

Transportation Librarians Roundtable-20240808_140348-Meeting Recording

August 8, 2024, 6:03PM

58m 46s

BC **Bob Cullen** 0:03

Then we'll go ahead and start the lights on, OK?

So the as noted and the recent email announcements about today's TLR are the title for today's presentation is and it's up here.

Anyway, on the on the screen of course, as the first slide, but let me go ahead and read it anyway.

It the title is collections processing and content writing summer projects.

At the NTL archives, and are distinguished Speaker of who will be given that presentation.

This presentation is I'm a Madeleine Poche and I just before she gets underway with her talk, I would like to just share some biographical information about her.

Madeline is an intern at the National Transportation Library Archives.

She attends Simmons University, where she is earning her masters in Library and information science with a concentration in archives management.

A Madeline has a bachelor's degree in history and French from the University of Virginia.

We are very lucky to have her here and I do want to take this time to also thank her for, for, for agreeing the service, our speaker for this month.

I'm certainly we wanted to have her.

I'm given expert give a presentation on her experiences and insights before she has to leave NTL to continue her graduate studies.

So without any further delay, I have now like to introduce our speaker, Madeline Poche the floor is all yours, Madeline.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 1:52

I thank you so much.

And thank all of you for coming here today to listen to my presentation.

So for the past 10 weeks I have been interning in the archives of the National Transportation Library under the guidance of Eden Orelove.

I took on several projects this summer and today I'll be sharing four of them with

you, processing the Secretary of transportation speeches collection, creating social media content, assisting with orientation programming and writing web content.

So a bit of background information before we get started.

The archives was recently established as part of the National Transportation Library.

Our mission is to collect and preserve materials documenting the history of the Department of Transportation and its employees.

We collect materials from all dot modes, including past modes and the department's precursor agencies.

Our collections include a wide variety of material types such as newsletters, speeches, posters, audio, visual materials, and three dimensional objects.

A large portion of our materials once belonged to the entitles physical library, and we're transferred to the archives when the library became 100% digital.

Another large portion comes from the FAA, whose archives we recently acquired.

So to give you an idea of what we collect.

You know, here are some examples of materials in our collections and we have flight logs from the 1940s seat belt, guides from the 70s.

We have tons of photographs from the 50s of air traffic controllers.

We have the official Department of Transportation March, and even the Bible, upon which the first three EPA administrators swore their oaths of office.

So over the past 10 years.

There we go.

My main project over the past 10 weeks has been assisting in the processing of the Secretary of Transportation speeches collection.

This collection contains thousands of speeches given by past secretaries as well as related news releases documenting the positions history from 1965 to 2011.

This collection has already been digitized and it's fully arranged.

However, it has not been fully described and both the physical and digital containers include duplicates that need to be removed.

The digital object select descriptive metadata and the physical items require rehousing.

Because of this, I had the opportunity to work with both the original speeches and their digital copies, because different portions of this collection were at different stages of processing, my processing work was less of a sequential undertaking and more of an assemblage of concurrent tasks.

The first of these tasks was rehousing the physical materials, the speeches in

newsletters came to us in these finders, so I transferred them to folders, grouping them by month.

Another task was preparing the PDFs of the digitized speeches for cataloging project files entailed adjusting the PDF's properties to facilitate accessibility, setting the language to English, and ensuring that copying is enabled.

I also set it to display the title of the document once it was added instead of the file name.

I saved the PDFs in a reduced size so users would be able to view the documents directly in Rose app without having to download them first.

The next task was cataloging.

I cataloged into a spreadsheet so the records could be mass ingested into recipe with.

Interesting here is the challenges of undertaking item level description for such a large collection and how we adapted our workflow to meet these challenges.

For the first batch I cataloged, I assigned 4 to 8 tart terms to each speech, as well as relevant LCSH terms and authorized agent names.

However, you did and I decided to forgo the step going forward, at least for the time being, in order to bring the collection online more quickly.

After cataloging a speech, I added its title, creator and subject terms before we adjusted the workflow as meta did metadata.

I also made sure to delete duplicates as I went.

How the final task was adding the agents and subject terms to archive space.

This was also a task that got deprioritized after the first batch, but it was still a very valuable experience.

Prior to this internship, the only archival description management software I had used was atoms, so I'm glad I got the opportunity to work with another widely used archives content management system.

I really enjoyed working with this collection, although there are many series left to process, I made a significant dent and I especially enjoyed learning about transportation, transportation history along the way.

The Secretary of Speech just collection is partially available now and you can find the first couple series honors of you.

Another project I worked on this summer was creating social media content for the NFL's ex account.

We do on this day in transportation history tweets where we share our primary

source, documenting an event that occurred that occurred on today's date in a prior year.

Had the first step was in creating these tweets was to pull sources from our newsletter collection, which contains decades of news releases from all modes of the department.

Because this is a physical collection, finding tweetable content entailed sifting through hundreds of individual documents.

Ideally I wanted to feature newsletters from an even distribution of modes, years and dates within the month.

However, this didn't noise workout.

For example, the most interesting press releases that I found seem to all be clustered around the end of July.

Once I had selected the newsletters I'd be using, I scanned, cataloged, and ingested them into recipes so that the final tweet could include a link to view the source before ingesting.

I prepared the scans in the same way I prepared the digitized secretary speeches.

The next step was writing the tweet.

