



**PRESS RELEASE**

September 16, 2013

For Immediate Release

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**AJHA to Address Ways to Archive Digital Journalism Records at New Orleans Convention**

New Orleans, La. – The American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA), with the help of local librarians, publishers, and media professionals, will address ways to archive digital journalism records at its upcoming conference at the Hotel Monteleone, Sept. 26-28, 2013.

The panel, titled “Industry Insiders, Librarians, and Publishers Confront the Vanishing Media Archive,” will take place on Thursday, Sep. 26, from 4:10-5:10 p.m.

The panel is composed of practitioners who produce digital content, academics who preserve digital content, and publishers who distribute that content, including: Michael J. Wilson vice-president of digital media for Capital City Press, the publisher of the (Baton Rouge) Advocate; Jason Saul, journalist and director of digital services for 89.9 WWNO/New Orleans Public Radio; Lisa Hooper, head music and media librarian for the Music and Media Center at Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University; Annie Peterson, preservation librarian, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University; and Dr. Alisa Plant, acquisitions editor, LSU Press. AJHA member and associate professor Pete Smith (Mississippi State University) will moderate the panel.

The panelists will examine ways in which journalists can efficiently and conveniently retain their digital correspondence, social media posts and other records. Also, the panel will consider ways to archive that material for future study by media historians, and discuss the effect of the digital landscape on the academic publishing market, including issues of copyright and electronic publishing.

“Librarians and historians have noted the astonishing rate at which ‘ephemeral communication’ disappears before anyone has a chance to determine its importance. This is particularly worrying for communication historians,” AJHA president Kim Mangun, who sponsored the panel, noted. “If items such as breaking-news tweets are not archived properly, future historians will face a ‘black hole’ of primary sources.”

AJHA hopes to use this panel as a springboard for possible future discussions on the issue as the organization moves from city to city for its annual convention.

“AJHA and its members are uniquely poised to engage in this important conversation,” Mangun stated, “and this panel of experts and media practitioners is an important first step in exploring how the organization might work with media outlets to preserve digital records.”

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society.

For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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