Cynthia Heider: Public historian, data humanist
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Curriculum Vitae (last updated March 2024)

Education

M.A in History (Public History concentration) 2018
Temple University, Philadelphia, PA
> *Specializations*: Digital History, Archives, Material Culture
> *Master's Thesis*: "[Sympathy and Science: Social Settlements and Museums Forging the Future through a Usable Past](#)."

B.A. in History with Honors, German minor 2014
Goucher College, Baltimore, MD
> *Senior Thesis*: "Out with the Old, In with the *Aufarbeitung*: The East German Revolution of 1989/90 and the Fight for Access to the Stasi Files."

Antioch University Study Abroad Program 2013
Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, Germany
> *Subjects:* Geschichtswissenschaft [Historical Studies], Deutsche Sprache [German]

A.A. in Liberal Arts, magna cum laude 2011
Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale, VA

Training

Civic Switchboard Institute, University of Pittsburgh. April 2024. Regional institute for library workers interested in serving as intermediaries between community members and civic data and developing civic data roles for their libraries.

DH@Guelph Summer Workshop, University of Guelph (Canada). May 2023. "How to End Your Digital Project." Training in best practices and concrete approaches for achieving compliance with standards of The Endings Project, an SSHRC initiative creating tools, principles, policies and recommendations for digital scholarship practitioners to create accessible, stable, long-lasting resources in the humanities.

Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria (Canada). June 2022. "Designing Digital Humanities Labs and Student Programs for Social Advocacy and Community-Engaged Research"

Dream Lab: A Digital Humanities Training Institute, University of Pennsylvania. "Minimal Computing" (2021), "Linked Data for the Humanities" (2019).

Programming4Humanists: Python, Texas A&M University. January – May 2021. Learned foundational skills using Python 3 to extract, create, parse, model, and analyze data from sources including APIs, MySQL databases, and the web. Created dynamic web applications and visualizations with Python libraries, packages, and modules.

SNACSchool, Social Networks and Archival Context (SNAC) International Cooperative & National Archives and Records Administration. February 2020. Hands-on training in creating, editing, and linking records within the SNAC Cooperative Portal (snaccooperative.org), an online resource that utilizes linked data principles to increase discovery and description of archival collections and other resources held at cultural institutions around the world.

Local Contexts: Collaborative Curation Training and Education for Indigenous Collections, Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation at Washington State University. December 2019. Training in management of issues specific to Indigenous collections within cultural institutions, including copyright/intellectual property concerns, Indigenous data sovereignty, and responsible community-centered collections stewardship.

National Archives Wiki Scholars, Wiki Education & National Archives and Records Administration. May – August 2019. Twelve-week course centered on the development of high-quality Wikipedia articles relating to the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution.

Humanities Intensive Learning and Teaching Institute, University of Pennsylvania, June 2018. "Advocacy by Design." Intensive course in critical digital engagement and pedagogy, emphasizing incorporation of open, community-centered, advocacy-focused methodology and praxis in digital humanities work.

Self-Directed Training, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, UX/UI Principles and Frameworks, CMS (WordPress, Drupal, various DAMS), Database Structure and Management (MySQL, SQLite, Access), XML, JSON, Python, Ruby on Rails, Node.js, Regex, Git, CLI (Bash, zsh, Windows PowerShell)

Professional Experience (Recent)

University of Pennsylvania, Penn Libraries

Research Data and Digital Scholarship

Philadelphia, PA

Public Digital Scholarship Librarian, January 2022 – Present.

In my role as Penn Libraries' first Public Digital Scholarship Librarian, I work to initiate and support digital projects, scholarship, and programming that center community partnerships and public engagement. As part of the Research Data and Digital Scholarship team, I consult with audiences on and beyond campus to actively facilitate opportunities for equitable collaboration, resource sharing, and critical inquiry in the digital realm.

- Committees: Co-chair of Digital Projects and Publishing Working Group; Departmental representative for Web Relaunch Strategic Team; Member of Digital Collections Systems Advisory Committee; Departmental liaison to Penn Libraries Collection Development Council
- Initiatives: Convener of PUG@Penn (Python Users' Group); Earth Week Data Jam; Penn Libraries Community Engagement Services Strategic Team; Python for Humanists workshop series; Python for Librarians workshop series
- Certifications: [Certified Software/Data Carpentries Instructor](#)

Temple University, College of Liberal Arts

Center for Public History
Philadelphia, PA

Adjunct Professor (Digital History). January 2019 – January 2023.

