

Archives Workshop - Introduction

Summary: In this workshop students will receive an overview of the content of and access points to the College Archive. Breaking into small groups they will explore curated collections with a set of guided questions to consider and then return to discuss together as a group.

Locations: Classroom or Library

Suggested Term: Fall

Specific Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of the structure and content of the archive
- Learn the access points for searching the archives
- Articulate connections between historic and present-day issues through archival material
- Envision themselves within a historical continuum of the College community and consider their role among the larger group
- Understand archives are constructs created by people and the inherent limitations and biases of them.

Workshop Activity:

1. Overview of the online digital archive and searching tip
 - a. Projecting laptop to walk-through digital archives
2. Break students into groups of three-four.
 - a. Distribute packets of document facsimiles from the archive and a set of guiding questions to each group.
 - b. Give groups 20-30 minutes to explore packets.
 - c. Return for a group discussion about the questions.
3. If 2 hour session - break students into pairs.
 - a. Give each pair a list of criteria/consideration for what makes documents/items compelling or historical significant in an archive.
 - b. Give the pairs 5-10 minutes to go through their bags/backpacks and nominate one document or item for inclusion to the archive from their belongings.
 - c. Return to group and have each pair pitch their item and explain their reasoning.