San Francisco: Meet Our Forum Leaders

This Meet Our Forum Leaders provides a short biography of our leaders for our San Francisco LYRASIS Leaders Forum on April 6, 2018. The Leaders Forums are face-to-face meetings across the US, Canada and soon the globe, to gather leaders discuss, explore and workshop ideas, problems and potential solutions. Our theme this year is Experiments in Innovation. Experts from the LYRASIS team and from the LYRASIS membership will discuss new concepts, trends and ideas surrounding innovation. Many of the Forum participants are members of the LYRASIS Leaders Circle, the general LYRASIS membership and invitation-only community leaders within the archive, library and museum profession surrounding California, specifically the Bay Area. By reading each short biography below, you'll get to know our leaders engaging in our LYRASIS Leaders Forum, Experiments in Innovation.

Johnny Avots-Smith is the Director of Development and Operations at Letterform Archive. He is passionate about making nonprofits more effective and sustainable through good management and cultivating great donors. He also is a guest lecturer at the University of San Francisco, and a fundraising speaker. He earned his BA and MNA (Master of Nonprofit Administration) from the University of San Francisco and is a Certified Fund-Raising Executive (CFRE). He is our host for the LYRASIS Leaders Forum San Francisco.

Kenn Bicknell is the Digital Resources Librarian for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Library & Archive, overseeing web content, strategic initiatives, innovative collaborations and more than a dozen social media properties for the largest transit-operator transportation library in the United States. Kenn was honored as a 2013 Library Journal "Mover & Shaker," naming him one of the top 50 innovative information professionals in the United States. He has served four years as Executive Chair of LA as Subject, a Getty / University of Southern California-hosted network of more than 230 libraries, archives, museums, historical societies and other cultural repositories whose collections pertain to the history and culture of Southern California, which he led through its first strategic plan. His work in libraries, as a museum professional, and as a college instructor has informed his passion for exploring the new roles for libraries, archives and museums and the professionals working in them in an era of accelerated technological change and resource challenges.

Regina Braidotti is the Government Documents and Maps Technician at West Chester University. Regina has a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, PA (2000) and a master's degree in Library and Information Science from Simmons College in Boston, MA (2008). Her areas of interest include the history of science and medicine, military history, and the history of the book.

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Kristen Cardoso is the User Experience Librarian at the William Tell Coleman Library at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey where she began working in 2014. She manages the front desk with the goal of providing excellent customer service and user experience 24/7. She is always thinking about how the library can improve its spaces, services, collections, programming, and more for everyone who uses the library. She also supervises the library’s team of graduate assistants, oversees course reserves, and assists with library collections and technology.

Originally from the east coast, Kristen worked as a Library Assistant at the library in her hometown. There she provided basic reference, one-on-one computer literacy instruction, and assisted with children's programming. She also worked as a student assistant in her undergraduate university's Archives and Technical Services Department. When not working, Kristen can be found spending time with her husband or with her nose in a book.

Shellie Corking is the Chief of Collections and Technical Services at San Francisco Public Library. Prior to this role, I was the manager of the Collections and Cataloging Department, the Borrower Services Manager, a children's material selector and children's department manager. I have been helping libraries, with an emphasis on technical services departments, transition to new technology since early 90s. Shellie is a member of the Leaders Circle.

Matthew Davis is the Digitization and Collections Manager for the Government Information Center at the San Francisco Public Library. Over the last few years at SFPL, he has served as the Documents Librarian and Patent and Trademark Librarian. Before his positions at SFPL, he worked as an archivist at KQO-TV and California Academy of Sciences. He earned his MLIS from San José State University. Matthew is a member of the Leaders Circle.

Glynn Edwards is the Assistant Director in the Department of Special Collections & University Archives, has been at Stanford for 12 years and is primarily in charge of the Collection Services Division & the Library's born- and acquired-digital programs. As part of the born-digital program, Glynn directs the ePADD Project which is software development project intended for acquiring, processing and delivering email archives in Stanford's collections. Glynn and staff work collaboratively with over 20 subject specialists and curators throughout the library and take in an average of 1,800 linear feet - or 2.5 million documents - a year.

Mary Elings is the Head of Bancroft Technical Services and Assistant Director of The Bancroft Library, University of California Berkeley. In this role, Mary will provide leadership for Bancroft's largest division responsible for technical services operations for rare books, archival, and special collections as well as for the use of advanced technology to establish administrative and intellectual control over Bancroft collections. Before taking on this role, she held the position of Bancroft's Principal Archivist for Digital Collections and served as Head of the Digital Collections Unit. Mary began her career at Bancroft in 1996 as a pictorial archivist before expanding her expertise in operational support for public services, archival information systems, digital research collections, and born-digital archives. Her leadership in developing digital research collections has not been limited to Bancroft but has also served the University Library, the Berkeley campus, and the University of California system. Her current research focus is on developing “research ready” digital archival collections in support of computational research needs and working with faculty and students on collaborative research projects in the digital humanities.

