

FSDF Summary Report

Thanks in part to the support provided by the Faculty and Staff Development Fund, I attended and presented at the ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2016 conference in Atlanta, Georgia, this past August. This was the very first time that I attended this national conference. From the moment I stepped into the plenary session and throughout the conference, I felt very fortunate to be among the many archivists, librarians, and others who travelled from across the United States and beyond to attend this joint annual meeting of the Council of State Archivists and the Society of American Archivists.

I was pleasantly surprised by the emphasis on the need for diversity and inclusion in libraries and archives as a common thread throughout the conference. It was very validating and encouraging for me as this is an issue that I am continuing to discuss and work on with other librarians in the UH System. The panel presentation I participated on, titled "Working for Tomorrow: Student Activism, Education, and Diversity in the Archives," showcased the archival outreach work each of us have participated in to raise awareness, collect stories, and preserve/promote voices of those underrepresented in the archives. The creative approaches shared by my fellow panelists and by other session presenters not only inspired me but also introduced me to new methodologies and concrete examples of how to bring about this institutional change and to better serve our diverse communities here in Hawai'i. In fact, I plan to adapt some of the projects that I learned about for implementation at our library.

In addition to the more formal learning in conference sessions, I also benefited from informal conversations with information professionals who work in similar institutions and who face similar issues. This to me was almost as valuable as some of the sessions themselves. I plan to stay in contact with these individuals so that we can continue to share and learn from each other's successes and challenges.

I am returning to our Maui College Library with a fresh energy and excitement for enhancing our library collections and services. I plan to share what I've learned from the conference with my fellow librarians during our departmental meetings. I'm also eager to do hands-on training with our library staff as we plan and implement the types of programming and services that were shared at the conference. In examining the current state of our campus archive, there is a lot of foundational work ahead of us before some of this can happen. However, I am confident the innovative strategies, ideas, and techniques I learned, in both formal and informal conference settings, will aid the library in better caring for our archive and other collections going forward. Furthermore, by sharing the dialogue about trends and transformational changes in libraries that I encountered at the conference, I hope to foster a similar dialogue on-campus and encourage others to re-envision how we invite students, faculty, and staff to engage with library resources.