The most challenging aspect of this step was one the character limit and two integrating the ATS of relevant agencies into the text in a way that they'll seamless and natural.

After writing the tweets, I sent them to amazing graphic designer Alpha Wingfield, who then made visuals to include in the post.

So this is an example of the final product.

The tweet includes the text, the graphic and a shortened linked link to view the newsletter runner recipe.

I drafted around 10 posts like this one.

My next duty is an intern was to assist with archives hosted events.

The Entail archives offers orientation programming for incoming DOT employees, where we present materials from the employees agency.

This allows them to connect with the history of their workplace and learn how they can take advantage of archival resources.

I had the opportunity to assist with two of these presentations, one for FAA employees and one for honors attorneys.

When preparing for these orientation events, the first step was to pull materials.

The hardest part about this was limiting the selection so that everything would fit on

the table.

You didn't, and I chose materials that we thought would spark the most interest.

Prioritizing items related to the attendees, agency and field of work.

Next, we arranged the materials on tables to create a display which was a bit challenging because we don't really have a space conducive to this and this photo we are just in a conference room.

When the attendees arrived, we gave them a brief introduction to the archives.

And then they were free to browse them.

Materials.

Both groups were super interested in the materials and asked tons of engagement questions, both about the items and about the work that we do.

The sheet music was a fan favorite, the DOT March, as were the 1950s photographs.

The Epica employees were especially interested in the 1978 issues of FAA World Magazine and even sent pictures of the vibrant graphics to their graphic designer to serve as inspiration.

With the attendees permission.

Oops, yeah, with the attendees permission, I took photographs during these events to include.

So I following the FAA event, I wrote a short write up of the experience and it was.

This just happened today, so it was posted to my FAA and someone saw it and learned about the archives and now wants to donate some materials.

So that was really cool.

I just found out about that this morning.

So that was the fourth duty.

So assisting with orientation programming was extremely rewarding because the attendees always seemed genuinely fascinated by the materials.

One of the attendees asked what he could do to support the archives in our mission and another express to his determination to make a performance of the DOT March happen.

Another attendee you said that learning about the history of the FAA made her even prouder to work at the agency.

I thought events attendees wanted to know where they could go to learn more about devotee history, the archives, and our collections, which segues nicely into project #4.

My final project has been writing web content for the NTR archives.

Future web pages, one of began in this undertaking.

There was no mention of the archives on the Intel website.

We weren't researchers to know we exist so they can take advantage of our resources.

But it's very difficult to advertise when you don't have a web presence.

In fact, we have an advertisement coming out soon in public roads.

The FHWA is magazine and one of many motivations for this project was to have a website ready before that adds circulates.

So I strive to create well organized web content that is informative, concise, professional and accessible.

This project culminated in a 15 page document of which these 3 pages are an example of information about the NDL archives.

How that information can be organized and how the resulting subsets of information connect to each other, and it includes content for both an ETL archives page on the mtl.gov site and the public interface of our archive space instance.

I planned A9 web pages in total on the Gov site there is an NFL archives home page and six subpages on archive space.

There's a landing page and a help page.

So the first step towards why writing this web content was brainstorming?

I asked myself what people needed to know about the entail archives and what of that information was the most essential to kick start this step.

I turned to other archives websites for inspiration.

I took note of what they included, what they didn't include, and what they prioritized.

Based on this, I then made a list of all the information users might expect to see on an NTLM archives website.

After that I needed to organize this information, which I did by grouping the items on my list into pages by topic.

The biggest challenge of this step was deciding what belonged in our main.gov site and what belonged on archive space.

Throughout the step, I continue to explore other archives, websites for guidance, paying close attention to what appeared on their institution site versus what appeared on the public interface of their digital repository or content management system.

After I had grouped my information into web pages, I then had to consider the best method for organizing these pages.

This was an iterative process.

I made several adjustments to the order of the pages as I wrote the content. For example, if I found myself frequently needing to refer to something that was mentioned on another page, I would move that page closer to the beginning of my outline, which translates to the top or to the left of the navigation on a future website.

Next, I've focused on the relationships between the ideas.

In my outline, I considered what questions users might have and how information could be linked to allow them to find answers and the fewest clicks possible.

For example, the answer to can I visit the archives on the FAQ page and includes a link to the what to expect section of the visiting the Archives page and my outline. I represented links and jumps using color coded arrows.

The next step was turning my outline into fully written content.

The challenge here was making my writing as informative as possible, while also being as concise as possible.

I sought to maintain a consistent professional style while also ensuring my language was accessible and easy to understand for first time archives users.

Once I get dropped in my content, it was time to revise to facilitate this process, I created mockup web pages to visualize my graph.

These mockups are not designed suggestions or even what I think the website should look like.

Since I'm not familiar with the necessary style rules and guidelines, rather, I created these mockups for my own purpose.

So I could get a better idea of the page distribution in my content and the text to image ratio of each page.

No one wants to be greeted with a giant wall of text when visiting a web page, and this was, and I wanted to structure my content in a way that facilitates avoiding this.

After analyzing the mockups, I revised my content based on my observations.

For example, it became apparent that the using the archives page contained forward too much information, so I decided to split it into two separate pages, one on visiting the archives and one on the services we offer.

I repeated this process, revising and revising until it was happy with the result.

After several iterations, my mockups came to look like this.

So we have a home page which contains basic information about the archives and some featured collections.