Mark Hall is the Assistant Chief of the Main at San Francisco Public Library. He helps support a team focused on constantly improving and expanding access to digitized collections… with the latest promising development being the imminent implementation of a Digital Asset Management System. Mark is a member of the Leaders Circle.
Dinah Handel is the Digitization Services Manager at Stanford University in the Digital Library Systems and Services department. She has previously worked at the New York Public Library, CUNY Television, and the Barnard College Archives and Special Collections. She also has worked with community archive projects in New York City. Dinah is one of our panelists for Digitization in the Wild.

Adrienne Harling is the Archivist at the San Francisco Symphony, with goals to make the SFS Archives public for the first time in the organization's history. Prior to that, she spent most of her career in a remote part of far northern California, where she led the development of a digital library, archives, and museum for one of the largest Indigenous Tribes in California, and worked as project archivist on several environmentally focused manuscript collections for Humboldt State University and regional non-profit organizations.

Dr. Sandra Hirsh is Director and Professor of the School of Information at San José State University. Prior to that, she worked in the Silicon Valley in R&D and consumer product development for more than a decade at major technology companies: Hewlett Packard Labs, Microsoft, and LinkedIn. She received two U.S. patents for her projects at Microsoft.

She has held numerous leadership roles in professional associations, including having served as the president of the Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T); she is currently serving as the co-chair of the IFLA Continuing Professional Development & Workplace Learning standing committee, the American Library Association Council representative for the International Relations Roundtable, and advisory board member for the Center for the Future of Libraries. She is the co-chair of the global virtual Library 20 conference series which she co-founded in 2011. Her research interests and publications are focused on information seeking behavior, online education, and LIS education. The second edition of her foundational library and information science textbook, Information Services Today: An Introduction, was published by Rowman & Littlefield in March 2018. She holds both a bachelor’s degree and Ph.D. from UCLA and a MLIS degree from the University of Michigan.

Kristin Lipska is an archivist with expertise in audiovisual preservation. Currently she is the Digital and Media Archives Coordinator at the San Francisco Symphony, and previously she worked on the California Audiovisual Preservation Project, where she coordinated digitization, preservation, and online access for audiovisual materials from libraries and archives throughout California.

Christina Mune is the Information Technology Services Director at San Jose State University Library, where she works to integrate innovative technologies into library spaces and services. Her recent projects include creating a 3D printing center, launching an Experiential Reality lab, and implementing a discovery system for 23 California State University libraries consortium. She also likes reading science fiction and playing old video games.

Liza Posas is the Braun Research Library Head Librarian and Archivist at Autry Museum of the American West. She is also Coordinator for LA as Subject, which includes 260 institutions and individuals collaborating to preserve, archive, and share the history and culture of the Los Angeles region. She recently spoke at ARCHIVES 2017 on Building Better Bridges: Strategies and Best Practices for Engaging Archival Communities.

Carlota Sage is the Principal for Collaboration & Knowledge Management at Sage Knowledge Works. Carlota's work in this area includes consulting for companies such as Facebook and Netflix, FireEye Securities and LYRASIS. She has a MS in Information and Knowledge Strategy from Columbia University.

Rob Spindler is University Archivist at the Arizona State University Library. He was also administrator of Archives & Special Collections and curator for the Arizona Collection from 1996-2017. Rob is a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and he served as a past chair of several SAA component groups.

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including the Congressional Papers Roundtable, Description Section, Electronic Publications Working Group and Nominating committees. Spindler was founding project coordinator for Arizona Archives Online, an online index to archival descriptions from archives throughout Arizona and he serves as chair of the Arizona State Historical Records Advisory Board. Rob was also founding conference co-chair for ECURE: Preservation and Access for Digital College and University Resources, an interdisciplinary conference sponsored by ASU from 1999-2006. He has served on the program/arrangements committee for the Arizona Archives Summit since 2009. Rob serves on the LYRASIS Board of Directors and is a member of the Leaders Circle. He is one of our guest speakers today for the San Francisco Leader’s Forum and is also a panelist for the Digitization in the Wild session.

Gail Truman founded Truman Technologies in early 2010. Prior to founding the company, Gail held numerous technical marketing positions with Sun Microsystems Inc., including storage portfolio strategist, competitive analyst, product manager, marketing programs manager and business development manager. Gail most recently was responsible for driving the creation of solution “appliances” built around Oracle Sun hardware and software technologies and leading open source software.

Julie Williamsen is the Library Director at the Stanford Graduate School of Business Library. She has 20 years of experience in academic and business research, library management, collection development, teaching, outreach, and staff management. Prior to working at Stanford, Julie was a Product Manager at SirsiDynix, leading innovative cloud-based software products in the field of library services platforms, search and linked data. She also spent over 15 years in tenured faculty positions at Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library. At BYU, Julie launched the theses digitization project, used crowd sourcing for data collection for a popular database, taught advertising and market research strategies, formalized the library's electronic information licensing policy and created the Documentary Film Series, among other projects.

Julie is passionate about open access, linked data, machine learning, content streaming and other technologies enabling information sharing, research and collaboration across the world. Julie earned her Masters of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Bachelor of Science in Education with a minor in Art History from Brigham Young University.

For more information

If you have any questions or would like to join us for a future LYRASIS Leaders Forum, please contact Jenn Bielewski, Community Engagement Manager, jennifer.bielewski@lyrasis.org, 800.999.8558 x2915.