

## MODULE 1 – FOUNDATIONS OF THE PROFESSION

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### **Learning Objectives:**

Students will be familiar with:

- theories and resources related to the **nature of archival media and archival records**
- major developments in the **history of the archival profession** and the ways they have influenced archival practice and archival theory

### **Contents**

Chapter text, slides, and lecture notes are provided for each of the following chapters. See lecture notes files for links to re-usable Google slide files.

- CHAPTER 1 – INTRO TO MOVING IMAGE COLLECTIONS
- CHAPTER 2 – HISTORY OF THE PROFESSION
- CHAPTER 3 – HISTORY, MEMORY, POWER

### **Discussion activities**

- [Video Analysis](#) – with instructor notes
- [Community Archive Analysis](#)

### **Assignments**

- [Archive Analysis](#)

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# VIDEO ANALYSIS

Watch the video assigned to your group.

- Group A: ["Will Hays Introduction to the Vitaphone" \(1926\), Warner Bros](#)
- Group B: ["Super Anscochrome 16mm color film" \(1957\), University of Colorado Boulder Libraries](#)
- Group C: ["West Indies Day \[Parade\]" \(1970\), New York City Municipal Archives](#)
- Group D: ["Bobcat A Go-Go" \(1968\), Minnesota Historical Society](#)

Try to answer the following questions:

- Who created this video? How might their knowledge, perspective, or biases affect the content of the video or the way it is shot?
- Why was this video created? Who was the intended audience? How do you know?
- What might a historical researcher be able to learn from this video:
  - ... about the creator of the video?
  - ... about the historical period or culture in which it was created?
- What additional information would help you understand the context or significance of this video?

## Video Analysis – instructor notes

- Group A – “Will Hays Introduction to the Vitaphone” (1926), Warner Bros  
This short film was created by Warner Bros in 1926 as a demonstration of the Vitaphone sound-on-disc system, one of the first commercially successful systems for sound cinema. Significantly, the film features Will Hays, President of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America (MPPDA), who went on to oversee the enforcement of the Motion Picture Production Code, which established strict guidelines for the content of commercial Hollywood film through the 1940s. Among other things, the film is now an interesting insight into the ways the MPPDA may have wanted to create an accessible and conservative public image in the 1920s.
- Group B - “Super Anscochrome 16mm color film” (1957), University of Colorado Boulder Libraries  
This film was created by Ira B. Current in 1957/1959, on behalf of the Agfa Ansco film company, as a demonstration of a new type of Anscochrome color film stock. As described on screen, the reel is intended to present the quality of image possible to shoot on Agfa Ansco film stock in various low-level natural lighting conditions. The reel now offers various views into real life scenes in 1950s Binghamton New York, including a department store, pharmacy, amusement park, and fireworks display.
- Group C: “Puerto Rican Day Parade” (1980), New York City Municipal Archives  
This reel depicted a 1980 Puerto Rican Day Parade in Manhattan, including images of performance, celebration, and traditional culture, as well as political messaging. The footage was shot by the New York Police Department, Bureau of Special Services and Investigations, as part of a systematic surveillance program that gathered film and photographs from political and cultural events since the 1960s. As such, film in this collection is recorded from the perspective of law enforcement and often seeks out views of political statements and leading individuals. At the same time, the collection often offers rare views of underrepresented community groups and activities.
- Group D: “Bobcat A Go-Go” (1968), Minnesota Historical Society  
This 1968 promotional film was created by the Bobcat Company, producer of equipment for construction and agriculture. The film may have played as a television commercial but was also likely shown directly to equipment dealers or clients at professional trade shows. It now provides an interesting artifact of 1960s popular culture and may prompt many questions about the depictions of women in American advertising.

# COMMUNITY ARCHIVE ANALYSIS

Browse through the website of the archive assigned to your group.

- Group A: [Interference Archive](#) (Brooklyn, NY)
- Group B: [Herstory Archives](#) (Brooklyn, NY)
- Group C: [Densho](#) (Seattle, WA)
- Group D: [Skid Row History Museum and Archive](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

Try to answer the following questions:

- What type of materials does the institution collect?
- Who decides what is collected in the archive?
- Who is the intended audience of the archive?
- How do users access material in this archive?
- Why might creators and users of this archive feel their stories and perspectives are not well represented in other institutional archives?

# ARCHIVE ANALYSIS

1. Choose a repository from the following list.
  2. Read through their website and resources.
  3. Fill in the information and answers the questions below about the archive you chose.
    - You may not be able to find information to answer all questions! If this is the case, explain what you did or did not find.
    - Except where indicated, do not copy-paste information. Answer the questions in complete sentences.
- Black Archives of Mid-America (<http://blackarchives.org/>)
  - Southeast Asian Archive (<https://seaa.lib.uci.edu/>)
  - ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives (<https://one.usc.edu/>)
  - Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive (<https://en.jfa.huji.ac.il/book/history-archive>)
  - Theatre and Performance Archives (<https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/theatre-performance-archives>)
  - Bay Area Television Archive (<https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv>)
  - Denver Museum of Nature and Science (<https://www.dmns.org/science/archives/>)
  - The Archives of the History of American Psychology (<https://www.uakron.edu/chp/archives/>)
  - Mennonite Church USA archives (<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/historical-archives/>)
  - National Center for Atmospheric Research Archives (<https://www.archives.ucar.edu/>)
  - CNN Collection (<https://collection.cnn.com/>)

## Part 1: About the Archive

- Name of Repository
- Location
- Date of founding
- Is this archive a part of another organization (University, government body, etc.)?
- Archive's Mission statement (copy-paste or link, if located)
- Does the archive list a Board of Directors or advisory board? If so, what information is given about the advisory board?
- Does the archive host public outreach events? If so, describe them.

## **Part 2: About the Collections**

- What types of material does the archive collect (business records, personal papers, media, photographs, digital records)?
- Does the archive have specialty collection subjects/collecting areas?
- How can collections be accessed? When, where, and by whom?

## **Part 3: Discussion**

Based on the information you've found, what can you infer about the following? If you cannot find an answer, explain why. Answer each question in at least one paragraph. Refer to concepts from class lectures or readings where appropriate.

- Who decides what is collected in this archive, and how?
- Who is the intended audience or users of the archive? How do you know?
- What difficulties might there be for users to access material in this archive, and why?
- What stories, voices, or perspectives may be under-represented in this archive, and why?