
Putting the Archivist in Community Archives (or not)

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University of British Columbia

Unpacking the Digital Shoebox Symposium,
Feb. 17, 2012.

Agenda

- Definitions: Community, Community Archives
- Examples of Communities and the Archives they generate.
- The Archivist in the Community Archives
- Questions for archivists

A Community is . . . ?

- **A Common Place or Locality.** Shared geography
- **An Common Interest, belief, lifestyle.** Shared characteristic other than place.
 - ie. religious belief, sexual orientation, occupation, ethnicity.
- **A Common Purpose.** A shared event, purpose or mission:
 - i.e. hastily formed networks; traumatic event

Community is . . .

- **Relational and longitudinal** : A group of people who form relationships over time by interacting regularly around shared experiences, which are of interest to all of them for varying individual reasons.
- **A Site of Communion**: Shared sense of attachment to a place, a group or an idea. In its strongest form 'communion' entails a profound meeting or encounter.
- **Virtual**: 'Imagined' but similarly of place, interest, communion, relationships

Community creates . . .

- **Identity:** Sense of self as a member of a group.
- Sense of **Collective Memory and Heritage**
- Vehicle of **Communication and Advocacy** for the group
- **Social Structures**
- **Boundaries:** Shared commonality distinguishes members of a group in a significant way from the members of other possible groups.
 - Community implies both similarity and difference. May also imply elitism

Community Archives: What do we really mean?

May depend on where you live!

- Non-public archives
 - Private archives
 - Historical society
 - Non-government
 - Local history collection
 - Heritage site
 - Participatory archives
 - Independent community archives
-

Community Archives . . .

“The defining characteristic of a community archives is the active participation of the community in documenting and making accessible the history of their particular group and/or locality ***on their own terms***”.

Andrew Flinn, 2009. UK

“A key premise of community archiving is to give substance to a community's right to own its own memories”

Kathy Eales, S. A. Archives Journal, 1998.

Community Archives . . .

“Initiatives which aim to develop a collection of new information with substantial inputs from volunteers in terms of time, expertise or content / information. Typically, these initiatives focus on the history of a particular location or topic of shared interest to participants.”

Consultants Report on Sustainable Community
Archives for Museums Libraries Archives Council,

UK

Community Archives are ...

“Collections of original records of permanent value generated from within a community – that is, a group of people who live in the same location or share other forms of community of interest – and whose collection, maintenance and use involves active participation of that community.” Joanna Newman, N.Z.

Community Archives are . . .

“An important space, arguably an increasing space, in the arena of social memory can be filled – is best filled – by non-public archives”

Verne Harris, 1998

“In a community archive, community members are more prominent in deciding what materials or artefacts are pertinent to reclaiming the spaces in their social memory. Consequently, it can be hard to differentiate between the separate functions of a museum, archive and resource centre”

Workshop on Community Archives.S. A. Archives

Journal, 1998.

Community Archives are . . .

- Political
- Grassroots
- Autonomous
- Activist
- Outside the Mainstream
- Representing and advocating particular - often minority – narratives and voices.
- Local

Community Archives are also ...

- Sites of identity and advocacy
 - The manifestation of a shared enthusiasm for the history of a place, occupation or interest.
 - Sites of heritage and memory
 - Supported by volunteers
 - Supported by non-profit organizations
 - Supported by local governments
 - Supported by institutional archives
-

Some Varieties of Community Archives

Community Archives:

- creation
- support
- sustainability

National Archival Organization -UK



Go

the national directory of community archives in the UK

Browse the site

About us

Archives

Resources

Features

What's on

Messages



Log in

User name:

Password:

Log in

Register now



Welcome

This website has been set up to support and promote community archives in the UK. It is run by the **Community Archives and Heritage Group**.

If you run an archive, please add it to the **directory**. If you're interested in community archives, please receive our **newsletter** and join us as a **member**.

See what's new

ARA Archive Volunteering Award 2012

Alcester Heritage Network
Alcester, Warwickshire

Join us



Become a free member



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Highlights



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Community Archives and Heritage Group
Community Archive Award 2011



Help with cataloguing



Home > Archives > Local or regional communities in England > East Midlands

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Archives

Resources

Features

What's on

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Log in

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East Midlands

Below is a list of all the archives in the East Midlands. You can also find these on a [map](#). Please [register](#) to add another archive to the directory.



