of these experiences. These stories often contained details of traumatic experiences such as sexual assault, obstetric violence and domestic abuse.

From the start, we as a team were concerned about the potential impact of this material on a researcher. Studies indicated that ‘vicarious trauma’ was a risk, therefore we took proactive steps to develop a protocol that would enable researchers to protect themselves from vicarious trauma while working with this data. This resulted in our “Self-Care Protocol for Archivists and Researchers: Archiving Reproductive Health”. This protocol was published on DRI and is available at https://doi.org/10.7486/DRI.7079k0713-1

We discuss the nature of the material in the In Her Shoes collection, the potential for vicarious trauma within, the sources consulted for guidance on developing self-care protocol and the process of writing and finalising the protocol, with the hope that it will be of use to others.
The Lived Experiences and/or Coping Mechanism of Volunteers/Participants and Employees of the Human Rights Violations Victims Memorial Commission (HRVVMC) of the Philippines

Presenter: Amor C. Martin-Favila, Quezon City, Philippines

The Human Rights Violations Victims’ Memorial Commission was created by the Republic Act No. 10368 or the Human Rights Violations Reparations and Recognition Act of 2013. It is also known as “An Act Providing for Reparation and Recognition of Victims of Human Rights Violations During the Marcos Regime, Documentation of Said Violations, Appropriating Funds Therefor and For Other Purposes” particularly in Section 27. The primary mandate of the Memorial Commission is to establish, restore, preserve and conserve a Memorial Museum, Library, Archive and Compendium in honor of the human rights violation victims during the Marcos regime who are included in the Roll of Human Rights Violations Victims determined by the Human Rights Victims’ Claims Board. In the process of building and organizing its archival collections, the Executive Director has thought of involving the younger generation in the indexing project through partnership with the academic institution in the Philippines, which aims to indirectly educate the participants in order to fulfill its mandate, but with a corresponding responsibility to render a psychological support service to its stakeholders. It is through this effort that the Resource and Archives Division discovers the impact of the gruesome stories of the human rights victims assigned to the students. On the part of the archivists, the effect of reading the narratives and proof of human rights violations is really unexplainable whenever one has to draft the biographical history of each victim because nightmares or worst trauma really lingers. This paper will attempt to share the lived experiences and/or coping mechanisms of its employees and volunteers/participants using interviews and reports of the psychological debriefing sessions.

Failing at motherhood while arranging and describing collections relating to the South Africa Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the narrative of Ruth First

Presenter: Isabel S Schellnack-Kelly, South Africa

In 2006, while working as an independent archives and records management consultant, I was approached by the South African History Archives to arrange and describe two collections. The Julian Knight and Rudolph Jansen Collection consisted of documents relating to legal representations for individuals associated with committing mass murders and other atrocities against activists fighting the South African apartheid government. The amnesty applications were from several members of the security branch to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, held in South Africa, between 1996 and 2003. The TRC investigated human rights abuses that occurred between 1960 and 1994; and considered amnesty applications from individuals who had been involved in committing these atrocities. One of the victims was an activist by the name of Ruth First. Heloise Ruth First (4 May 1925 – 17 August 1982) was a South African anti-apartheid activist and scholar. She was assassinated in Mozambique, where she was working in exile, by a parcel bomb built by South African Police. As a woman dealing with my own personal challenge of battling to have children, the persecutions Ruth First endured at the hands of the apartheid government relating to her own children left an indelible mark on my psyche.

Session 3A — Climate Anxiety and Donor Care

Presenter: Curtis Frederick, Calgary, Alberta

Donors may have a wide variety of emotions around, and motivations for, donating material to archives, but at the core is the fact that their story might belong in a trusted memory institution. In such institutions, many donors are looking for validation of either themselves, their loved ones or personal or shared lived experiences. What they seek validation for can range from achievements to experiences of trauma or loss. Such donations are often spurred by significant life events in the donor’s life, such as the loss of a loved one, retirement, or career change, all of which can overlay strong emotions on the act of donating. As archivists, we are trained to evaluate the historical significance of records, but we are often ill equipped to act as support or a “shoulder” for donors, creating a potentially fraught environment in which to make acquisition decisions and negotiate donation agreements.