Next is the about page where I put our mission statement and content and collection development policy on the next page you'll find information about and a link to archive space where you can browse our finding aids.

Here's the page on visiting the archives and the one on our services.

This dot history page contains content that I didn't write.

This content was actually already.

It's actually already on the Intel website, but we've discussed moving it to an archive site in the future where it might be a bit more at home.

Last up on our main site is the frequently asked questions page.

Moving on to archive space, we have a landing page and a health page where you can find a detailed tutorial on how to search the site.

I hope the actualization of the website I have planned will help facilitate the use of archival resources and encourage individuals to take full advantage of the NTL archives.

Throughout this project, I strove to prioritize accessibility, focusing on ease of use, navigability, and transparency.

My content provides detailed instructions on how to use the archives and informs users of what to expect at every step of the process.

It also includes definitions of frequently used archives terms.

My goal is to make archival research less intimidating, especially for first time users.

I'm quite happy with how this project turned out.

The content I've written has helped lay the groundwork for the creation of an NFL archives website, and we've already made progress towards this goal.

A few weeks ago, you did and I met with our teams, Web content manager Simona Jones to discuss the next step towards making this website or reality.

She created this page which contains the most essential information about the NTL archives.

We intend to build out from here, and as we do so, this page will evolve into our home page and we'll add more pages based on the content that I've written and as we do.

As this project evolves, the home page will remain at this URL so we can use it in our public roads advertisement now and it will continue to direct people to the correct page once the website is complete.

Thank you so much for allowing me to share my work with you.

I hope you enjoyed this presentation and I'll be happy to answer any questions.
Thank you.

BC **Bob Cullen** 16:18

OK, X excellent presentation, Madeline.

Thank you so much.

I'm on and I'm a very informative, very interesting.

Know them that much more.

Somebody can ask for when it comes to the TLR presentation.

So.

So thank you for the wealth of knowledge that you shared and just really have so effectively walking us to the steps of what you sought to accomplish and what you did indeed managed to accomplish.

So really appreciate it.

We are officially into the Q and A portion of the TLR of today, so if anyone has any questions I already see one.

Please just do the show of hands.

If I don't call on, you feel free to unmute and shout out my name or something.

I'll make sure that you not only get acknowledged, we have the opportunity to share your questions or comments with Madeline.

So let me go ahead with the first person here who has a hand raised and I believe it's Michael Molina.

Go ahead, Michael.

MJ **Molina, Michael J.** 17:26

Hi, thank you.

Michael Molina at Oklahoma Transportation Library.

Sarah, I don't have my camera with me.

But Madeline, this is a fantastic presentation and I wanted to ask you, you mentioned you have a background in history.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 17:39

Yes.

MJ **Molina, Michael J.** 17:39

First of all, what did you study in history and how would you say that experience in history helped informed as you put together this archive collection?

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 17:48

Yeah.

So my so I double majored in history and French, so I took a lot of European history classes and I wrote my undergraduate thesis on a theater and class consciousness in France during the Second Republic, which is in the 1848 to 1852.

I also worked as a research assistant.

That's the thing with research on a revolt that happened in French Algeria in 1901.

So it's my history background and I would say the.

The biggest thing that.

I've I learned through majoring in history is just how to evaluate the sources and how to evaluate the credibility of information and to seek out reliable information.

Yeah, I think just that that focus on like evidence based, uh, you know, making evidence based arguments and, you know, citing your sources and.

I think that's a.

Yeah.

That's like the biggest takeaway.

So how that has helped me make this collection, I would say that the biggest thing is I remember, you know, when I was writing this thesis the first time I'd ever done archival research and how intimidated I felt at 1st.

And so wanting to like, make that experience easier for maybe other first time researchers, so they could, you know like we want you to use these resources.

We are here for you.

You don't need to be to be intimidated so that it helped me.

Great, right?

The content for the for the website.

MJ Molina, Michael J. 19:32

Thank.

Thank you.

That, that's fantastic.

I have a background in history, so it's like every time I find another history nerd in library science, I'm like yay.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 19:38
Yeah.

MJ **Molina, Michael J.** 19:39
So that was that was cool.
Thank you.

BC **Bob Cullen** 19:43
Thank you, Michael.
The next, uh, Madeline?
We have Cara Marcus with a question or comment or maybe both. The floor is all yours, Cara.

CM **Cara Marcus** 19:58
Hi, Madeline.
Loved your presentation and you're welcome.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 19:59
I thank you.

CM **Cara Marcus** 20:02
And I have a question about your orientation.
It looked like you did in person orientation and that's really exciting to have people in your library.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 20:12
Yeah.

CM **Cara Marcus** 20:12
A couple of questions.
How many people did the Orientation have at a time, and did you have a separate kind of orientation for offsite or virtual people, and how did they sort of correlate that?

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 20:23

Uh.

Yeah.

So there are two groups.

Each group had about had about 12 people and so this was an entirely in person.

I know that my mentor and Roslyn as well, that the NTL, they do a new employee orientation online for incoming employees.

But the ones I assisted with the were entirely in person with the virtual ones exist.

I just.

No, I wasn't.

I wasn't a part of that.

 **Orelove, Eden (OST)** 20:59

There really quick note when I started the NTL was not part of the new employee orientation rose and I know 5 minutes every other Monday which is the on boarding day to explain about our resources at the NTL.