Ashby de la Zouch Museum
North Street, Ashby de la Zouch



Bottesford "Living History" Community Heritage Project
Bottesford and Muston, Leicestershire



Caistor Community History
Caistor, Lincolnshire



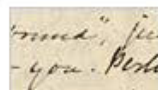
Chaddesden Historical Group Archives.
Chaddesden, Derbyshire. UK.



Clowne Community Website
Clowne, Derbyshire



Cogenhoe and Whiston Oral History Project
Northamptonshire



Crick Digital Archive
Old School, Crick Northants



Dukes Wood Oil Museum
Eakring, Nottinghamshire

Highlights






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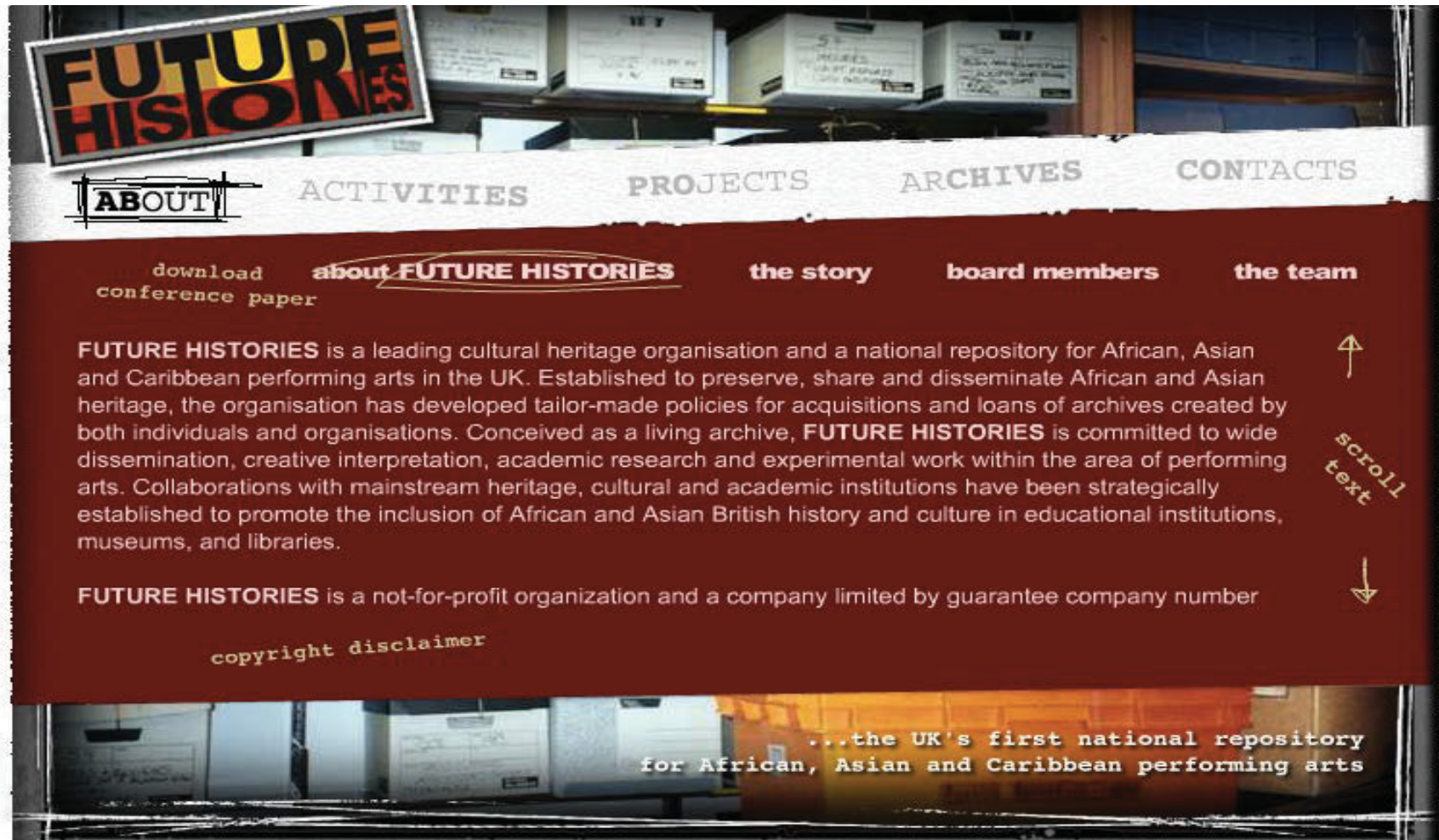
Community Archives and Heritage Group
Community Archive Award 2011



