Ashley Blewer

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Brooklyn, NY (GMT -05:00)

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

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 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

Pratt School of Information (2019-Present) — *Visiting Assistant Professor for INFO 654: Information Technologies graduate-level course.*

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

Ricecapades! (2013-Present) — *Audiovisual preservation projects.*

MediaArea (2014-Present) — *Technical standards projects.*

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

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

Dance Heritage Coalition (2014-2016) — *Archival collections.*

Volunteer work

NDSR Advisory Board (2019) — *Leadership for the National Digital Stewardship Residency programs.*

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.*

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.

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

Code4lib 2016 Video Stream Committee (2015, 2016)

PBCore Advisory Committee, Web Team (2013-~2017)

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*

Published Writing

A. Weaver, A. Blewer. **Sustainability through Community: ffmprovisr and the Case for Collaborative Knowledge Transfer.** iPRES 2019 16th International Conference on Digital Preservation Proceedings, 2019.

A. Blewer, D. Rice. **Status of CELLAR: Update from an IETF Working Group for Matroska and FFV1.** iPRES 2016 13th International Conference on Digital Preservation Proceedings, 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.

PREFORMA and the MediaConch Project: Open Source Tools for Open Standards. JTS 2016 Conference Proceedings, Indiana University Press, 2016.

Grants

Available upon request.

Recent Talks & Workshops

2019-09-18 iPres: Sustainability through Community: ffmprovisr and the Case for Collaborative Knowledge Transfer

2019-08-06 Society of American Archivists: BloggERS presents: Script It! Developing Technical Literacy in the Archives: Git-keeping: The Many Technical Skills Beyond 'Learning to Code'

2019-02-21 Code4lib: The Real World of Technology

2019-02-19 Code4lib: Forensic Files, Episode 1: "Fishing for the Truth"

2019-02-19 Code4lib: Forensic Files, Episode 2: "A Purr-fect Match"

2018-11-30 CNA & Technoport Luxembourg "Hack Your Heritage": Working in open source… in cultural heritage

2018-11-27 Centre national de l'audiovisuel Luxembourg and MediaArea: Open Source Quality Checking Workshop

2018-10-26 No Time To Wait! 3: The Developer-Archivist: a Definition of the Profession

2018-10-17 DLF Forum: Open Options for Audiovisual Preservation

2018-10-16 DLF Forum: Approaches to A/V

2018-09-05 NDSA Content Group Meeting: AV Preservation

2018-06-04 WGBH AAPB Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship: Tech Workshop

2018-05-07 Recurse Center: Internet Girlfriend Club!

2018-04-17 IS&T ARCH2018: "Digital Audiovisual File Formats: Identification, Validation, Specification Verification" Workshop

2018-03-23 National Forum on Ethics and Archiving the Web: Fidelity, Integrity, & Compromise

2018-02-15 Code4lib: Beyond Open Data

2017-11-10 No Time To Wait! 2: Open Source: A Preservation Strategy Panel

2017-11-09 No Time To Wait! 2: spec writers: we are just like you!* *sorta

2017-06-21 Open Source Bridge: How Open Source Audiovisual Tools Help Archivists (And You Too!)

2016-10-17 USC SLIS 777 Guest Lecture

2016-10-14 iPRES: Quality Standards for Preserving Digital Cultural Heritage

2016-10-03 iPRES: Status of CELLAR: Update from an IETF Working Group for Matroska and FFV1

2016-07-23 Northeast Historic Film: Buying Lobster Rolls With Linden Dollars: Virtual Tourism and Digital Visions of New England in Second Life and Beyond

2016-07-23 Tate: Conservation of Digital Video Workshop

2016-07-18 No Time To Wait!

2016-04-03 NYU MIAP: XSLT Workshop

2016-03-10 Code4lib: Free your workflows (and the rest will follow): community-driven AV solutions through open source workflow development

For an up-to-date list of talks, workshops, training, and other presentations, with references to sources and works prior to 2016, please see https://bits.ashleyblewer.com/talks/