Created and maintained course syllabus for a cross-listed undergraduate/graduate level Digital History course. Planned lectures, assignments, and skill-building units for integration with course curriculum. Guided students through in-class technical tutorials to develop proficiency with digital tools. Provided project planning assistance, technical support, and supplemental teaching resources to students to ensure achievement of course goals and learning objectives.

- View syllabi: [Spring 2019](#); [Fall 2020](#); [Fall 2021](#); [Fall 2022](#). Feel free to use the materials here with attribution ([CC BY-NC 4.0](#)).
- Certifications: College of Liberal Arts Online Teaching Program Certification

American Philosophical Society Library & Museum

Center for Digital Scholarship
Philadelphia, PA

Digital Projects Specialist, July 2018 – July 2021
Digital Projects Assistant, August 2017 – July 2018
Martin L. Levitt Fellow, June 2017 – August 2017

Advanced digital scholarship at the strategic and project level through collaboration with fellows, interns, volunteers, and Center for Digital Scholarship colleagues, including helping to develop initiatives, advising and working on digital scholarship projects, and responding to inquiries. Planned, designed, and developed digital projects related to collections of the American Philosophical Society Library & Museum. Created institutional standards and technical workflows for digitization, digital library ingest, and open data management functions including: project management, risk assessment, imaging, quality control, and documentation.

- [Read my contributions to the Society's blog](#)
- Committees: Chair of Digitization Standards Working Group; Member of Sustainability Working Group
- Projects: [Franklin's Philadelphia Post Office Ledgers: A Glimpse into Colonial Correspondence Networks](#); [Investigating Indentured Servitude: Visualizing Experiences of Colonial Philadelphia](#); [Early American Weather Records](#) *in collaboration with The Papers of Thomas Jefferson (Princeton) and the Center for Digital Editing (University of Virginia)*; Benjamin Franklin's Ledgers *with project support from the National Endowment for the Humanities*

Professional Experience (Older)

Membership Coordinator, The Decorative Arts Trust. January – May 2017. Maintained member and financial database systems in Access. Created custom web scripts to automate data entry tasks. Tracked and facilitated individual and directed charitable contributions. Arranged member events such as symposia, tours, and receptions.

Digital Archive Project Archivist, Space Telescope Science Institute. February – August 2016. Inventoried, arranged, and described 3500 historical documents related to the Hubble Space Telescope and its science operations center, the Space Telescope Science Institute. Digitized materials and managed metadata creation and ingest into Omeka DAMS using Bash shell scripts. Planned preliminaries of institutional website archiving initiative.

Photograph Archive and Digitization Intern, Preservation Maryland. January – April 2016. Inventoried, arranged, and described a legacy collection of 3200 physical photographs. Digitized materials and managed metadata creation and ingest into Adobe Bridge, CONTENTdm DAMS, and DPLA. Researched historic properties and locations in Maryland.

Special Collections and Archives Technician, ***Towson University Albert S. Cook Library***, November 2014 – August 2015. Inventoried approximately 900 rare book, manuscript, and serial titles in the Baltimore Hebrew Institute Rare Books and Judaica Collection. Maintained OPAC metadata and composed collection guide. Managed faculty and researcher inquiries. Promoted collection via social media content and public programming.

Research & Consulting

Case study contributor, **Social Justice in the Digital Humanities: Diversifying the Curriculum** (course) *DARIAH Teach*, 2023.

Digital consultant, **OwlWalk** (walking tour interface) *Temple University*, 2021 – Present.

Historical consultant, **The Alley Cast** (podcast) *Elfreth's Alley Museum*, 2020.
- [Episode 6: "Urban 'Decay' and the City of Homes"](#)

Researcher, **The Forgotten Flu: Philadelphia & the Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918** (exhibition) *City of Philadelphia Division of Disease Control, Department of Public Health*, 2016 – 2018.

Researcher, **The LESLEY Documentation Project** (exhibition) *Independence Seaport Museum*, 2017.

Researcher, **World War I: USS Olympia** (exhibition) *Independence Seaport Museum*, 2016 – 2017.