So Roslyn is just as much a partner, of all of that as I am.

BC Bob Cullen 21:21

Thank you and thank you as well to Eden.

And I was promised and not giving a shout out of any kind of early earlier on in this hour to Eden for her outstanding work, from my vantage point, her outstanding work as the archivist.

So I'm glad you had the opportunity to chime in there as well.

Thank you, Eden and Madeline, I think we next we have Amanda Carter who is the new librarian at the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The floor is all yours, Amanda.

I can't hear you.

CJ CARTER Amanda J 22:02

I thought I'd clicked my mic and I clicked camera.

Ohh well hello both.

Hello.

Thank you so much for doing this.

It's fabulous.

I think that I can see how busy you've been over the summer.

As someone who has worked in archives and still loves archives and history, there's even an O dot history section that I'm just charmed by as the new ODOT librarian, and I think you've done a fabulous job, especially getting it up ready to put it on the web.

I was even kind of searching for it while you were talking about it.

I was like, oh, it's not there yet.

It looks so ready, so excellent job.

My question for you is just kind of as a history archives nerd.

What was your favorite piece of ephemera that you got to look at and interact with?

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 22:44

Yeah, that's such a good question.

I think my favorite piece of ephemera would be there are these three posters that say like DOT communicates and it's like these.

There was one of them in the in the slides.

It's the it's a dog and he's got his red tape and there's a little pillow.

I'm like, don't be this guy, you know, be easier to work with.

There's one that I didn't picture that's got little Orphan Annie and she's singing, like tomorrow.

I'll do it tomorrow and it says it's OK to get work done. One day.

I just think they're so funny.

Yeah, I like those posters a lot.

CJ **CARTER Amanda J** 23:27

And that's fabulous.

Thank you.

BC **Bob Cullen** 23:32

Right.

Thank you, Amanda.

OK, looks like this is a good one of one of the several good signs of an effective presentation.

Madeline is when you have people virtually waiting in line to ask the questions I'm a

of you.

So that so here we go.

Next person we have is and you'll have to forgive me who?

Oh, go ahead. Marilee Tuite from Minnesota.

 **Marilee R Tuite** 24:05

Yep.

Hi Madeleine.

I just wanted to say I thought it was a great presentation and I guess I have more of a comment.

I really liked how you showed us your process for the website content writing and it just made me think like years ago and my MLS I took a course on information architecture so that whole process of like you know it, it really is time well spent when you kind of do that exercise to organize it up front and really think about how everything's going to link before you put it on a website.

So I thought that was fascinating and you had a really that's a great asset that will serve you well in any job.

So yeah, that's great.

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 24:48

Yeah.

Thank you.

Thank you so much.

I really appreciate it.

 **Bob Cullen** 24:55

Thank you, Marilee, and any other questions.

And here we go.

Wow, David.

David Ganz, I think you've heard of him.

Go ahead, David.

 **Ganz, David (OST)** 25:06

Thanks, Bob and Madeline, thanks so much.

I had just gotten from Eden last night at about 5:00 o'clock to email that had your

web content document attached to.

So I haven't had a chance to look at it and just to see it on the slides today was most impressive.

And yeah, it feels like you've in a short time made a mark on the NTL and you're leaving a legacy behind with us for which we're most grateful.

I mean, I think this is really wonderful work.

I was curious, as you were talking about building out the web page presence and then moving over to the archive space instance.

From a conceptual point of view of how did you determine what was best suited to be housed in that?

Archives space rather than the website, and vice versa.

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 26:09

And that's a really good question.

That was the definitely the most difficult part of the process when writing this content was that very question.

So I looked at a lot of examples, just lots of different archives looking at what's on the site for their agency or university or museum or, you know, wherever and then what they have, what information is on wherever you go to actually, you know, search the collections.

So that was that was the most helpful in making that decision.

And also the.

Yeah.

So I think it made sense to put the instructions on how to use archive space on archive space, but there are some things that I was really on the on the fence about, like the collection development policy and the FAQ, I felt like those could be equally at home on either.

So I wanted to make sure there was a clear link to those pages because I decided to put those on the main site, so making sure there is a clear link to those on archive space and you know, it's a working document.

So if you know we when it when it goes online, if people find it, you know hard to use, we can always make adjustments.

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 27:28

But that was the kind of the logic behind my decision.



Gansz, David (OST) 27:33

Thank you.

I appreciate that and that helps me understand it.

Is it fair to say that the web was more conducive to feature the promotional information, whereas archive space was more of the informational repository itself.

Or is that an artificial distinction that I shouldn't really be making in my mind?



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 28:00

No, I think the biggest thing is that like archive space, our archive space instance like it doesn't have the.gov.

So I know you know, finding reliable information is a lot more complicated than just, you know, looking at the at the URL.



Gansz, David (OST) 28:08

No.



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 28:14

But a lot of people, that's what they're taught in school and that's what they know.

Like if it's not from a dot.edu or dot.Gov, it's not reliable, so making sure you have

kind of that most important information on the.gov site umm is I think like the main distinction.



Gansz, David (OST) 28:33

Yeah, I appreciate that.

Thank you.

I don't mean to hog the Q&A, but I did have one other historical question or question of a historical nature.

As you were saying with the artifactual materials that you were dealing with, I think you worded it current and former modes of transportation.



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 28:55

Mm-hmm. Or.



