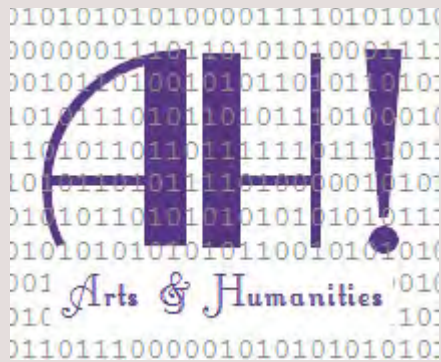


March 2018

# SIG AH Digital Newsletter

Association for Information Science & Technology: Arts & Humanities Special Interest Group



## 2017-2018 Officers

Chair: Christian James (Catholic University of America)

Past Chair/Events: Jeremy McLaughlin (San Jose State University)

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## 2018 Virtual Symposium on Information & Technology in the Arts and Humanities

“Users of Arts & Humanities Digital Collections”

April 10, 2018: 12 - 5 pm, ET

This year, SIG AH will host its 3rd Annual Virtual Symposium on Technology in the Arts and Humanities. This is SIG AH’s biggest event of the year, and this installment should be just as exciting as the past editions!

The theme for this year's Virtual Symposium is "Users of Arts & Humanities Digital Collections." Digital libraries and archives enable Internet users to access entire worlds of information at their fingertips. Who are these users? What meaning do they take away from digital collections? What do they do with digital collection content? What are the different investigative tools that information scholars can use to answer these questions?

Five presentations will answer these questions from different perspectives. A diverse range of librarians and information scholars will present their research, methodology, and experiences measuring and facilitating access to arts and humanities digital collections.

A full program with abstracts will be available in March 2018. Please check the SIG AH website or RSVP for updates.

Please [RSVP here](#) so we can send you the latest information on the program and accessing the streaming platform.

This year’s SIG AH Student Paper contest will be on the theme of “Users of Arts & Humanities Digital Collections.” Read on for more information on this exciting opportunity!

## **Student Paper Contest**

SIG AH is seeking previously unpublished research for a Master's or PhD Student Research Award including a free ASIS&T membership and cash prize up to \$500!

The theme, "Users of Arts & Humanities Digital Collections," invites participation from a variety of theoretical and empirical perspectives on the topic. We encourage graduate-level submissions from a broad range of disciplines including the arts and humanities, digital humanities/new media, library and information science, and computer science. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to: creative re-use of digital collections; teaching with digital collections; researchers using digital collections; etc.

For full details, [visit the SIG AH website](#).

## **Report on ALA Midwinter Conference, 2018**

*by Julie Carmen*

I attended the 2018 ALA Midwinter Meeting in Denver not for specific meetings, but for specific workshops and sessions. The main workshop that attracted me was the Libraries Transforming Communities workshop, in which we worked with Dr. Martin Carcasson with Colorado State University. I had attended three of the specially designed webinars to prep myself for this workshop, in which we were trained, step-by-step, on how to be a moderator, a recorder, and a reflector within guiding dialogue and deliberation programs. It was satisfying to understand how libraries are in the position to host these community dialogues, and to find partners within their community to process discussions on many subjects. For anyone interested in this focus please look at the ALA website on Libraries Transforming Communities: <http://www.ala.org/tools/librariestransform/libraries-transforming-communities>

I also attended two sessions about Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the libraries. One was a discussion among attendees on how they saw AI. There was clearly confusion among some tables with digital tools such as Smart Pens, with one library stating that their Circulation Desk checks out many Smart Pens for their students. This led the discussion into how AI could be useful to enhance accessibility to the disabled. AI will most likely be useful for simple directional questions but not be able to manage true reference questions. We also discussed security issues with Cortana, Alexa, and Siri; for example, how much are they recording when we think they are off? They are always on so that they can be voice-commanded.

*(continued from page 2)*

The presentation on Chicago's EXPLORE was also insightful, showing the efforts of many museums, archives, special libraries that have worked together to digitize and upload access to their special collections to better support researchers to write about their city and its members. This accessibility to their history has helped create movies, documentaries, books, and art. They also created specific events and exhibits to showcase their city. Their portal is accessible here:

<http://explore.chicagocollections.org/>

I learned about one way libraries are creating stronger budgets by exploring open science and then watched ten presentations for the Awesome Grant, and watched the winner be awarded \$1,000 for his awesome idea for the An Awesome Ideas Pitch for Libraries session. I sat in on the ALA Diversity Research Grants Update, to hear about how one librarian faculty has been faced with microaggressions and how another faculty had to change his research focus due to the election of Donald Trump.

