

[REDACTED]: Access, Privacy and Addressing Ethical Accessibility

The Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) is pleased to announce its Call for Papers for the 2024 Annual Conference to be held virtually on May 8th-10th, 2024.

The annual AAO Conference is an opportunity for archivists, librarians, scholars, and students from across Ontario and beyond to gather and explore contemporary professional and socio-political issues affecting archives and memory repositories in the province. The aim of the conference is to broaden the knowledge and connections within the archival and historical heritage community in Ontario and beyond, leading to new insights into the records and the people who take responsibility for their care.

This year, we invite papers and presentations that relate to the theme of **access**.

As archivists, information professionals, or a professional in a related field, a core part of our work is making accessible the records in our care. Too often we hear from the public that they are unaware of an archive's existence; with the current expanding digital landscape, archives gain new creative avenues for demystifying their existence, reaching a wider audience, and in turn cultivating new relationships with users and donors. Simultaneously, we are also responsible for the protection of the individuals, communities and organisations who created and/or are included in these records and who these records may also represent - both legal and ethical responsibilities.

Enabling access is central to archival work, but access is not one size fits all. With each situation, there are many unique ways to facilitate access, each with accompanying barriers and concerns. In an age of increased digital access, how has privacy changed? What challenges do archives face in making records accessible while respecting users and donors? And with increased awareness of social justice and disability justice efforts, how has our thinking about access changed, and importantly, how can we work to improve it? Conferences in the information and history fields have, in recent years, called for a more balanced approach to collection management and community engagement; what kind of work and considerations must be taken or is underway to ensure this occurs?

This is why we are interested in hearing from you this year! Whether it is about the creative ways you have taken to encourage access to your records, how you have navigated existing or future barriers, or how you have considered access in a changing socio-political landscape, the AAO Conference wishes to foster a space for dialogue amongst participants and presenters about **access**.

The AAO Conference Program Committee invites proposals for examinations on this general topic in past, present and future contexts. Potential subjects for consideration include, but are not limited to:

- Navigating access difficulties in a changing world (digital/legacy formats, etc.)
- Remote access
- Access, privacy, and legal legislation v. ethical responsibility
- Navigating policy gaps
- Developing new networks and collaborations
- Financial inequality in archives
- Trauma-informed approach to archives

- Decolonial and postcolonial approaches; topics may include: archival protocols and languages of Indigenous and other communities of traditional knowledge; living archives and ancestral memory; decolonizing practice and policy.
- Community archives
- Archives and activism; archives relating to social justice
- Disability justice and the implementation of accessibility codes and procedures (AODA)
- Queer LGBTQS+ archives and collaborations
- Women's archives and networks and feminist ethics of care
- Conflation between access and accessibility
- The role and responsibilities of an information professional in a digital landscape
- Donor relations

We especially welcome and encourage papers by and from archivists who identify as part of minority communities. We also welcome proposals from students, new graduates, emerging archivists, or those archivists associated with under-represented institutions or collections. All individuals who work or volunteer with archival records are invited to submit a proposal.

Special Call for Students and Emerging Voices

This year, AAO is calling for Emerging Voices of students and recent graduates for the opportunity to share projects or areas of research. We invite those interested to submit a poster of a project or research topic related to access, to be hosted in a poster session accessible throughout the conference for attendees. Additionally, we invite the submission of a presentation proposal alongside their poster, should you wish to offer a 10-15 min talk, followed by a Q&A section at the end of the presentations.

Students and new professionals with ideas for sessions or papers beyond the scope of Emerging Voices are encouraged to submit outside of this category as well.

Proposal Format and Submission Guidelines

Proposals for a session or paper should include a brief abstract of up to 250 words and a biographical note of no more than 100 words for each speaker. For non-traditional formats, please also indicate the estimated duration of your presentation.

Proposals should be submitted to: AAO Office at aao@aao-archivists.ca

Individual papers should use the subject line format: AAO2024_Paper_Lastname-Firstname

Proposals for a session should select a "point person" and use the subject line format: AAO2024_Session_Lastname-Firstname

The due date of applications/submissions is **Monday, January 29th, 2024.**

On Behalf of the 2024 Conference Planning Committee