Gansz, David (OST) 28:56

What for my edification, what would be an example of a former mode of transportation?

I'm thinking like was there a federal Stagecoach service or what?

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 29:02

There is mode and agency, so you know like not the mode of transportation, but agency for it.

 **Gansz, David (OST)** 29:09

OK.

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 29:10

So like you know the Civil Aeronautics Board as like the precursor to the FAA you know.

 **Gansz, David (OST)** 29:10

And what would be?

Oh OK.

And what are some others?

I don't think I'm even aware of the history of how some of those agencies change their names.

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 29:21

Umm.

Yeah, I know.

 **Orelove, Eden (OST)** 29:26

One of them is Urban Mass Transit Administration is now FTA.

 **Gansz, David (OST)** 29:32

Oh, interesting.

 **Orelove, Eden (OST)** 29:34

Oh, Roslyn, what other ones?



Alleman, Rosalyn (OST) 29:35

Yeah.

For example, RITA Research Innovative Technology Administration is now part of OST.

Previously, BTS was its own administration.



Gansz, David (OST) 29:43

Uh-huh.



Alleman, Rosalyn (OST) 29:46

There was the Research and Special Programs Administration, which was spread up into part of it, went to PHMSA and part of it went to RITA, which then went to OCR, that kind of thing.



Gansz, David (OST) 29:46

OK.



Alleman, Rosalyn (OST) 29:55

Coast Guard used to be part of DOT.



Orelove, Eden (OST) 29:58

It's now with Homeland Security, yeah.



Alleman, Rosalyn (OST) 29:59

Yeah. Right, right.

So they move around and they, you know, the FMCS a used to be two different agency groups at two different agencies.



Orelove, Eden (OST) 30:14

Yeah.

So obviously before DOT there they were all separate administrations and they have changed names of like Bureau of Public Roads for example.



Gansz, David (OST) 30:14

And.

Yeah.



Orelove, Eden (OST) 30:24

Let's look at FHWA now, for example, an FAA is a compilation of like 5 different agencies that have come together so.



Gansz, David (OST) 30:33

And then when you have instances like that where an agency has morphed into another agency, how does that impact your cataloging in terms of assigning authority control it?

Is it like a See also or how do you handle that?



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 30:52

So in theory that information is in the name record itself.

So like the you know, if it's say UMTS for example, it would have that subject term attached.

But then you could click on that and it'll show you like this is the successor and then print accessor.

In reality, we're having a hard time getting that to work.



Gansz, David (OST) 31:12

Not sure.

Umm.



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 31:16

Importing the records into archive space.

But in theory that is.



Gansz, David (OST) 31:20

In theory, yeah.



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 31:21

How? Yeah.



Orelove, Eden (OST) 31:21

Well, yeah.



Gansz, David (OST) 31:22

Umm.



Orelove, Eden (OST) 31:23

And for me, if I process something every time, if it's an old term you MTA, I'll put in parentheses.

Now FTA, so that there's a very clear, I mean I would, you know, spell out the name of the first time and then the second time you use the. Yeah.



Gansz, David (OST) 31:33

Watch it.



Orelove, Eden (OST) 31:36

So I would, I would say that multiple places as possible.



Gansz, David (OST) 31:40

Great.

Thanks so much.

Appreciate it.



BC Bob Cullen 31:45

Thanks.

Thanks to each of your very, very worthwhile questions and well, worthwhile answers too, Madeleine.

Next, I'd like to ask Michael Nugent to ask his question on make his comment.

Go ahead, Michael.



MN Michael L Nugent 32:02

Sure.

Thank you, Bob.

Thank you, Madeleine, for joining us today.

This was fun.

You're pursuing a master's degree in library.

Science is correct.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 32:10

Yes.

MN **Michael L Nugent** 32:11

Are you focusing more on libraries, archives, museums or are you heading towards things like user experience and information architecture?

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 32:20

Well, I'm heading more towards libraries, archives and museums.

My concentration is archives management.

I have switched back and forth between cultural Heritage informatics and archives management several times.

But that's definitely the direction that that I'm going in.

MN **Michael L Nugent** 32:39

Is this the first collection you've ever processed?

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 32:42

Umm, so this is the second I did a practical in the first year of my program but they couldn't find me an in person placement so I don't really count it as like processing a real collection because it was processing a collection but it was one that had already been processed and it's the alternate assignment they give you if they can't find you an in person placement.

But I did a previous I did an internship last semester.

Uh.

Working in the archives of Sister Cities International and there so that would be my first my first collection.

It was memorandums of understanding and correspondence and there are some other legal documents.

Related to these partnerships between cities so that I would say that was my first collection, so this would be my second.

 **Michael L Nugent** 33:35

Nice.

All right.

Thank you.

 **Bob Cullen** 33:37

Great.

Thank you, Michael.

Any other questions, please just let us know what the I'll show of hands.

There.

I'll keep on the lookout for that matter, and I'd like to go ahead and invoke moderators privilege, but before I invoke moderators privilege and ask my own question, I'm going to call on Eden here.

Go ahead and Eden.

 **Orelove, Eden (OST)** 34:01

I just wanted to say it's not a question, but working with Madeline this summer is an absolute delight.

I feel like we lucked out.

I mean, you are so competent.

There's no question you're going to find a great job and being asked that no matter where you go, if we can ever get money, I would love to have you.

