Introducing the Panel Members:

Craig Fansler is the Preservation Librarian in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library at Wake Forest University, a position that he’s held for 21 years. He holds a Masters in Library and Information Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Craig also holds an MS in Management from Troy State University and a BA in Art History from East Carolina University. Craig repairs books, encapsulates photographs and documents, and constructs archival boxes and enclosures for the ZSR Library at Wake Forest University. He also designs print materials for ZSR Library and manages the library exhibits. In 2013, Craig accepted a donation to the library of a letterpress print shop from a local individual and has been using the press to print bookmarks and poetry broadsides ever since. His research interests are in Irish printing and artists, disaster preparedness and preservation of library materials. He also regularly teaches book repair workshops across North Carolina. His advice to students: “Follow your gut instincts, be dependable and do a good job. Have fun too.”

Nichole O. Nichols is currently a Public Services Librarian at Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, NC. She received a MLS from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Master of Arts degree in Journalism from Syracuse University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hampton University. Nichole is also a writer and a blogger at her website NicholeONichols.com.

Gabriel Graña: Cuban-American is a bit of a fun label, almost like Teacher-Librarian. As accurate as they are cumbersome, these labels describe Gabriel’s journey completely. Born in Miami, Florida and raised in a Cuban household, learning always came first, followed very quickly thereafter by coffee and a pastelito. North Carolina became his new home in 2008, where taught for six years, learning two really important things: that he loves teaching, and he wants to impact both adults and young people on a more regular basis and in more diverse ways. The answer to this dream: Librarianship. An ACE scholar during his time at UNCG, Graña graduated in 2015 with his MLIS and year of experience into his job as a librarian at Smith Middle School, where he still presently works. Currently he’s focusing on enhancing the makerspace in his library, on meeting the reading needs of non-readers, making the library more friendly for non-regulars, and developing more diverse forms of programming that can occur consistently and be sustainable. His advice for those in the job market? Know your craft, but emphasize its importance. Advocate for libraries and why you are the one that will embody their necessity. Study the user groups where you're applying, but focus on those that are perhaps in need of more attention - the underserved.

Carrine Luthy earned her MLIS from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May 2015. She currently works as a Web Content Editor for the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where she writes, creates, organizes and manages content as part of the school's Digital Media Department. She also works virtually as a Metadata Editor for Offset, a premium stock image website and division of Shutterstock.com. She applies metadata and keywords to optimize the searchability of Offset's images from around the world. She loves the challenges (and rewards) that come with managing information and making it accessible to the world at large. In her off time, she enjoys cooking, traveling, all things North Carolina, storytelling, crocheting and trying new foods!

Gabriel Graña: Cuban-American is a bit of a fun label, almost like Teacher-Librarian. As accurate as they are cumbersome, these labels describe Gabriel’s journey completely. Born in Miami, Florida and raised in a Cuban household, learning always came first, followed very quickly thereafter by coffee and a pastelito. North Carolina became his new home in 2008, where taught for six years, learning two really important things: that he loves teaching, and he wants to impact both adults and young people on a more regular basis and in more diverse ways. The answer to this dream: Librarianship. An ACE scholar during his time at UNCG, Graña graduated in 2015 with his MLIS and year of experience into his job as a librarian at Smith Middle School, where he still presently works. Currently he’s focusing on enhancing the makerspace in his library, on meeting the reading needs of non-readers, making the library more friendly for non-regulars, and developing more diverse forms of programming that can occur consistently and be sustainable. His advice for those in the job market? Know your craft, but emphasize its importance. Advocate for libraries and why you are the one that will embody their necessity. Study the user groups where you're applying, but focus on those that are perhaps in need of more attention - the underserved.

