

# Miah Clark

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Digitization is fragile. Because of this, I am motivated to pursue an education and eventual career in libraries because I would like to learn from the existing systems of preservation to learn how to better archival practices as a whole as we enter a world that wants to rely on the heavy digitization of everything. Libraries and archives exist for the opportunity to organize and centralize information, and further to provide access to such information to general or specialized publics. As we enter an increasingly digital future, it is important to think from a librarian or archivist's perspective of how to move forward with a digital push. I want to learn from what has been used for hundreds of years to see what my colleagues and I will be using as we move towards the future of archives and libraries.

I am deeply interested in the accessibility of preserved information and how to achieve a universal archival standard where information is valued for its condition, but still accessible as broadly as possible. I specifically hope to work with the rewriting of narratives surrounding existing materials or the materials of individuals, especially those regarding women or queer individuals. I have the opportunity to work with archivists within the William Morris Society through the University of Iowa, and my close handling of Victorian documents has allowed me to see the perception that surrounds certain eras and those within them. It is difficult to see the erasure of certain cultures or individual identities when I as the archivist have the access to documents that prove such narratives otherwise. I hope for a world where libraries and archives are able to provide access to information and history as it stands and to help aid the intense miseducation that surrounds identities of controversy.

What I currently do for the William Morris Society Archive is streamline the information within their sitemap, aiming to allow for seamless travel between the documents within the Archive's private use website and their public-use website. Though one website will not solve all errors within the ever-changing process of digitization for libraries and archives, it is one way in which I am proud to begin my contribution to the field.

I gained a specific interest in the University of Iowa's MLIS program through my growing relationship with the library and library faculty. The individuals from the UI libraries and archives have been incredibly helpful as I navigate my future within libraries and archives, and have proven to be a valuable resource to many students, SLIS-oriented or otherwise. They have shaped the University of Iowa as a great place to pursue my interest in information sciences, something which I hope to do through the U2G program specifically.

Digitization is fragile. Though, digitization seems to be the perfect answer to solving issues with accessibility to archive documents without taking away from the integrity of archival preservation. The push for a digital future is one I feel libraries and archives will have to navigate with intense caution but is a push that will overall benefit both libraries and the communities they impact. I hope to be a part of the new wave of archivists navigating digitization and how to make accessible important documents for all who may need them.

Sincerely,

**Miah Clark**

