

Archives and Archivists

Part I: Videos & Questions

DIRECTIONS - Watch each video clip and answer the questions with each clip on a separate piece of paper or document. Feel free to pause the videos to write down your answers.

Meet an Archivist + At the Heart of Every Story is an Archive

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1060638033>

1. What does an archivist do?
2. Why “can’t you tell history without the archive”? Give examples.
3. Define “archival items.”
4. What can a piece of evidence or documentation tell us about “what was before”?
5. “The first point in collecting an archive is capturing a memory.” What objects capture memory?

Detective Work

<https://vimeo.com/518772212>

1. Archivists are inquisitive. What are some “open questions” archivists ask about the collection?
2. What question did the archivist have about the Assistance League of Los Angeles?
3. In wanting to find out more about the Assistance League of Los Angeles, what type of evidence did the archivist use “inside” the collection? What type of evidence did the archivist use from “outside” the collection?

Songs from the Past

<https://vimeo.com/518767781>

1. What can “oral histories” tell us about the past?
2. In this video, the archivist is discussing Manuela Garcia’s Spanish folk songs. How are the lyrics, melodies, and sounds of the folk songs recorded and preserved? Give examples.
3. How can people listen to Manuela Garcia’s songs today?