Seriously.

Umm.

So just keep that and again, thank you.

This is going to make such a huge difference.

I can't tell you and all of you.

I guess I'm presenting next week, so you're going to get an archives heavy.

Sorry, next month at TLR.

So you're going to get an archives heavy little period here, but I'll be providing more information and hopefully the website will be up and archived.

Space will be available so as these things progress, you can just look out for that next month.

Thanks again, Madeline.

You're great.

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 34:52

Oh, thank you so much and I want to take a moment to give a big thank you to Eden. She's gone above and beyond as a mentor.

She arranged a field trips to uh, two different Smithsonian archives that, like, you shouldn't have to do that.

But she went out of her way to, you know, plan these experiences for me and the other two library science interns at the Turner Family Research Center.

 **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 35:12

Sure.

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 35:19

So she's been amazing.

I have learned so much like she also went out of her way to give me experience with archive space, even though we just got it and it wasn't really ready for an intern to mess around with it.

But she made sure I got that experience, and I really appreciate it.

So thank you so much again.


 **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 35:36

I just wanted to say thanks again for all the great stuff you've done this summer.

It's been great getting to know you and also a little side note on the DOT history of content that was on the NTL website, a previous STIPDG intern, whose name I've unfortunately forgotten from a few years ago, maybe 2021, she there had been a DOT historians website and she pulled that out of the Internet archive and created a Lib Guide to get that content back out where people could see it.

And then we spent another intern, you know, another year spent, spent more time updating it and finding out what the current names of all the administrations were and where some of them had gone that weren't there anymore because it hadn't really been updated.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 36:14
No.

 **Alleman, Rosalyn (OST)** 36:19
The content hadn't been updated since about 2009, when the DoD historian retired. So there's been a lot of different people have had their hands on that content, including me.
And it's great to see that it will actually like be where it ought to be, which is with the archives so.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 36:31
OK.

BC **Bob Cullen** 36:37
Thank you.
Thank you, Roselyn.
And thank you.
Thank you, Eden.
I'd actually been planning to ask you to give, not necessarily a performance evaluation for Madeline in front of all of us here, but at least to share your thoughts on what it's been like working with her.
So I appreciate what you had to share with not only with Madeline, Christopher with all of us.
Thank you very much.
We still have ample time for questions and comments.
Just the virtually raise your hand.
I was starting to pose a question before, I guess more along the lines of a comment, Madeline.
But there's also a question attached to it.
Umm, but this actually is a follow-up of sorts to Michael.
Michael Molina had to share with others.
A fellow history nerd I was.
Umm I majored in history in college.
And I actually also had an internship in an archival setting.

Was at the National Archives and time flies way too fast.

It would have been 40 years ago, summer of 1984, that happened to be the 50th anniversary of the National Archives was established.

It was a very a very enjoyable internship and as I'm looking back a very helpful one too, as I think I've made mentioned here on at least one or two TLR's, that internship allowed me to justify to my dad while he was paying all the tuition for me.

The major in history.

So, but it was very worthwhile there.

But there was also a daunting aspect to it for me, and that was having to deal with the archival materials from federal agencies and the one in particular that took up a little great deal of the my internship.

There was the archived materials for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and I just remember when those boxes of materials were starting to be placed on my desk there and I had to sort it, you know, get things categorized and better organized and so forth.

I felt genuinely intimidated, and I say this I referenced 1984, but the National Endowment for the Humanities didn't even come into existence as a recall until the mid-1960s.

So I had a smaller footprint that I had to contend with as opposed to you, because of course the DOT has been around since 1967 and we're in 2024, of course.

I guess that actually that's the kind of question I was looking to land on here and you know a candid response just like the other response that you've been given here Madeline, how did you feel at the prospect of having to deal with all of that federal agencies history and all those materials and everything I had the impression from your response and Michael Nugent this.

That this was your baptism of fire, as it were, with respect to dealing with a federal government, some vast array of materials.

How was it for you?

I don't know if it was the same kind of ceremonial popping boxes of materials on your desk, but whatever your introduction was what was your overall reaction.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 39:53

Yes.

Uh, so in some ways it was a lot different than I was expecting.

And in some ways, it wasn't.

Just like in in my head, I was thinking, are there going to be, you know, these really, really strict procedures that I have?

You know, I have to follow.

And if I deviate from them, I'm going to get in trouble and oh, no.

But because the archives is so new - not that there aren't, you know, strict procedures, but there's so much kind of more free room to kind of, you know, suggest ways of doing things because we have.

We haven't done this yet, you know, so that was really interesting.

And then in some ways, it was a lot like I was expecting in that in some ways it was actually a little bit easier, like the newsletter collection for example.

They're all labeled.

They have the agency and then the numbers so that they're very easy to sort through.

And I really like that about working with federal documents is how a lot of them have very easy labels.

Uh, so yeah, those are kind of my two initial, uh, reactions.

BC **Bob Cullen** 41:09

OK.

Thank you.

Well, there's only sounds like it's an understatement to say that.

You've clearly have shown you achieved a high a strong handle on everything there and I'm really being able to sift through all that information and not just the content but the context too.

You know what?

What you SDLT has been and continues to be about 2 that that, that it, it seems to me that that you really have navigated all that very well.

So, but I appreciate your appreciate your response there before.

Before moving on, I do have to.