Tanya Zanish-Belcher is currently the Director of Special Collections & Archives, and University Archivist for Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She received her B.A. (1983) in History from Ohio Wesleyan University and an M.A. (1990) in Historical and Archival Administration from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Prior to coming to Wake Forest, she was Curator of the Archives of Women in Science and Engineering, Head of Special Collections at Iowa State University, and Special Collections Archivist at the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History. Her most recent publication is “Women’s Archives for the Society of American Archivists (2013)” and she is also the author of “A Culture of Concealment: Revealing the Records of Human Reproduction,” which also appears in Perspectives. She has given numerous presentations to local and regional groups, as well as professional organizations such as Mid-Atlantic Archivist Conference (MAC) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA). She is a Past President of MAC, recently completed a term on the SAA Council (2012-2015) and is currently running for SAA President. She was named an SAA Fellow in 2011. Her advice: Take the time to think about what you want to do and where you want to go. Any career is a combination of hard work, perseverance in the face of challenges, serendipity, and determination. One way I was proactive when I was first starting out was obtaining an attendee list for any conference I was attending and then focusing my time on meeting the people I thought I should meet. This demonstrates the importance of networking and mentoring in the archives profession, which is so very small.

Tanya Zanish-Belcher is currently the Director of Special Collections & Archives, and University Archivist for Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She received her B.A. (1983) in History from Ohio Wesleyan University and an M.A. (1990) in Historical and Archival Administration from Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Prior to coming to Wake Forest, she was Curator of the Archives of Women in Science and Engineering, Head of Special Collections at Iowa State University, and Special Collections Archivist at the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History. Her most recent publication is “Women’s Archives for the Society of American Archivists (2013)” and she is also the author of “A Culture of Concealment: Revealing the Records of Human Reproduction,” which also appears in Perspectives. She has given numerous presentations to local and regional groups, as well as professional organizations such as Mid-Atlantic Archivist Conference (MAC) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA). She is a Past President of MAC, recently completed a term on the SAA Council (2012-2015) and is currently running for SAA President. She was named an SAA Fellow in 2011. Her advice: Take the time to think about what you want to do and where you want to go. Any career is a combination of hard work, perseverance in the face of challenges, serendipity, and determination. One way I was proactive when I was first starting out was obtaining an attendee list for any conference I was attending and then focusing my time on meeting the people I thought I should meet. This demonstrates the importance of networking and mentoring in the archives profession, which is so very small.

Drew McNaughton earned his MLIS from UNC-G in 2005. He began his career in librarianship as the Technical Services Librarian at Greensboro College— one day he raised his hand in a subcommittee meeting and then found himself as the back-up Systems Librarian for the NC – Piedmont Automated Library System (NC-PALS), a local consortium that included the libraries at Bennett College for Women, Greensboro College, Guilford College, and Salem College. He is now an Executive Account Manager for SIRDSynex, a library automation provider, working with libraries in NC, SC, TN, VA, WV, and DC. He spent some time soul searching before making the move to the vendor side of the library world and has found the experience to be helpful in his overall growth as a librarian, opening his eyes to the very important fact that libraries are a business unit in our larger organizations. His advice: As you look to your future in librarianship, remember that we are all selling the library. Be vocal with you’re advocacy of our profession and remember that we are a service industry that will save the world. We just need our communities to make us part of their life.

Cal Shepard (Cal) Shepard is the State Librarian of North Carolina. In this position she manages two libraries and also serves as a department of the development of library service throughout the state. Prior to that she was Program Director of Consulting Services and Regional Director for the Southeast at LYRASIS, where she managed the consulting program and served as a consultant herself. Prior to that position she managed the Educational Services program at SOLINET and served as Chief of Library Development at the State Library of North Carolina. She also held positions at the Piedmont Library System in Winston-Salem and a rural multi-county public library headquartered in Murphy, North Carolina. Cal has a MLS degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a BA degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is active in the American Library Association and the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies organization where she serves on the board. She serves on the board of the North Carolina Center for After School Programs and on the Board of Visitors for UNC-Chapel Hill. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in 2015.

Nichole O. Nichols is currently a Public Services Librarian at Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, NC. She received a MLS from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, a Master of Arts degree in Journalism from Syracuse University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hampton University. Nichole is also a writer and a blogger at her website NicholeONichols.com.