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Digital Archive Notes 6th Anniversary
Preserving Our Past to Protect Our Future

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It is hard to believe that six years have passed since the International Employee Assistance Digital Archive was unveiled in 2013 by Drs. Jodi Frey and Patricia Herlihy. Initially, it developed out of a need for the EA field to preserve its history on a free and publicly accessible website where historical documents, current papers, presentations, and other multimedia EA-related materials could be preserved and shared on a global level (Frey & Herlihy, 2017).

Since the initial launch, the EA Archive has grown by leaps and bounds; expanding to include both past and current articles, webinars, and presentations from around the world. Currently, there are over 3,300 unique submissions from over 400 authors. In addition, there have been approximately 4,500 visits to the Archive during the last six years.

Background

The field of archival digital preservation is complex and growing among librarians, computer scientists, and information technology professionals. The International Council on Archives was established in 1948 and currently has approximately 1,400 members from 199 countries. Since 1990, the evolution of digital Archives has gained attention and fostered experiments on a broad array of issues and methods (Coalition for Networked Information, 2017; Reiger, 2018).

The EA Archive is somewhat unique in that it is contributing to digitizing material that had previously only been available in published form. Marketing is an ongoing struggle, a challenge faced by many archives. Without continual outreach and use, archives lose their living, breathing existence, something that is necessary for its document collection to remain relevant for the field (Owens, 2014).

Why Archives are Important

Archives are witnesses to the past. They provide evidence, explanation, and justification for historical ideas, concepts, and actions, as well as current findings. Looking back, we are thrilled that so many academic leaders and practitioners in the EA field have joined the process of contributing to and using the Archive. Starting with just a few submissions in 2013, there has been strong enthusiasm and commitment, particularly by the EA research community.

Our contributors understand the benefit of having their publications in one place easily accessible by others coming up in the field. In addition, many of the icons in our employee assistance field have graciously offered their advice and support, as well as numerous historical documents that have led to the inclusion of many unique documents.

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An original member of the *Thundering Hundred* captured the heart of what we are working to accomplish in the following comment:

"As the EAP field evolves and grows to meet the challenges of the worldwide 21st century work forces; program administrators, practitioners, and researchers increasingly require archival resources to learn of the variety of models across cultures and consumers. So too, do policy makers and consumers. Archives are also essential for the development of robust and accurate academic and technical literature. The University of

Maryland has stepped up to the challenge of providing these services via the EA Archive."
                                    -Tom Delaney, MPA, MSW, March 2016

As a leader in EA education and research, it is fitting for the University of Maryland to host the Archive. Best of all, anyone can become an Archive submitter from anywhere in the world without having to have any relationship to the university. In-kind contributions from the school and university library, in addition to funds raised through the EAP fund and financial contributions to Rocky Mountain Research help keep the lights on for managing and growing the Archive.

Next Generation of EA Professionals

One benefit of working with the university is the opportunity to engage with the next generation of EA professionals as they enter the field. Dr. Frey's graduate social work students, following an EA specialization track, work on the Archive – meeting leaders who submit materials, curating content, and designing an engaging website. This work often sparks interest in learning more about EAP. Many of these students eventually become members of EAPA and participate in local chapters.

Engaging these future leaders of the EAP field is only one small way in which the Archive is not only preserving the rich history of the field, but connecting it to the future as we move into areas such as artificial intelligence, opioid and other substance use and misuse, workplace violence prevention and response, and a host of other yet unimaginable related topics.

Appropriate Items for Submission

As mentioned earlier, the Archive accepts articles, books, presentations, webinars, letters, videos, and photographs. A new feature is our photo gallery. This photo gallery highlights the professional achievements of EAPA chapters and EAP leaders, in addition to memorable moments in time.

As the Archive continues to grow, we encourage EA professionals to visit the Archive website, explore information on topics you want to learn more about, or that you might need to write RFPs, responding to customer requests, or learning cutting-edge trends. In addition to submissions, we also encourage feedback and questions.

Archive Collaborators

Both EAPA and EASNA have been strong collaborators with the Archive over the last six years.

From this partnership, the Archive has gained access to full issues of the *Journal of Employee Assistance* and related historical versions of the journal, as well as *EASNA Source* newsletters, and *EASNA Research Notes*.

A relatively new partnership has evolved with the *Employee Assistance Report* (*EAR*), edited by Mike Jacquart, resulting in full copies of the *EAR* now being available in the Archive. George Watkins, editor of the *EAP Digest*, has also donated copies of this now-defunct publication to the Archive. The Archive has also started to include audio and videotaped *keynote presentations from EAPA's annual EAP Conference and EXPO.*

Get Involved!

Many people have asked how they can best support the Archive. Below are six simple ways that individuals and organizations can both utilize this resource as well as build it to be the best possible repository of knowledge for future generations of EA professionals.

- Visit the Archive and search one of your favorite authors or topics;
- Encourage others in your network to check out the Archive;
- Email the EA Archive Flyer to your distribution list & participate in our Social Media;
- Submit articles, books, presentations, webinars, videos and related EA-related current and historical documents;
- Submit relevant photos to the Archive Photo Gallery; and
- Consider donating to the EAP Fund (tax deductible through the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation) which supports the Archive among other EAP-related work and projects, including EAP students. Alternatively, make a financial contribution directly to Rocky Mountain Research to support Dr. Herlihy's time spent on Archive marketing and gathering of historical documents. ❖

New Direction – Connections with Well-Known Archives

Another new initiative of the Archive has been the development of relationships with other archival holdings. This includes the Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives at Cornell University, which houses works by Dr. Harrison Trice, father to the Occupational Alcoholism Field, which was the precursor to the EAP field.

More recently, we have forged a relationship with Wayne State's Reuther Library, which houses most of the archival work on unions. This is important as unions have had an historically strong impact on the development and proliferation of EAPs within the U.S.

We are also in discussion with leaders from EAPA-South Africa (EAPA-SA) to include material from their informative monthly newsletter and will be linking soon to research from the Archives at the University of Pretoria on EAPs and workplace behavioral health.

University of Maryland's SSW 40th Anniversary

As the University of Maryland's School of Social Work celebrates its 40-year anniversary of EAP education and research with a year of celebration running March 2019 – March 2020, we are proud to house the final collection of video interviews conducted by Dr. Dale Masi comprising the EARF-funded history project that documents the history of EAP in the U.S and Canada.

All interviews are with leaders from the EA and Work/Life fields including: John Burke, MA; Dale Masi, PhD; Fran Rodgers, MA; Dave Sharar, PhD; Carl Tisone, MS; Jim Wrich; Rick Csiernik, PhD; and Rita Fridella, MBA. All eight videos can be streamed online from the Archive and can be located using the search terms: "History video."

The Future Looks Bright

Having a single, online, free, and permanent public place to store and share historical and current papers, presentations, and other multi-media materials about the EA field generates considerable interest and support.

We want to send heartfelt thanks to the many organizations and individuals who have been so supportive in helping to both populate and increase awareness of the Archive as a resource for EA research and knowledge building. ❖

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Alaina Kahn, BA is a MSW student at the University of Maryland and works closely on the EA Digital Archive. Her graduate studies focus on providing trauma-focused clinical treatment.

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