Help with cataloguing

Features	Information, guidance and useful links for community archives. Please contribute to this section.	 <p>Community Archives and Heritage Group Community Archive Award 2011</p>
What's on	Setting up a community archive Useful sources of information	
Messages	Setting up a website What you will need to get started	
 Log in User name: <input type="text"/> Password: <input type="password"/> <input type="button" value="Log in"/> <input type="button" value="Register now"/> Forgot password?	Cataloguing How to catalogue your collection	
	Collections care Caring for your records	
	Funding Details of potential funders	
	Impact of community archives A 2006 report on the social impact of community archives, with case-studies and helpsheet	 <p>Supported by the Archives and Records Association (ARA)</p>
	Links Useful organisations	
	Oral History Advice and resources	
	Promoting/publicising the group's work How to promote your group	
Research		

Independent Archives - UK



Juluwarlu Aboriginal Corporation—Australia



Wanthiwa!

Juluwarlu Aboriginal Corporation is an Indigenous organisation dedicated to the recording, preservation and maintenance of Yindjibarndi language and culture. Our office is located in Roebourne, not far from the coast in the northwest of Australia, and our country encompasses Millstream Chichester National Park.

Highest NAIDOC honour to Ned Cheedy

The most prestigious NAIDOC prize, the Lifetime Achievement Award, has been awarded to Ned Cheedy, a respected elder and custodian of Yindjibarndi country, where he was born a century ago at Hooley Station on Cheedy Creek in Western Australia.

At 105, Ned still contributes tirelessly to caring for Yindjibarndi law, country, culture, language and the future of his people.

[read more.](#)

Added on 22 July 2011

11th Remote Indigenous Media Festival



Ned Cheedy is a great teacher. We are blessed to still have him with us, and he to be so willing and able to pass on some of his great wisdom and knowledge. The key is that Juluwarlu has the ability, technical expertise and media equipment to record Mayinbunu. Ned's life is a living example of Australia's cultural history and heritage.

JULUWARLU's mission is to collect, record, catalogue, archive, preserve, re-produce, exhibit and broadcast the culture and history of the Yindjibarndi peoples as a resource for our own people, especially the

 [Meet the Juluwarlu Team](#)

 [Minuwami Ganyagayi: The Yindjibarndi Archiving Project](#)
Collecting and preserving video, photographs,



Ganyjagayi Mirnu

The Juluwarlu Archiving Project

Over the last six years, Juluwarlu has been collecting material relating to Yindjibarndi language, culture and history from individuals and organisations from around Australia.

Anyone holding material such as photographs, slides, documents, or sound or film recordings which they would like to donate or allow Juluwarlu to copy for our archive, please contact Juluwarlu on

+61 08 9182 1497 or

lcoppin@juluwarlu.pilbara.net

Any donations of material will be greatly appreciated, and Juluwarlu offers to cover all copying & postal expenses, and will acknowledge any donations in our archive.

Upon request, donors can also receive a copy of digitised images of their collection on DVD.

Thank you to our donors

Some of our recent acquisitions include



Ganyjagayi Mirnu literally means 'keeping knowledge'. To help us achieve this, in 2005, Juluwarlu purchased archiving software from [Ara Irititja](#), an organisation that has for the last ten years been working with the Pitjantjatjara Council to record historical materials relating to the Anangu (Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara) people. The [Ara Irititja](#) system is currently used by communities and organisations throughout Central Australia as well as in Broome and Darwin.

We've already archived over 5000 images and several hundred documents, and are currently working on digitising and archiving the hundreds of hours of audio and video footage Juluwarlu has collected or recorded.

People from the community or the general public are welcome to come in and access the archive. You can either have a general browse through the records, or search by name, place, date, subject or collection. You can also print a copy of pictures that you'd like to take home.

The database is easy to use, and Juluwarlu staff are happy to help navigate until you get the hang of it. We also need people to come in to identify people and add their names to the archive. So if you've got some spare time, this would be a good opportunity to look through our history and help preserve it for the next generation.

