

## Library Materials Evaluation Workshop

**Presenter:** *Sidney Berger, the Ann C. Pingree Director at the Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum*

**Sponsor:** **Massachusetts Historical Records Council ([www.nmrls.org/hrc/](http://www.nmrls.org/hrc/))**

This continuing education event is designed for custodians of books, manuscripts, and archival collections who are responsible for their holdings in many different ways. One of these ways is in the determination of the value of the materials under their aegis. It will also be valuable to "library friends" groups in the evaluation of donations prior to library book sales.

**Values to be discussed:** fiscal, intellectual, monetary, research, insurance.

**Topics:** evaluation resources, legal/ethical issues surrounding appraisals and deaccessioning, sale vs. donation to another cultural institution, rare and valuable items.

**Hosts:** Metrowest and Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library Systems

**Cosponsors:** Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Northeastern Document Conservation Center

**Workshop Cost:** \$15 for lunch, no charge for the workshop. Please use the registration form below if you are not joining us for lunch but wish to attend the program and would like to register without payment.

**Location/Date:** Burlington Public Library, June 12, 2009, 10:15am-3:00pm

### **Directions:**

The Burlington Public Library is located at 22 Sears Street, just off the Town Common beside the Police Station. The Common is bordered on the west by Cambridge Street (Route 3A) in Burlington.

Please car pool when possible. Parking is limited.

To get to the Library, take Route 128 (I-95) north or south to Exit 33, and turn at the end of the ramp onto Rte. 3A north. Pass 2 traffic lights, and turn right at the third traffic light onto Bedford Street. Take your first left onto Center Street, and the first right after that onto Sears Street, just past the beige clapboard Police Station. The Library is a modern brick structure with parking available on three sides of the building.

## Workshop Description

### **Library Materials Evaluation Workshop**

Sponsored by the Historical Records Council  
Presented by Sidney Berger  
Phillips Library  
Peabody Essex Museum

There are different kinds of value, and there are different audiences for evaluation. Basically, there are the fiscal and the intellectual value of items: what are the monetary values and what are the research values of items in the collection? How do these differ, which values are germane to the custodians of the collections, and how do the answers to these questions instruct us as to the disposition and handling of the items?

Related to monetary value is the marking of items in the collection, for security purposes. Should it be done? especially for rare and valuable pieces? How should it be done?

Further, evaluations must be made within collections (usually for insurance purposes, but also to guide personnel on the fairness of prices of items being offered to them), but patrons often need or wish to know the values of the things they have. A responsible custodian of these materials knows how to lead a patron to the answers to such questions as: What is this book (or document) worth? What resources are out there that can help me determine value? What are the strengths and drawbacks of these resources? Are they reliable? Where can I sell my things? Which is better for me: selling an item or donating it to a library or archive?

On top of all this is the overarching world of the law. Is a library legally allowed to give appraisals to the public? If so, under what conditions and with what restrictions? If not, then how can we lead the patron to find the truth? Are we allowed to deaccession our own materials? If so, what kind of appraisal should we do to maximize our return? If not, what do we do with unwanted holdings? What other legal or ethical issues are involved in appraising our materials?

This workshop is aimed at answering these questions . . . and more.

**Library Materials Evaluation Workshop  
June 12, 2009 10:15am at the Burlington Public Library  
22 Sears St.  
Burlington, MA 01803**

Registration Form

Name:	
Institution:	
Address:	
Email:	
Phone:	

Check for \$15.00 to cover lunch enclosed

I am not able to join you for lunch. No payment enclosed.

Registration closes and payments are non-refundable on June 5, 2009

Return form by June 5<sup>th</sup> to:

NMRLS – HRC  
175 Andover St., Suite 205  
Danvers, MA 01923