ARCHIVE PROJECT WHITE PAPER

A white paper, or backgrounder, is an informative research report that provides background information related to a focused topic. Unlike an argumentative paper, the goal of a white paper is not to compel action or present a conclusion; instead, it is meant to provide contextual information necessary for an unfamiliar audience to understand the topic or issue at hand so that they might later make an informed decision.

Even though the purpose is to inform, a white paper is still *highly rhetorical*. Because the information presented has been chosen specifically for the intended audience it cannot be considered "neutral" even though it may not explicitly make an argument. The white paper establishes the groundwork and puts the audience in the right frame of mind to then be presented with a more argumentative report or action plan.

For the purposes of this class, the white paper will present background information on the theme surrounding your proposed archive project. It should contain research on the topic, provide a more in-depth rationale for the creation and curation of your proposed archive, and make use of academic research and scholarship. Writing the white paper will provide an opportunity to practice your research skills, hone your writing abilities, and gain more experience in document design, all while navigating the complexities of working collaboratively. Though I will provide guidance, it will largely be up to your group what to include, how to format and design the document, and how to divide the work up evenly. Your goal should be to gather and share information about the theme of your archive in order to facilitate the construction of the final project's contents.

Contents of the white paper will vary depending on group and topic, but should include thorough research, detailed information, and an eye towards establishing the purpose and context of your proposed archive. We will look at existing white papers during class time and discuss design principles as well as written white paper content.

Due Dates:
- Draft: Tuesday March 19th, in class (Group Assignment)
- Final: Tuesday March 26th, by 11:59pm, on Blackboard (Group Assignment)

Deliverables:
- White paper, 1500-2000 words

Total Points: 100