Join us in 2008

We are currently seeking volunteers with skills in filming, editing, directing, multimedia or web



Maine Memory Network –Maine Historical Society

The screenshot displays the Maine Memory Network website. At the top, the header includes the site's name in a stylized font and navigation links for 'Login', 'My Account', and 'About'. The main content area features a large banner for 'MAINE AND THE CIVIL WAR' with a description of the collection and a 'Read More' link. To the right, a 'Explore the Collections' section shows a photograph of herring being stringed, with a caption identifying the location and date. Below the banner, a 'See What's New' section highlights historical items and exhibits. A search bar is positioned in the center, allowing users to search by keyword or browse collections. The bottom of the page is divided into four columns: 'EXHIBITS' with links to trolley car guides, 'MAINE HISTORY ONLINE' with a survey link, 'OUR PARTNERS' with a link to community history websites, and 'SHARE YOUR LOCAL HISTORY' with a link to learn how to contribute. Each column includes a representative image.

MAINE
Memory
NETWORK

Login | My Account | About

< 1 2 3 4 >

MAINE AND THE CIVIL WAR

Enter the era of the Civil War with documents, photographs, letters, and online exhibits – many organized by regiment or theme – that come from across the state. -- updated frequently.

[Read More >](#) civilwar.mainememory.net

Explore the Collections



[Stringing herring at McCurdy's Smokehouse, Lubec, ca. 1964](#)

Contributed by Lubec Landmarks

See What's New - Historical Items and Exhibits

Search or Browse the Collections

Keyword(s) **SEARCH** [Advanced Search](#)

EXHIBITS

[A Field Guide to Trolley Cars](#)
[Shepard Cary: Lumberman, Legislator, Leader and Legend](#)
[The Trolley Parks of Maine](#)

[View All Exhibits](#)
[Student Exhibits](#)

MAINE HISTORY ONLINE

A survey organized by time period and theme



OUR PARTNERS

Community history websites and contributing partners



SHARE YOUR LOCAL HISTORY

Learn how your organization or community can contribute



The History Project -Independent

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Our Mission

To document and preserve the history of Boston's LGBT community, and to share that information with the public.

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Watch a short movie about THP.

Read our latest newsletter.

See photos from the 2011 HistoryMaker Awards!
Thanks for making the 2011 HistoryMaker Awards such a success!

You can still support The History Project with a tax-deductible donation

[Donate](#)

THP presents "From the Archives"

Join us in the archives for our monthly series about Boston's GLBT history.

All events in this series are held at The History Project, 29 Stanhope Street in Boston, unless otherwise noted. Events happen on the third Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00pm and are free and open to the public.

SIMMONS Graduate School of Library and Information Science

21

Mission Community Archives— British Columbia

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Mission Community Archives

Our Heritage to Hold and Preserve

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About Us

1989

With the introduction of knowledge on standards for handling archives in the mid-1980s the Board established an Archives Advisory Committee to develop guidelines for the physical care and management of archival materials. Spear-headed by Val Billesberger, a volunteer, the committee forged ahead and established a separate administrative structure for the operation of the archives based upon internationally accepted archival principles and procedures.

Among the major projects undertaken by the Committee was the construction of a storage room in the Museum for archival holdings. Although the area would not provide adequate space to support the operations of the archives, it would establish for the first time, a central, secure place to house the unique irreplaceable archival holdings. Through a grant from the municipality, the assistance of local businesses and members of the Society, the room was built. On February 25th, 1989 Mayor Sophie Weremchuk cut the ribbon to officially open the Mission Community Archives marking its transition to a distinct branch of the Society. This occasion was highlighted by a generous financial contribution by the Mission Foundation to acquire proper equipment and supplies to furnish the archives.

1994

In January of 1994, the Society received core funding from the District of Mission to hire the



Sophie Weremchuk Mayor of Mission
with President of the Mission Historical
Society Ernie Lathrop. February 25,
1989.
Photograph courtesy Mission Community Archives



Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives



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CLGA Open for Public Service

The CLGA is open for public service on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7.30 pm to 10 pm.

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International Organization for Migration





Archives of Memory

Archives
of Memory

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Presentation

Multiple Voices from the Kosovar Experience

*This web site combines the materials gathered for the **Archives of Memory**, under the programme **Psychosocial and Trauma Response** jointly implemented in Kosovo by the International Organization for Migration and the University of Pristina.*

*The documents preserved in the Archives of Memory consist of **letters, diaries, drawings, interviews** and **pictures**, which yield different accounts of the Kosovar experience of war and forced migration.*

*Part of these documents were produced during the training course for psychosocial counselors (see the pages on **Course Material** and **Video**), the main section of the IOM programme, which devoted one of its sessions to the collection of war memories from individuals and groups.*

The documents can be consulted through the database, which provides different fields of research. They can, however, also be browsed in their given order: each of the documents is collected by type (provided with number of registration in the database, and their site can easily be navigated).