There are so many more sessions I attended that it is difficult to make a short report. If you are a member of ALA, you can access several of the presentations on the ALA website. I am so grateful to have attended so many remarkable sessions, and heard that the upcoming ALA Conference will have much to offer.

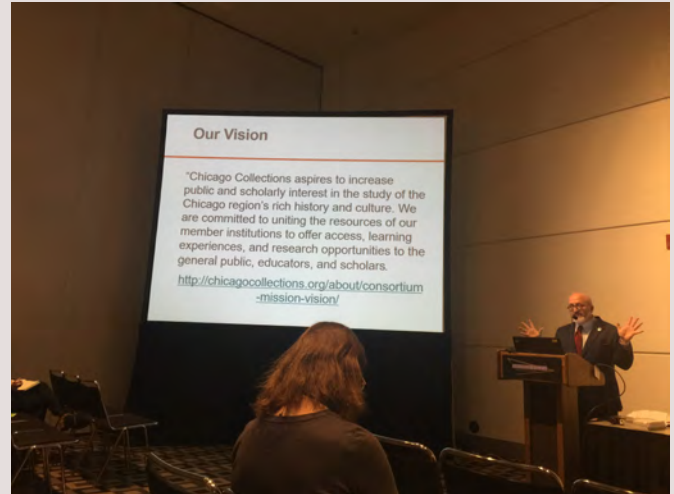


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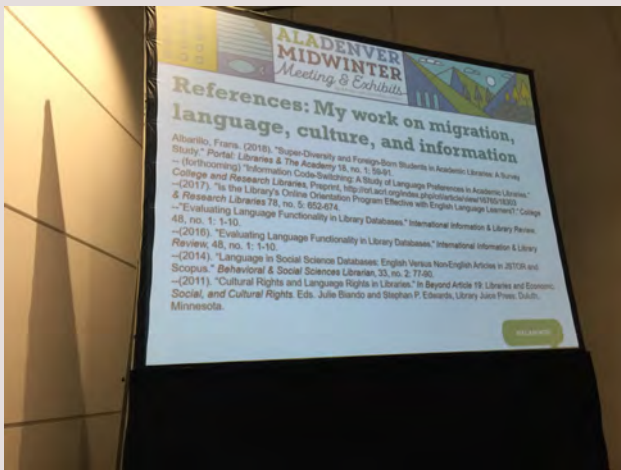
Photos from the ALA Midwinter Meeting 2018 in Denver, Colorado (photos by Julie Carmen)



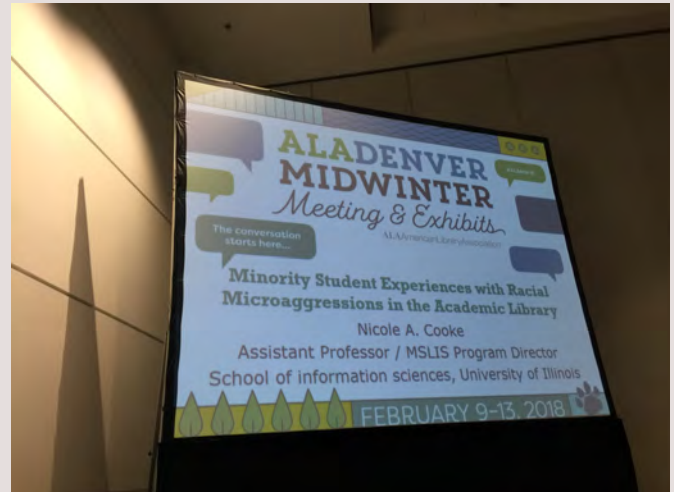
**Left:** Blue Bear & Saucers inside the Colorado Convention Center.



**Above:** Collaborative Research - Learning about Chicago EXPLORE and other events about Chicago's history



**Above:** ALA Diversity Research Grants - Learning about undocumented students in New York City



**Above:** ALA Diversity Research Grants - Learning about microaggressions on academic campus



**Left:** Is Your Library STEM Ready? (Symposium on the Future of Libraries)