This presentation examines the subject of donor validation in collecting institutions, drawing on literature from the fields of archives, museums, and libraries, as well as the presenter’s experience working with donors at a variety of stages of life. It will provide tangible advice for acknowledging and satisfying donors’ needs for validation and maintaining good donor relations, while staying true to collecting mandates by acquiring only those records that hold continuing archival value.
Friday, May 26 (continued)

**Session 3B — Trauma-Informed Approaches**

**Library and Archives Canada’s Trauma-Informed Community of Practice: Caring for Ourselves**

**Presenters:** Jana Buhlmann & Rebecca Murray, Ottawa, ON

We would like to tell the story of a convergence. In March of 2020, the world entered into a global pandemic that some have come to describe as collective trauma. At Library and Archives Canada (LAC), an analyst, an archivist, and a manager had a spontaneous conversation about the trauma-informed approach they were discovering via the new Trauma-Informed Community of Practice (TICoP). These three employees spoke openly about how they felt about the pandemic, how they felt a growing sense of safety and empowerment in institutions made up of people, people who have been exploring these themes, whether alone or in similar communities of practice. Our institutions are made up of people, people who felt a growing sense of safety and empowerment during the pandemic and who do not want to close the door on that — recognizing the impacts on our health, the quality of work we create and do.

**Techniques for Handling Vicarious Trauma**

**Presenter:** Christy Bailey-Tomecek, Yale University, U.S.A.

Working regularly with emotionally difficult materials can take a toll on archives staff, which is commonly known as vicarious trauma. In this paper/session, I will discuss the coping techniques that I employ in my work at the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies to mitigate this trauma. These techniques are modeled after both organically-developed methods and mindfulness-based distress tolerance practices. These techniques can be employed in the moment at work and as maintenance outside of work. Beyond self-management of one’s vicarious trauma, these also inform empathetic relationships with colleagues and empathetic management of student employees at the archive.

**Session 4A — Implementing Trauma-Informed Practice**

**Creating cultural change: resources to care for people in archives**

**Presenters:** Nicola Laurent; Kirsten Wright, Melbourne, Australia

This paper will discuss the need for resources to support archivists and volunteers around issues of archives and trauma. This includes supporting and normalizing issues of vicarious trauma: dealing with grief; and supporting archivists to support archives users who may have their own emotional reactions to records.

**From the work we have done on trauma-informed archival practice, including a recent international survey on trauma and archives, it is clear that support is needed, and that this support must come from the organizations employing archivists. These issues are part of the occupational health and safety protections employers should be putting in place for employees, but this is rarely done for issues of trauma and distress. Therefore, this paper will discuss what resources are needed to support archival organizations to support their staff, and ask what roles there are for archival organizations, archival educators, and professional associations.**

Much of the work in articulating experiences of archives and trauma has come from early- or mid-career professionals, many who are on the front line of dealing with these issues on a daily basis. Therefore, this paper will also highlight the need for leaders and senior managers of archival organizations to engage with these issues, to help drive the cultural change required to make archives safe and supportive places for all.
Attempting a trauma-informed approach to archival practice at Barnardos Australia

**Presenter:** Camille Moret, Loughborough, UK

Providing access to historical care records exposes archivists to interactions with persons experiencing feelings of grief, anger, fear as well as mental health issues. Archivists may service users who are triggered by traumatic information contained in the records and/or experience vicarious trauma themselves.

This presentation will first cover these issues as faced by the sole archivist at Barnardos Australia during her three-year tenure, in a context mostly adverse to the good practice of core archival functions.