I do have to say one of the favorite things about those and EH, I'm files that I had to go through all those years and it was really getting down to the weeds cause it wasn't just the that some of the official correspondence of speeches and all of that was also some of the quite a few of the inner office memos.

My favorite one was this one memo and this was back in the old days when there was something like carbon copies and that kind of thing.

On this one.

Now, with carbon copy of a memo, though, was from the senior management there and the message in the memo was basically that all in the H employees. Umm.

Do how they say do now you now have permission to leave.

Leave for their lunch breaks without authorize asking for permission from their supervisors, and there was quickly followed by another memo that was a correction to that original one, saying instead of now it should have been not.

You're not allowed to leave for lunch breaks at that.

Just so I could imagine all those four employees who are probably elated that they finally had a little bit more latitude there, but interest, interesting, interesting stuff though the one going back to the heart of this TLR today in terms of the materials that US DOT I was very pleased.

I'm very interested in everything that you had to share with us already so far in this hour, but I was especially pleased about the speeches from the US DOT secretaries. I think that's great.

I one of my one of my main tasks at on behalf of AASHTO along with of course the activities like the TLR with the Transportation Libraries community one the other main activities is preparing it at a daily transportation history blog along the lines of the Today in history items that you've been working with.

One of the things that that really thrills me too is it.

It sounds like the you know I guess it's not required occurred to me that those speeches would be available.

There should be available and I know, I know in the past with some of those transportation history blog posts, I would have loved to have made use of some of those speeches.

So it's very heartening for me that to learn that there is that kind of.

Uh.

Material now available and in one case in point I was just a few years ago.

There was something concerning uh Rodney Slater, who served it as Secretary of Transportation under Bill Clinton.

There was a really would have loved to gotten my hands on a speech he gave at the ceremony because it was.

I was focusing on this particular ceremony that he had spoken at but this just thinking that you know, Gee, it would have been nice to have gotten some of his own words, but that's nice to know.

I think that so that that's quite a gold mine and even apart from the Transportation History Blog just knowing that's available as I may have already made clear I am along with Michael and other some other people here I am quite the history nerd. So I think that's great and actually that was a kind of along the lines to of the question I originally asked you.

Not so much about whether or not you're daunted, it sounds like you most likely were not Madeline, but just in terms of the whole array of material.

I don't know if it was something that you that was early on during your internship are a little further down the line.

Just in in terms of trying to get a handle on it all and coming up with the game plan, was there anything in particular that you would call that that came into play there?

Like when you what were you going to do with all of these?

But they have at least half a century's worth of speeches.

You know, how are you going to take that on?

Is there anything you can share with us about that?

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 45:53

Oh so I would say the speeches were the thing that I was most expecting like before the internship I met with Eden and Rosalyn and you know the we talked about how you processing the speeches was going to be my main project so it was so I wouldn't say that you know it was like how am I going to handle all these speeches but I did have a moment like that and it was one of the first tasks that I did was go through there might have been maybe like fifty boxes of materials from the old physical NTL library.

So and I was sorting them by agency, so we know who to ask for money to get them digitized.

But I remember looking at all these boxes and I had that moment of oh, wow, that is a lot of materials to sort through.

But it only took maybe like two weeks, three weeks, uh, and that was where I found the DOT March that I showed you in the slides, the sheet music.

BC Bob Cullen 47:02

Umm.

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 47:09

It was in one of these boxes with the technical reports, so it was very cool.
The things that I found while sorting those boxes.

 **Bob Cullen** 47:22

Yeah.

I would say that it was very impressive there and I'm glad you mentioned the US DOT March.

That was something else that that really caught my attention there too.

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 47:29

Yeah.

 **Bob Cullen** 47:31

I mean that you talk about a wonderful finding.

That was great.

I'm going to go ahead and ask Eden for her moment here.

 **Orelove, Eden (OST)** 47:40

Yeah.

I just want to say, Madeline saw a very, very small amount of what we have.

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 47:45

Yeah, I saw the picture of like 300, yeah.

 **Orelove, Eden (OST)** 47:46

I'm just letting everybody know we have six hundred plus boxes of stuff out in DOT's storage.

The administration has not provided an honestly significant office or like a space, for me, that would work for a preservation and access.

So we're working on that.

David's been very supportive, but there's a lot of stuff she didn't see.

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 48:16

Dear.



Orelove, Eden (OST) 48:16

But I got to talk about more next month.
So stay tuned.



Bob Cullen 48:20

Can't hear you, Eden.

OK.

I'm sorry about that.

Alright.

Well, thank you.

Thank you, Eden and.

And if you had anything to say in response to that, Madeleine or?



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 48:36

I saw a picture of Eden with all these boxes and yeah indeed.



Bob Cullen 48:44

Yeah.



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 48:44

I just thought, I don't know.

I just saw a very small fraction of the materials we actually have.

And then yeah, I'm excited to see Eden and next summer's intern continue to sort through these materials.

I'll be checking this website that will hopefully be available, eager to see you know what else we find.



Bob Cullen 49:09

Yeah.



Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 49:13

Yeah.



Bob Cullen 49:13

OK, great.

Thank you.

Alright, well, from the standpoint of this could be a tour that I wouldn't mind having going into overtime and well beyond this has been very, very worthwhile.

The presentation itself of course, but also this Q&A. Thanks to quite a few of you today it's been quite a robust discussion in my opinion.