University sponsored, community driven

THE SEPTEMBER 11 DIGITAL ARCHIVE

SAVING THE HISTORIES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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This is a beta version of a new design for the September 11 Digital Archive.

[Click here](#) to view the previous version of the website.

The September 11 Digital Archive uses electronic media to collect, preserve, and present the history of September 11, 2001 and its aftermath. The Archive contains more than 150,000 digital items, a tally that includes more than 40,000 emails and other electronic communications, more than 40,000 first-hand stories, and more than 15,000 digital images. In September 2003, the Library of Congress accepted the Archive into its collections, an event that both ensured the Archive's long-term preservation and marked the library's first major digital acquisition.

Browse: Explore the collection for stories, images, emails, documents, sounds, and videos of September 11

Research: Search, sort, and examine the entire collection

Contribute: Tell your story, add your email, and upload images, documents, and other digital files to the Archive

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Carakova: Community of the disappeared.





Causevic (Kasim) Dzevad

Rodjen: 01.01.1963. Carakovo

Adresa: Carakovo 22

Nestao: 24.07.1992 Keraterm



Causevic (Kasim) Emir

Rodjen: 21.01.1956. Carakovo

Adresa: Carakovo 21

Nestao: 23.07.1992 Carakovo



Causevic (Kasim) Hasaga

Rodjen: 15.09.1961. Carakovo

Adresa: Carakovo

Nestao: 25.07.1992 Keraterm



Causevic (Hase) Besim

Rodjen: 20.04.1941. Carakovo

Adresa: Carakovo

Nestao: 25.07.1992 Keraterm



Causevic (Hase) Eniz

Rodjen: 26.04.1966. Carakovo

Adresa: Carakovo

Nestao: 25.07.1992 Carakovo



Causevic (Husein) Fadil

Rodjen: 11.07.1954. Carakovo

Adresa: Carakovo

Nestao: 25.07.1992 Keraterm

Role of the Archivist – New Zealand

Toolkit for Community Archives

Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga is committed to providing leadership and support for archives in the community. *Toolkit for Community Archives* has been developed to give our communities basic information about the care and management of their archives.

New Zealand's archival sector continues to grow with many communities determining their goals for the management and care of their information for future generations.


The Role of the Archivist - Canada

Preserving Communities: A Guide to Archiving for Community Organizations

This guide is intended to assist grassroots community organizations with archiving their records. Many community organizations are not properly represented in archival holdings across Canada and this absence creates a gap in the historical record as well as creates difficulties for the groups themselves as organizational memory is lost with high turnover rates.

Braden Cannon April 2009

Role of the Archivist – U.S.



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Home » Groups » Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable (LAGAR) » Information for Community Archives

Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable

Information for Community Archives


PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Sections

[Introduction / Brenda Marston](#)
[Archives 101: Basic Principles / Paula Jabloner](#)
[Appraisal / Michael Palmer](#)
[Accessioning / L. Lorch](#)
[Arrangement & Description](#)
[Preservation](#)
[User Services](#)
[Electronic Records / Tom Brown](#)
[Virtual Communities: Blogs and Digital Collections / John Paul Deley](#)
[Privacy & Confidentiality / Brenda Marston](#)
[Photographs / Jim Cartwright](#)
[Audio Recordings / Burke](#)
[Moving Images / L. Lorch](#)
[Additional Reading & Resources](#)

Project Staff

Paula Jabloner, Co-Editor
Stephen Novak, Co-Editor



Dignity/Integrity, Richmond Chapter at D.C. Gay Pride in 1988. *From the Papers of*

LESBIAN AND GAY ARCHIVES ROUNDTABLE (LAGAR)

ABOUT LAGAR
Annual Meeting
By-Laws
Leadership
Mission

COMMUNICATIONS
Annual Reports
Archival InQueeries (Newsletter)
Email list
Facebook Page

PROJECTS AND PUBLICATIONS
Information for Community Archives
Lavender Legacies Guide
Queer History Social Media Project

Questions for Archivists

- What does the **existence** of community archives say about archives and records generally and the relationship of records to communities?
- What are some of the **implications** of community archives. Should archivists become part of community archives and how would they do that?

Possible Roles for Archivists

- Sustainability ?
- Education ?
- Custodianship ?
- Maintaining community connections ?
- Bringing the community archive into the mainstream ?
- Who takes responsibility ?