It will then focus on two responses developed in the course of that tenure: a remedial one with straightforward impact on both archival practice and the practitioner’s wellbeing; the other, less direct, with unexpected benefits. Funding was sought to receive formal training with the Australian Society of Archivists regarding care records, related service users as well trauma-informed archival strategies. Another action was the digitisation of the historical care leavers index card system for better preservation. As the scans made contents (recording to some detail care leavers and their care experience) instantly accessible however, this had the unexpected benefit of empowering staff first responding to requests (especially over the phone). This facilitated engagement on a personal level, sped identification processes and acknowledgment of care leavers’ experiences, allowing for a more curated response. It also helped identify potentially difficult or triggering situations and enabled the responder to curtail potential retraumatization of requesters and vicarious trauma in the practitioner.

Those two responses prompted some reflections as to how some primary archival functions can support a trauma-informed practice.

**Session 4B — Workplace Investigations**

**Professional Approaches in an Archival Setting**

**Presenter:** Joan Dunlop, Cenera, Calgary, Alberta

New or enhanced respectful workplace policies; increased public awareness of harassment issues; new workplace legislative requirements; post-pandemic employee tensions — all this and more have increased the likelihood and gravity of workplace investigations in all organizations in Alberta, big and small. How do you prepare your archival organization to recognize and deal with workplace harassment, discrimination, or violence? What’s involved in initiating and conducting an investigation? Who should complete them? How should complainants, respondents, witnesses, other staff, unions, or management be treated during the investigation? How do you ensure that the process is fair, sympathetic and humane and that the results are complete and unbiased? This session will present information, methodology, and experiences that will help archival managers, administrators and professional staff better understand how a difficult process can be conducted to, in the end, sustain and enhance workplace health. We will also explore how the unique circumstances of an archival program factor into development of respectful workplace programs, the conduct of investigations and the ultimate outcomes.

**ASA Institutional Forum**

The spring meeting for representatives of ASA institutional members only.

(Friday, May 26 — 4:30pm)

**Film Screening: Unarchived**

In community archives across British Columbia, local knowledge keepers are hand-fashioning a more inclusive history. Through a collage of personal interviews, archival footage and deeply rooted memories, the past, present and future come together, fighting for a space where everyone is seen and everyone belongs. History is what we all make of it.

(7:30 – 9:00pm)
Session 5 — Care in Activist and Community Archiving Contexts

Stories from the Sex Work Activist Histories Project

**Presenters:** Danielle Allard, Edmonton; Shawna Farris, Winnipeg; Amy Lebovitch, Winnipeg

A vibrant, influential, and connected Canadian sex work rights movement has been engaging in an array of remarkable resistance projects for decades that counter dangerous sex work laws and dehumanizing public perceptions about sex workers. The Sex Work Activist Histories Project (SWAHP) is an interdisciplinary research initiative that has set out to 1) collect or record, write, curate, preserve, and/or engage with more than forty years of activist histories from some of the longest-standing sex worker-led organizations in Canada; and 2) to augment, develop, and implement methodologies and best practices for valuing and sharing knowledge and expertise between sex work community members, archival, and academic communities. An important element of the SWAHP project is the Sex Work Database (SWD), an activist community archives that contains the organizational records of sex work activist groups. Ongoing challenges of SWD's collaborative archival work are the divergent vocabularies, project priorities, accountabilities, understandings of what is at stake, and risks and vulnerabilities between and among the sex work activist organization members and academic and archival partners in this partnership. Responding to the conference theme “Care for people in the archives”, this presentation explores how project members think about care in this archive, share some of the intergenerational trauma that we have witnessed from these users — which is not always overt and can be quite subtle — and how we tried to help them with their quest to learn more about their families. Lastly, we will look at more general researchers of residential schools. This includes such groups as news media, scholars writing articles, and the general public looking to learn more on the topic. These groups generally don’t have a personal connection to residential schools, however depending on the nature of their research we found that these groups also had quite varied emotional responses. We also found that these groups in particular had some strong reactions and emotions with respect to the different archives that they have consulted and how helpful the institutions were to them.

