

Animating Archives: Making New Media Matter December 3-5, 2009 Brown University

Abby Smith Rumsey
Director, Scholarly Communication Institute
University of Virginia Library

"Digital Archives: the Missing Context"

Making sense of evidence requires both ready access to recorded information or artifacts and a reasonable grasp of the context in which the records were created and used. Evidence without context defies interpretation. This talk will explore the challenges of working in digital archives: they are often difficult to access, tricky to authenticate, and lacking the material context that is intrinsic to paper- and film-based artifacts.