

**Call for Proposals – ASA Conference 2021
Archives in Interesting Times**

Date: May 27-29, 2021

Location: Edmonton, Alberta (online if necessary)

Conference Theme – Archives in Interesting Times

We are witnessing turmoil around the globe, including a pandemic, economic struggle, climate change and the Black Lives Matter protests. Archives are not isolated from what is happening and there has been much stress to archives as a result. Our profession is challenged by funding cuts which are especially prominent in our oil and gas-based economy in Alberta. The pandemic has also contributed to a lack of revenue, but of significant note, the pandemic has changed our work. In addition, we are still seeing natural disasters affecting our facilities as climate change is increasingly becoming an issue. There has been a rise in the outcry against social injustices which has made archives re-examine their colonial-based policies in hopes for new policies that are more inclusive. Our holdings bear witness to some of these social injustices. Keeping in mind the tornado of events that are changing our professional life, ASA's 2021 Conference looks at our profession in interesting times.

We welcome proposals that could include but are not limited to topics such as:

- Changes in archival policy over the years in Canada and Alberta
- Particular phenomena to which archives lend perspective (e.g. COVID and the Spanish Flu)
- Resiliency in Archives
- Emotional labour within the archival profession
- Building partnerships with other organizations
- Community engagement
- Sharp contraction in funding (cuts or reallocation in funding)
- People retiring and not being replaced (lack of succession planning and funding going to other areas of operations)
- Waning and waxing of support for archives within organizations
 - Funding
 - Advocacy work
 - Promotion
- Natural disasters
- Change in public perception by the public and their use of archives
 - Impacts of increased advocacy and social media presence
 - Increase in communities' need for archives and therefore a larger market for them opening up
- Changing technology – though this is always something archives are managing, what are these interesting times now allowing?
- What are the benefits and challenges that these interesting times and working from home or decreased public in the reading room provided to the field?
 - Projects on the backburner have been brought forward due to working from home
 - How has working from home changed the focus of work?
 - Changing nature of work

We are interested in reflecting upon how archives have changed during challenging circumstances and societal trends as well as how archives have provided context for these issues.

The deadline for submitting conference proposals is October 30, 2020

Please send your abstracts, 250 words or less, to reneg@archivesalberta.org. Include your contact information, the format you'd like to present in (ex. Individual presentation, roundtable discussion, or panel discussion) as well as a bio of 50 words or less.
