



**Society of California Archivists
Candidate's Statement for 2023 Election**

Candidate for: Nominating Committee

Years: 2023-2025 (2-year term)

Name: Hanna Ahn

Institution: Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

Professional Background (begin with current position and areas of responsibility, and briefly summarize duties):

As the Assistant University Archivist for the Stanford University Libraries, I manage our archival collections and accession, process, and catalog incoming materials that document the history of Stanford University; collaborate with subject specialists on various projects and collections related to university history and historically marginalized university community members to provide diverse representation across our archival collections; hire and train a diverse body of student staff to assist with processing workflows; coordinate with various University and Library units on projects related to facilities updates, collection transfers, and public events; and research reference enquiries from the Stanford community and members of the public.

For more information regarding my current role and past work history, please see below:

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant University Archivist | March 2021 – Present

Stanford University (Stanford, CA)

- Coordinate and manage on-campus/off-campus collection transfers
- Hire, train, and supervise 5-9 student employees during the academic year, and 1-4 student interns during the summer
- Accession, process, catalog, and coordinate transfers for new collection materials to offsite storage
- Digitize materials and upload to the Stanford Digital Repository (SDR); contribute to physical and digital archival exhibits
- Provide archival instruction workshops to classes and hold one-on-one research sessions for students; respond to reference queries from within and beyond the Stanford community
- Work closely with academic departments and donors to develop, curate, and make accessible collection materials that represent marginalized Stanford communities
- Participate as a mentor in the Asian American Interactive Mentoring Program at Stanford University

University Archivist | June 2019 – March 2021

Archives, Government Information, and Periodicals Librarian | May 2017 – June 2019

Archives and Information Services Librarian | August 2014 – May 2017

Northeastern Illinois University (Chicago, IL)

- Coordinated, implemented, and oversaw the operation and activities of the University Archives, Government Information, and Periodicals departments, including work schedules, departmental policies, internal reports, statistics; supervised 1 full-time staff member and 2 student employees
- Discovered, digitized, and preserved at-risk audiovisual materials related to the federal Japanese American redress hearing held on campus in September 1981
- Secured \$55,000 in endowment funding and external grants for the development of collections, such as the Chicago Japanese American Archival Collection and the Luis V. Gutiérrez Congressional Archives at NEIU
- Developed and maintained NEIU's first digital archival collections, converting files into machine-readable form and assigning metadata in accordance with Dublin Core; processed physical archival collections
- Edited records of print and online government information and periodicals holdings in Voyager in accordance with MARC 21
- Prepared, regularly reviewed, and updated the University Archives and Government Information LibGuides
- Conducted information literacy instruction sessions throughout the academic year
- Advised students on academic research strategies; provided scheduled reference services at the library's main information desk

Educational Background (degrees and other applicable training):

- Master of Science, Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2009)
- Bachelor of Art, Creative Writing and English Literature, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2008)

Professional Affiliations (list organizations, dates and extent of your involvement, e.g., SCA activities, memberships, committee work):

Member, Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, 2021 – Present

Member, Beta Phi Mu Library and Information Science Honor Society, 2010 – Present

Member, Chicago Area Archivists, 2014 – 2021

Member, Midwest Archives Conference, 2014 – 2021

Member, Northeastern Illinois Documents Librarians, 2017 –2021

Member, Society of American Archivists, 2019 – Present

Member, Society of California Archivists, 2021– Present

Member, Stanford Libraries Accessibility Officers, 2022 – Present

Member, Stanford Libraries Anti-Racist Description Working Group, 2021 – Present

Member, Stanford Libraries SDR Service Team, 2021 – Present

Member, Stanford Libraries Search Committee (University Archives - Processing Archivist), 2022

Member, Stanford Libraries Search Committee (Silicon Valley Archives - Hohbach Processing Archivist), 2022

[300 words or less]

Taking into account differing levels of monetary and institutional support, how can the Nominating Committee ensure that candidates are chosen from all facets of the archival profession: lone arrangers, large institutions, government archives, academic archives, corporate archives, library, museum, and other settings?

To ensure that the list of candidates is an accurate representation of today’s Californian archival workforce, the Committee will need to develop a list of prospective candidates from the existing membership base for the available SCA roles that is inclusive of lone arrangers and representatives from large institutions and the archives for the following: government, academic institutions, corporations, libraries, and museums.

The Committee can then research potential candidates, assess their fit with available positions, and communicate with selected individuals regarding their willingness and availability to participate in the election. In addition to the major categories (government, academic institutions, etc.), subcategories such as years of experience, domestic/international experiences, size of prior

work environments, volunteering history, etc. can also help establish a diverse pool of candidates. A comparison assessment can also be constructed between selected candidates and recent committee members to know where similarities align and where new thinking can potentially happen in regards the needs of the year's candidate slate. The result of this research can become an ongoing shared resource for future recruitment needs or unexpected resignations.

Please detail your efforts to integrate equity and inclusion practices into your work and any plans you may have for this as a member of the Nominating Committee.

In my combined decade of experience in managing the collections of the institutional archives at Stanford University in Stanford, CA, and Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) in Chicago, IL, I have highlighted the contributions and history of marginalized communities in the following ways:

At NEIU (2014-2021), I curated and created the institution's first digital archival collections to provide increased access to collection materials and developed key partnerships to acquire and promote materials related to the Japanese Internment Redress hearings held on campus in 1981 and the congressional papers of Luis V. Gutiérrez, the first Hispanic Representative from Illinois. The videotapes for the Chicago redress hearing, thought to have been lost for nearly 40 years, were digitized and featured in the Spring 2020 PBS documentary, *Asian Americans*; to further support and develop NEIU's Japanese American archival collections, I secured \$50,000 in endowment funds. In summer 2021, I received a \$5,000 grant from the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board to digitize the Gutiérrez Congressional Archives, NEIU's first congressional collection and only one of six such collections in Illinois; this collection is now publicly accessible in both print and digital formats.

At Stanford University (2021–present), I contributed to digital exhibits that showcased the history of the Latina/o/x community at Stanford and brought awareness to the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes that occurred nationally in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, and am currently in the process of curating and digitizing archival materials for an online exhibit on the history of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community at Stanford. As a current member of the Stanford Libraries Anti-Racist Description Working Group and the Accessibility Officers committee, I am also invested in acknowledging and remediating past harmful descriptive practices to move towards respectful and inclusive cataloging of collection materials and finding creative solutions to accommodate persons with disabilities to ensure equitable access to archival collections.

The archival workshops I co-taught alongside University Archivist Josh Schneider this past academic year have resulted in the creation of new partnerships with academic faculty to explore future workshops on scholarship and social activism as they relate to the history of Stanford University. I also manage our student workforce and am committed to hiring, mentoring, and

professionally developing our incredibly talented student employees and interns, or “student archivists,” all of whom represent a variety of communities and bring an incredible range of experiences, interests, and skillsets to their work with the Stanford Archives.

It is my personal and professional belief that when all voices are heard and supported, organizations and industries are stronger, more creative, and better prepared for the future. If elected to the SCA Nominating Committee, I would bring enthusiasm, dedication, and demonstrated professional excellence to this role. Thank you for your consideration.