Privacy-sensitive Records: Preservation and Access

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Central Lunatic Asylum for the Colored Insane

1870-ish to present
Extensive Records

Administrative
  Board meeting minutes
  Reports to Governor
  Finances, Insurance

Legislative
  Hospital creation
  Appropriations

Medical Library
Hospital life
Events
Newsletters
Photographs
Management
Construction
Blueprints
Newspaper clippings
Patient Records
Admission, readmission
Treatment
Ward books
Discharge, furloughs
Death, burial
Preparation Activities

Stabilization

Inventory

Finding aid

Physical records

Digital master copies (HDD)

Support

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Phone a friend

Scholars
Mental health, History, Law, Information

Archivists
State Library of Virginia

Virginia AG’s Office

Medical Director, CSH

Dinwiddie County Historical Society (patient families)
Policy comparison

Digital Preservation

Access to Stakeholders
Model for the past and future
Outcomes

System
- Dark Archive
- Digital Library

Concept
- Workflows
- Model

Community
- Archive Staff
- Scholars, families, social workers, policy makers
Survey of State Archives

Archive Staff (30)

Minimal resource availability

Archivematica+ArchiveSpace
Survey of State Medical Statutes

Reading of statutes + Questionnaire

California and Oregon are most permissive

Florida and Texas are most conservative

HB300
Archival Workflow

Digital master copies (HDD) → Temporary storage (server)

Finding aid → Assess completeness

Assess completeness → Assess suitability for automated processing

Generate unique filenames

Transfer files → Normalize filenames

Archive ingest folders

Physical records → Inventory
Archival Workflow

1. **Digital master copies (HDD)**
2. **Temporary storage (server)**
3. **Finding aid**
   - Assess completeness
4. **Physical records**
5. **Archive ingest folders**

- **Generate unique filenames**
- **Transfer files**
- **Normalize filenames**
  - Assess suitability for automated processing
Access to Handwritten Records

Difficult in disposing of these removals. In closing this pleasure to testify to the ability with which the officers assigned their duties. Their course such as to meet my warmest approbation to the Board for their
• Crowdsourced transcription
  – Privacy-sensitive
  – handwritten documents

• Word recognition

• Motivation
Handwritten Records Access Workflow

- Handwritten documents
- Segmented words
  - Segmentation Evaluation
  - Crowdsource transcription
- Text
  - Zooniverse
Research

- Information Science
  - Digital privacy
  - Enhancing collection access
  - Crowdsourcing privacy-sensitive materials
  - Structural metadata Generation

- Computer Science
  - Automated text detection
  - Machine learning
Express text in images

- Crowdsourcing of privacy-sensitive documents
Improve Browsing Granularity
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