So thank you for that.

But if anybody has any other questions or comments that they'd like to share at this time.

This will be a chance.

Just let me know, otherwise probably I'll start wrapping up things.

I'll go ahead and ask this and I know somebody else.

I think it may have been Michael Newton.

Sort of made it made an increase was perhaps it's kind of in that in that direction.

What got you interested in this whole field of study anyway?

Why?

Why did you decide to pursue the studies that you're pursuing now?

Is there any light bulb over the head moment or how would you describe that journey?

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 50:34

There definitely was.

So initially as an undergrad, I thought, you know, I wanted to be a historian.

And then I wrote a thesis and I realized that the part that I enjoyed was not the research itself.

It was just exploring the archives and I realized that I found myself having questions about just how this information is organized, and this was during COVID, so it's like especially curious, like, who's deciding what to digitize?

I became very grateful for digital archives, and so that was kind of the moment when I realized that what I actually enjoyed about doing research was the working with the primary sources.

And yes, that was that the light bulb over the head moment.

BC Bob Cullen 51:26

It great.

Thank you.

And just in terms of the time frame here, when first of all I'm glad we got you today, but you know for the August of TLR just because the internship I strongly assume is indeed wrapping up fairly soon here. When does that come to a close and when do you resume your studies or start the new semester?

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 51:54

So tomorrow is actually the last day of my internship.

BC **Bob Cullen** 51:57

Wow.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 51:58

And uh, my semester starts the uh first Tuesday of September.

So I've got a little a little break.

BC **Bob Cullen** 52:11

OK.

Oh, good.

I didn't realize.

Wow tomorrow.

So we really did get you right in time.

PC **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 52:16

Yes. Yeah.

BC **Bob Cullen** 52:16

Right in time, then, glad about that.

Go ahead, Eden.

 **Orelove, Eden (OST)** 52:22

One last thing, Madeline, this is her fourth presentation in the last two days.

So you did a great job.

It's been a lot and you've just been a rock star, so thanks again and for agreeing to do this one, for agreeing to do the other ones that were, you know, optional, I think

you really made a huge difference here.
We just really appreciate, appreciate it.

 **Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST)** 52:44

I'm happy to do it.

 **Bob Cullen** 52:47

David, I don't know if you've had something to share.



Gansz, David (OST) 52:53

And I was looking for the applause button and got the raise hand instead.

 **Bob Cullen** 52:55

Oh.

All right.



Gansz, David (OST) 52:58

Thanks Bob.

 **Bob Cullen** 52:59

You're welcome.

OK.

Then thank you Eden for your comments there.

Well, we are bumping up towards the end of the hour of the again.

Thank Eden too.

But again, Madeline, thank you.

Thank you for just making this such an enjoyable TLR and just for the fact of taking us on your journey from over this past summer and then really, really making it an enjoyable one and informative one and one that really gives us some very, very positive, very helpful takeaways at least speaking for myself.

So I really appreciate it.

And on behalf of David and everyone else here and in the community.

I do wish you much continued success and only the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

I'm personally professionally and of course academically and I again I have a special

salute for all of the great work you've done this summer there at NTL.
So thank you.

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 54:11

Well, thank you so much.

And yeah, thank you for having me and giving me this opportunity and also thank you to Eden, Rosalyn, David and everyone, the whole NTL team has been super welcoming and made this such a wonderful experience.

BC Bob Cullen 54:16

Right.

PC Poche, Madeleine CTR (OST) 54:28

Big thank you to everyone.

BC Bob Cullen 54:28

Well, they are a great group of people so well, all good things must come to an end and I do, on behalf of David and myself, you know, along with thanking our distinguished speaker today, we also want to thank all of you for taking the time to join us.

As I mentioned early on in the hour, you know we're all the more so grateful that you are have attended today because of the fact that it was only a two week gap between today's TLR and the one back on July 25th only two weeks ago.

So I thank you for your flexibility and your willingness to be here with us today.

We hope you find it to be time well spent and we appreciate your being here.

And then again, I also want to highlight those among us who did share such wonderful questions and comments, during this Q&A portion.

BC Bob Cullen 55:34

So that about wraps it up for today's TLR.

As I've noted in recent email announcements, the next TLR is going to be a little more than a two week gap.

It is going to be a little over a month.

A month from now on Thursday, September 12th, and we're going to be having, that's going to be an opportunity to the receive updates on what various groups

within our larger community had been doing or will be doing.

This is something that we used to do on a pretty regular basis.

Up until a few years ago, one of the reasons why we haven't had done it is because there have been so many TLR presentations available anyway.

Or that we had on the calendar that we really didn't have time for this, but looks like we do have that opening coming up on September 12th and uh, it should be worthwhile. Fair warning to those of you who are strongly involved in some of these groups. I'm going to be following up with all of you very soon to see if you you'll be able to give any kind of a update.

No more than 5 to 10 minutes, but some kind of an update on September 12th about what's been going on in your particular corner of the Transportation Libraries universe.

So but if everyone just stay tuned for further details about the TLR, just mark your calendar and in the meantime, there'll also be further information on other updates throughout the of the remainder of the year.

Cannot believe it's already August, right?

But so it goes.

Again thanks.

On behalf of David and myself, thanks for joining us today and I hope that all of you have a great rest of the day and a great rest of the week.

Take care.

● **Gansz, David (OST)** stopped transcription