Expanding Archive
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About this project

The Expanding Archive was proposed by Sheilah Wilson, a professor in Studio Art and Queer Studies at Denison. Sheilah worked with Shannon Robinson on the project. The others on the team were students (R. Rico, Orpheus Peng, and Emily Ball) and library staff (Kristen Pantle and Colleen Goodhart).

It presents a perspective of the Denison LGBTQ community using institutional documentation, historical interviews, student work, and faculty research related to Queer Studies.
Working with students

Rico did the majority of the digitization of the documents from the University Archives and the Queer Studies office files. Shannon created the metadata fields in consultation with Sheilah.

Orpheus was hired to create a front end for the Archive in Omeka. He created a GitHub space for the documentation (https://github.com/Orpheusp/denison-expanding-archives-omeka-theme).

https://vimeo.com/144649947
Lessons learned

The student workers were great. Orpheus was able to take ideas from Sheilah and Shannon to create the site. Rico not only digitized files, but also organized items. It was a great experience for the students that they will be able to highlight on a resume.

The class that was supposed to be taught using the archive has been delayed, so the expansion will be put off for a year. The bulk of the work on the project was carried out by library and student staff, which is a problem for continuity.

“This was wonderful. I learned so much, and the fact that it was both a paid position and had an actual product that I could show to other people was great.” Quote from student feedback form.
Going forward

Sheilah plans to hire a student for 2016-2017 to enter more scholarly resources into the Archive. She also plans to present on the Archive at a conference in the Fall of 2017.

There are still plans to teach a class that will make use of the Expanding Archive and add to it. It is planned to take place in Spring ‘17.

http://expandingarchives.org/items/show/146
The Expanding Archive: Denison LGBTQ Past / Present / Future is an online site for archives of climate and institutional documentation, historical interviews, student work, and faculty research related to Queer Studies. The act of storing information and creating an archive creates a sense of community for the Queer Studies faculty and students, as well as providing knowledge available for the larger community.