

Love the Words: Preserving the Email Collection of 92Y's Unterberg Poetry Center

EA:BCC Email Archiving Symposium
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Project background

- Partnership between the 92nd St. YMCA and Stanford Libraries
- Funding from the EA:BCC re-grant program
- Email archive spanning over two decades, 8 accounts, and over 1 million messages



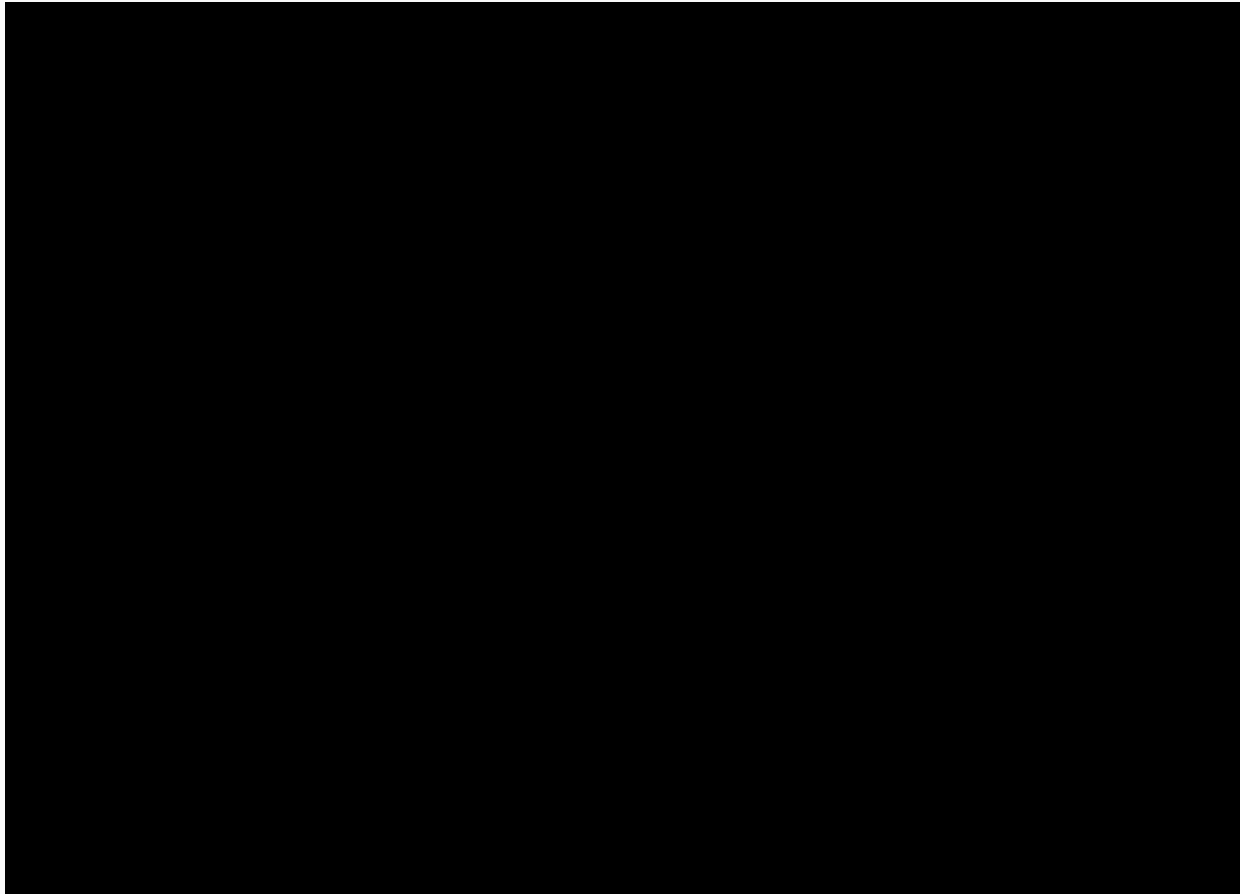
Preparing to process the collection

- Acquiring exported email from 92NY
- Converting email files from .pst → .mbox
- Transferring email from Stanford to Marian
- Determining hardware needs for project

Approach to processing

- Start with small accounts to build confidence and roadmap for large accounts
- Iterative approach
- Processing steps:
 1. Survey accounts
 2. ePADD's Sensitive Lexicon and restrictions
 3. Correspondence clean up
 4. Image attachments
 5. Email appraisal template

Demonstration



Processing status

- Accounts processed:
 - Karl Kirchwey
 - Betsy Bonner
 - Victoria Rowan
 - David Yezzi
 - Janet Polata
 - Alexandra Wilder
- Accounts to be processed:
 - Bernard Schwartz
 - Ricardo Maldonado

Project outreach

92NY Unterberg Poetry Center Email Archives: A Case Study on Troubleshooting Email File Transfer for Processing, SAA Bloggers!

Virtual Email Archiving Forum

- Entirely virtual event - 1st week of December, 2023
- Focus on literary email archives
- Discussion between email donors and scholars
- Use cases from archivists processing literary email archives
- More details to come!

On the importance of email collections

“When it comes to life-writing, the real, honest, diaristic, warts-and-all kind, the only thing I have to show for myself- before St. Peter and whomever else- is my *Yahoo!* email account, opened circa 1996 and still going. In there, is probably the closest thing to an honest account of my life, at least in writing. That’s me, for good and for bad, with all the kind deeds and dirty lies and domestic squabbles and bookish friendships and online fashion purchases.”

-Zadie Smith, “Life-Writing”