Ashley Blewer

Archivist. Developer. Technologist. Specializing in video preservation, digital repository management, infrastructure/community building, computer-to-human interpretation, and teaching technical concepts.

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AV Preservation Specialist
Artefactual Systems

01/2018 – Present

Consults with cultural heritage institutions on digital preservation initiatives, integrating the open-source software platform Archivematica and related software tools and services. **Educates** institutional staff and software service providers on digital preservation services. **Provides** subject matter expertise in the long-term preservation of audiovisual holdings to Artefactual staff and clients. **Performs** requirements analysis for Archivematica software development projects. **Provides** public outreach and community support. **Tests**, **documents**, and **releases** new versions of Archivematica.

MediaConch Consultant
MediaArea

07/2014 – 12/2017

Developed elaborate architecture and design, comprehensive documentation, API, and project management goals for open source audiovisual file conformance checker software project. **Managed** testing and quality analysis for software from creation to production. **Managed** user experience research and outreach, including leading or producing content for workshops and conference presentations, providing documentation for varying skill sets and needs, drafting reports and promotional materials, conducting interviews with potential and active users, and seeking user feedback through the creation of and analysis of user surveys. **Instigated** the standardization of Matroska, FFV1, and FLAC through collaboration with IETF community, code manipulation and migration, new contributor support, and detailed technical specification analysis.

QCTools & SignalServer Consultant
Bay Area Video Coalition

01/2014 – 07/2018

Optimized user experience for highly technical quality control software. **Created** unique icons for complex concepts and other graphic design work, including the SignalServer logo and promotional materials. **Managed** software quality control and testing, design, and documentation. **Managed** portion of two-year grant-based budget for self and contractors. **Created (and still creating)** a welcoming open source work environment and acting as an advocate for new contributors. **Presented** the software tools at various conferences and workshops. **Prepared** workshop materials.

Notable Projects

Mark Morris Dance Group (2017-Present) —*Developed CollectiveAccess database, data model, cataloging workflows, and access portal for and with a dance company's archives team.*

Ricecapades! (2013-Present) — *Working on miscellaneous audiovisual preservation projects.*

MediaArea (2014-Present) — *Various technical projects.*

Collaborative Cataloging Japan (2017-2019) — *Working group member; UX & design; data model development & import.*

Helen Frankenthaler Foundation (2017-2018) — *Digital infrastructure work.*

Dance Heritage Coalition (2014-2016) — *Artist's Toolkit redesign project, finding aids access project, other projects.*

Volunteering

IETF CELLAR Working Group (Ongoing) — *Supporting standardization of MKV, FFV1, and FLAC.*

A/V Artifact Atlas (Ongoing) — *Site migration and design overhaul for archival video error detection.*

ffmprovisr (Ongoing) — *Original creator/maintainer of FFmpeg script cookbook and educational resource.*

Lesbian Herstory Archives (2017-2019) — *Website strategy and digital preservation consultation.*

XFR Collective (04/2015-04/2016) — *Digitized analog media for artists and non-profit organizations.*

Applications Developer
New York Public Library

08/2015 – 08/2017

Designed and implemented scalable, optimized, maintainable database-driven web applications. **Improved** existing web applications and develop new features to optimize data pipeline from catalog content and newly digitized assets to public-facing interfaces. **Collaborated** with a larger team and stakeholders across the library to create new and innovative online experiences for the public. **Developed** library-wide workflows for petabyte-scale media ingest for instant web-based patron access points and long-term preservation of assets.

Archives and Web Development Consultant
La MaMa ETC

05/2015 – 03/2016

Developed CollectiveAccess-based digital archives access portal for small non-profit arts organization. **Created** design, front-end development, and user experience workflow for the public face of the archives collection. **Developed, monitored, and tested** scheduled microservices for digital preservation of media, and provided documentation for sustainability.

Forward Deployed Engineer
Bluecore

12/2014 – 05/2015

Ensured client success by writing custom scripts that allows personalized targeted marketing at scale. **Acted** as the primary technical representative in all client and sales conversations. **Provided** quick response and immediate correction of system bugs.

Fox Movietone Digitization Project Cataloging Manager
USC Libraries Moving Image Research Collections

09/2011 – 05/2014

Responsible for training and assisting multiple student workers and volunteers, providing assistance to curators in current internal and external cataloging practices, and ensuring project progress. **Trained, organized, and supervised** the work of up to nine active student workers and volunteers per semester. **Maintained** performance on schedule with aggressive grant-based deadlines. **Developed** and modified scripts to accelerate and streamline the cataloging process. **Established** a cohesive workflow for the most efficient processing and updating of unique and/or outdated catalog records. **Led** the coordination of an annual two-day nitrate film inspection event, including the recruitment of 25+ volunteers and production of an archival film handling training video. **Actively participated** in Drupal, Metadata, Workflow, and User Study working groups, offering solutions and troubleshooting issues related to the creation of a digital repository.

Code4lib 2016 Video Stream Committee (2015, 2016) — *Ensured conference access for all.*

PBCore Advisory Committee, Web Team (2013-~2017) — *Iteratively improved website.*

Education

Recurse Center (Spring 2, 2018) — *Programmer, self-guided, collaborative retreat.*

Trello (10/2014) — *Fellow, Fog Creek Fellowship*

Flatiron School (08/2014) — *Graduate, Immersive Web Development Program*

University of South Carolina (05/2013) — *Master of Library and Information Science*

University of South Carolina (12/2008) — *Bachelor of Art, Studio Art: Graphic Design*

Grants & Published Writing

Status of CELLAR: Update from an IETF Working Group for Matroska and FFV1 in Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Digital Preservation with Dave Rice. Swiss National Library, 2016.

Ruby (chapter) in **The Librarian's introduction to programming languages: a LITA Guide** with Jessica Rudder**.** Ed. Beth Thomsett-Scott. Lanham, Maryland : Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.

National Film Preservation Foundation Basic Preservation Grant (Spring 2014) — *Kate Gleason home movies collection on behalf of USC Moving Image Research Collections.* Successfully funded.

National Film Preservation Foundation Basic Preservation Grant (Fall 2013) — *Willie Lee Buffington/Faith Cabin Libraries home movies collection on behalf of USC Moving Image Research Collections.* Successfully funded.

For an up-to-date list of talks, workshops, training, and other presentations, please see https://bits.ashleyblewer.com/talks/