Conferences

Panel Chair, **"Combating Crime, Poverty, and Ignorance: The Education and Rehabilitation of Youth and the Urban Community in the 20th Century,"** American Historical Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA: February 2023 (Upcoming).

Presenter, **The Americas Online: A Digital State of the Field for Early American Studies**, McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, the Wilson Institute for Canadian History at McMaster University, and the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona College. Philadelphia, PA: November 2021.

Organizing Committee, **Keystone DH 2021**, Temple University. Philadelphia, PA: July 2021.

Panelist, **"Digital, Social, and Interpretive Shifts: Imagining History and Text,"** Global Digital Humanities Symposium, Michigan State University. East Lansing, MI: April 2021.

Presenter, **"The Promises and Potential Problems of Creating Open Historic Data,"** OpenCon Philly. Philadelphia, PA: November 2019.

Presenter, **"Benjamin Franklin's Postal Records as Data,"** Networks: The Creation and Circulation of Knowledge from Franklin to Facebook Symposium. Philadelphia, PA: June 2019.

Panelist and Session Organizer, **"The Gilded Age and Progressive Era: Lightning Round on Emerging Scholarship in the Field,"** Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting (session solicited by the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era). Philadelphia, PA: April 2019.

Panelist, **"Radical Activists, Faith Communities, Settlement Houses, and More: The Many Roots of Public History and Why They Matter for the Future of the Field,"** National Council on Public History Annual Meeting. Hartford, CT: March 2019.

Panel Facilitator, **"Home Repair: Maintaining Structures and Relationships at Historic House Museums,"** National Council on Public History Annual Meeting. Hartford, CT: March 2019.

Presenter, **"Analyze This: Open Historic Data in Special Collections,"** Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Semi-Annual Meeting. Wilmington, DE: October 2018.

Panelist, **"Digital History in Public and Academic Contexts,"** 23rd Annual James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference. Philadelphia, PA: March 2018.

Panelist, **"The Importance of Being Digital: How Can Graduate Students Help Build Digital Bridges?"** 22nd Annual James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference. Philadelphia, PA: March 2017

Conference Organizer, **"'This is Why We Fight': Public History for the Public Good,"** Temple University Center for Public History, 7th Annual Public History Community Forum (PubComm). Philadelphia, PA, March 2017.

Selected Publications

Datasets

Nebiolo, Molly and Cynthia Heider. **"Quit Rent Rolls in Philadelphia County (Penn Family Estates), Due 1688/9."** Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2020. Distributed by McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2020. https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/43/

Heider, Cynthia and Ben Weinstein. **"Record of indentures of individuals bound out as apprentices, servants, etc., and of German and other redemptioners, 1771 October 3 - 1773 October 5."** Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2019. Distributed by McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2019. https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/33/

Heider, Cynthia; Miller, Bayard, and Scott Ziegler. **"Outgoing Post, 1748-1752, Philadelphia Post Office Records."** Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2017. Distributed by McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2017. https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/30/

Heider, Cynthia; Miller, Bayard, and Scott Ziegler. **"Incoming Post, 1748-1752, Philadelphia Post Office Records."** Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 2017. Distributed by McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 2017. https://repository.upenn.edu/mead/29/

Print Publications

Heider, Cynthia. "*The House on Henry Street: The Enduring Life of a Lower East Side Settlement* (book review)" for *The Public Historian*, 43:2 (Spring 2021).

Service

Conference Proposal Reviewer, **DLF Forum 2022**, Digital Library Federation. Baltimore, MD: October 2022.

Conference Proposal Reviewer, **Digital Humanities 2022 (DH2022)**, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, and the University of Tokyo. Tokyo, Japan: July 2022.

Conference Operations, **DH Unbound 2022**, The Association for Computers and the Humanities, and Canadian Society for Digital Humanities. Online: May 2022.

Contributing Author, Digital Media Group, National Council on Public History. 2019 – 2021.

Digital Media Chair and M.A. Student Representative, The James A. Barnes Club, Temple University History Department. 2017 – 2018.

Social Media Management Team, History Relevance Campaign. 2016 – 2017.

Volunteer Museum Ambassador and Visitor Services Desk Assistant, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Washington, DC. 2015 – 2017.

National History Day Judge, National History Day, College Park, MD. 2016 – Present.