Session 6 — Residential School Records and User Experience

**Presenter:** Vino Vipulantharajah, Musée Héritage Museum, St. Albert

The Musée Héritage Museum Archives in St. Albert proposes to share the experience of providing reference to users seeking information on residential schools. Since the unmarked graves at the Kamloops Residential School came to light in 2021, we have had increased reference work with respect to residential schools. St. Albert had two residential schools which has also made our institution a place that is sought out by residential school survivors, their families, and researchers. We would like to share the emotional impact we have witnessed from the archivists working with the patrons, families of residential school survivors, and researchers on the topic. We also hope to provide some coping mechanisms to help others work with the topic of residential schools and also what we learned as archivists about how we need to conduct our research. Our presentation will begin first with a brief overview of the two residential schools in St. Albert in order to give some context and the rare records we have with respect to some residential schools across Western Canada. Following this we will look at the emotions of three different groups who are dealing with gaining information on residential schools. Firstly, we will discuss our staff, namely archivists and curator at the museum, and their emotions while working with our patrons and records. We will also talk about our experience putting together panels for a healing garden and an exhibit on residential schools in order to inform our community. We had limited sources with respect to actual residential school records, so we sought out different institutions. This process became time consuming and frustrating at times in order to piece together some basic information. Secondly, we will look at the emotions of families of residential school survivors who have contacted us. Predominately it is families of survivors who have visited us rather than the survivors themselves, which gave us some insight to the trauma in families. We will share some of this intergenerational trauma that we have witnessed from these users — which is not always overt and can be quite subtle — and how we tried to help them with their quest to learn more about their families. Lastly, we will look at more general researchers of residential schools. This includes such groups as news media, scholars writing articles, and the general public looking to learn more on the topic. These groups generally don’t have a personal connection to residential schools, however depending on the nature of their research we found that these groups also had quite varied emotional responses. We also found that these groups in particular had some strong reactions and emotions with respect to the different archives that they have consulted and how helpful the institutions were to them.
Advocacy Meeting

This gathering is intended for ASA members but conference attendees are welcome to attend and hear about ASA’s advocacy plans. ASA has undergone hiring a consultant to assist us with our communications to improve our advocacy work. The consultant will present on the topic and express the importance of the archival community working on advocacy together. Our Advocacy and Outreach committee will also present on a toolkit that they are working on to assist ASA membership with this work. The aim is to launch this toolkit for Archives Week. There will be time for Q&A after the presentations.

(1:00 – 2:00pm)


Presenter: Madalyn Manziuk, UofA Law and Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology

As Indigenous communities continue the important work of finding the unmarked burials of children who were victims of the residential school system, access to archival records is essential to this work. This presentation will first discuss what constitutes a “residential school record,” and the role of archival records in ground searches utilizing non-invasive archaeological methods for finding unmarked burials and in identifying missing children. Second, drawing on experience supporting Indigenous communities and engaging with archives and archivists through work with the Institute of Prairie and Indigenous Archaeology, this presentation will describe some of the current barriers facing communities in doing archival research and the ways in which archives and archivists can support community access to records in a trauma-informed way. Finally, the challenges posed by the records themselves and the inaccessibility of records and difficulty of navigating archival institutions will be discussed, to consider the ways archives can reimagine their role in supporting Indigenous communities working to find missing children and unmarked burials at residential schools and the actionable steps that can be taken on the ground to follow the guidelines of the SCAA TRC Taskforce’s Reconciliation Framework and the TRC Calls to Action.

Annual General Meeting

For all members of the ASA. (2:15 – 3:15pm)
Our Sponsors
ASA would like to thank the following sponsors of our conference for making this conference possible:

Conference Organizers
ASA’s Conference Program Committee volunteers include Curtis Frederick, Jason Nisenson, Vino Vinotharajah, and Jennifer Willard. Thank you for all the work you did in preparing the conference program. The ASA Secretariat was also responsible for organizing this conference — Rene Georgopalis, Executive Director, Bronwyn Burlingham, Administrative Assistant and Ericka Chemko, Conference Coordinator.