

# THE L.A. AS SUBJECT RESIDENCY PROGRAM: A New Approach to Archival Training

Kelsey Knox, CSUN; Rachel Mandell, Autry; Beth McDonald, USC

knox.kelsey@gmail.com, ramandell@gmail.com, bethmcdonaldmlis@gmail.com

## What is LAasSUBJECT ?

L.A. as Subject was established nearly 20 years ago as a network of memory institutions, collectors, and enthusiasts dedicated to preserving the history of Los Angeles and surrounding areas.

### The Goals of L.A. as Subject:

- Improve visibility of and access to archives
- Promote services to archives
- Advocate for the interests of archives
- Expand research on Los Angeles by encouraging researchers of all backgrounds

## Host Institutions



Residents are hired through one of three host institutions which serve as the first rotation of the residency. The host institution is a collaborative partner, providing a mentor to the resident and acting as a liaison between the resident and rotation sites.

## What is the L.A. as Subject Archival Residency?

The Resident Archivist position is part of an Institute of Museum and Library Services grant-funded program developed by LA as Subject (LAAS) in partnership with University of Southern California. Residents rotate through a series of three-month projects at LAAS member institutions, applying archival standards and practices to make local collections accessible.

### Components of the Residency

- Exchange of knowledge between residents & rotation sites
  - Diverse learning experiences
- Strong mentor/mentee relationship
- Development of professional standards and skills

## Rotation Sites

• **Autry National Center of the American West**  
(Miscellaneous Correspondance of Gene Autry)

• **California State University, Northridge**  
(California's Call Exhibit)

• **University of Southern California**  
(School of Dramatic Arts Records)

• **California State University, Dominguez Hills**  
(Japanese American Digitization Project)

• **California State University, Fullerton**  
(Samuel Moon Monument Valley Oral History Collection)

• **Los Angeles Maritime Museum**  
(CalShip Collection)

• **Los Angeles Police Museum**  
(LAPD's Historic Film Collection)

• **Los Angeles Public Library Central Library**  
(Bob Baker Marionette Collection)

• **Pasadena Museum of History**  
(The Ephemera Collection)

• **Pepperdine University**  
(University Archives Photo Integration Project)



Rotation sites are chosen based on how well their project fulfills SAA's Guidelines for Archival Continuing Education (ACE) components.

## Who are the residents and how does this program benefit them?

Potential resident archivists must be recent graduates from an accredited MLIS program. During the residency, residents are responsible for creating and presenting several workshops that give the resident an opportunity to teach others, as well as learn. Residents also collaborate on a capstone project that is presented at the LA as Subject Archives Bazaar in October, 2015.



2014-2015 L.A. as Subject Residents Beth McDonald, Kelsey Knox, and Rachel Mandell present at the 2015 Western Roundup Conference in Denver with mentor Claude Zachary of USC and LAAS coordinator Liza Posas.

Over the course of the residency, residents:

- Cultivate flexibility and adaptability in the workplace
- Gain a breadth of experience with different types of institutions and collections
- Expand their archival skillset
- Receive multiple opportunities for professional development
- Prepare for future career