

Project 2: The Archive

Archive, from the Greek, etymologically refers to “a public building,” “a place where records are kept.” From *arkhe*, it also means a beginning, the first place, the government. By shifting the dictionary entries into a syntactical arrangement, we might conclude that the archival, from the beginning, sustains power. Archival memory works across distance, over time and space; investigators can go back to reexamine an ancient manuscript, letter finds their addresses through time and place, and computer discs at times cough up lost files with the right software....What changes over time is the value, relevance, or meaning of the archive, how the items it contains get interpreted, even embodied.”

–Diana Taylor, *The Archive and the Repertoire*



For “The Archive,” you will create a project based on research at Special Collections. There are at least three possible approaches: working with a special archival collection; working with the architectural environment of the archive; or working with systems of cataloging and preservation. Regardless of the way you approach the project, you should plan to spend time in Special Collections doing research: looking at archival materials, observing the space and working environment, or talking to staff about how they do their job. As usual, the medium is completely open, but you must bring your work to a professional level of finish and install it in the critique space or classroom before your critique day.

This project is worth 20% of your final grade. Critiques will take place October 27 and 29 according to the schedule below.

October 27

Jahan Hamilton
Brendan Wells
KJ Conner
Lisa Edwards
Matt Egesdal
Jamie Smith
Brett Warden

October 29

Tim Blood
Natasha Hovey
Carrie Eckermann
David Zorn
Jenny Weber
Erica Cox
Caitlyn Wilp