



Colloquium Series

The School of Library and Information Science invites you to:

African American Folklore at the Library of Congress: From Personal Research to Public Access

A Colloquium with Dr. Michael Taft

Head, Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress

Where: CUA, 132 Marist Hall (Information Commons)

When: Thursday, February 19, 5:00 p.m.

Abstract: Dr. Taft will discuss his own research in African American blues lyrics, how it has intersected with the large collection of African American folklore at the archive of the American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, and the Center's challenges in both preserving and presenting its African American materials in the digital age.

About the Speaker: Michael Taft has been the head of the archive of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress since 2002. A folklorist for over 35 years, he holds a PhD in Folklore from Memorial University of Newfoundland and an MLIS from the University of Alberta.

Previously, he has been university archivist at the University of Northern British Columbia, archivist at the Vermont Folklife Center, and sound & image librarian and curator of the Southern Folklife Collection in the Wilson Special Collections Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has taught or been a visiting scholar at several universities, including University of Saskatchewan, Saint Mary's University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and Indiana University. He has published a number of monographs on folklore and oral history, as well as several books on the blues, including *The Blues Lyric Formula* (2006), *Talkin' to Myself: Blues Lyrics, 1921-1942* (2005), and *Blues Lyric Poetry: A Concordance* (1984).

For further information contact David Shumaker, Clinical Associate Professor,
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Note regarding accommodations: Please contact David Shumaker by Feb. 12 to request accommodations for individuals with disabilities. This includes the need for materials in an alternative format (i.e. large print or Braille), Sign Language Interpreters, accessible seating, and parking information.