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Archives Field Trip! Bringing Public History to the Archives

Claire Du Laney

University of Nebraska at Omaha, cdulaney@unomaha.edu

Lori Schwartz

University of Nebraska at Omaha, lschwartz@unomaha.edu

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Archives Field Trip! Bringing Public History to the Archives

Claire Du Laney, Outreach Archivist

Lori Schwartz, Hagel and Technical Services Archivist

UNO Libraries' Archives and Special Collections

July 25, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



Reasons for Archives Field Trips

- Flipping the traditional “one-shot” instruction session
- Hands-on approach combine practice and theory
- Very little about archives in other public history syllabi, compared to other PH work (museums, digital, oral history, etc.,)
- Conveying skills of processing and outreach in 2 hours was a challenge





Courtesy Archives and Special Collections

Processing



- Students learned multi-level arrangement by moving folders into a series structure.
- We rotated through 3-4 collections to give students experience with different collections and document types.
- Next time, we will keep this structure but change out one collection for a more complex one.





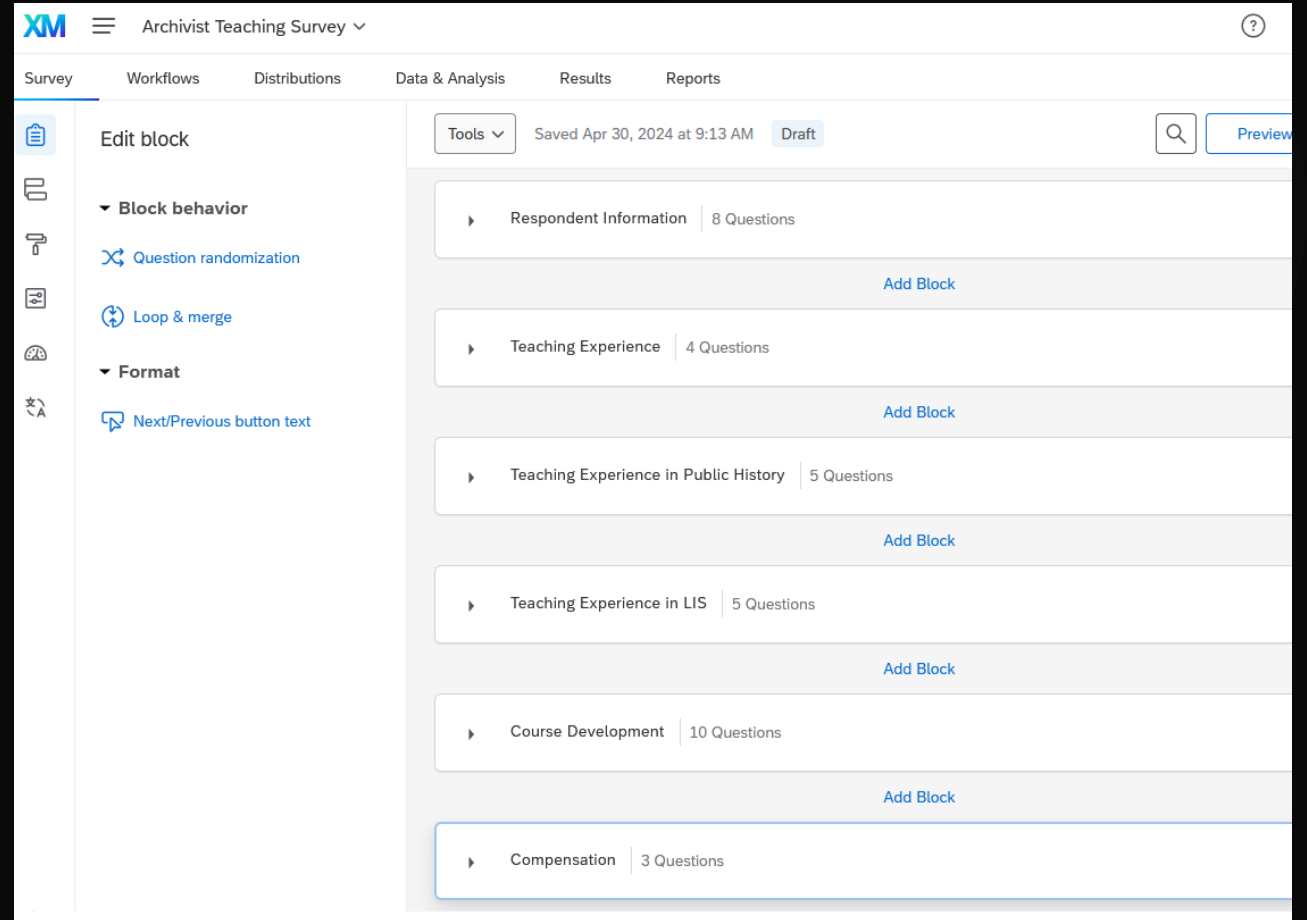
Outreach/ Exhibit

- We gave students a tour of department displays
- We asked students to select items from pre-pulled boxes and write drafts of an introductory panel and item labels
- Goal was to examine topics of handling, collection, ethics, outreach (all things we discussed in class and readings)
- Agency and creativity caused paralysis
- Next time, we will pre-select items, not boxes; send students collection/ item descriptions before class for context, and create a worksheet



Archivist Teaching Survey

- Scope
- Audience
- Questions galore
- Categories:
 - Background Info
 - Teaching Experience
 - Course Development
 - Compensation



Screenshot showing survey categories in Qualtrics.



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