Discovering the Foundation of Archival Practices in the Nation’s Capital
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Introduction
There are more than 100 archives in the District of Columbia and surrounding metropolitan area. Research was conducted with the goal of discovering trends in archive development in this area. New data continues to be collected with an emphasis on determining the foundation date and category to define development trends and compare development growth among types of archives (i.e., government, academic, cultural heritage).

Objectives
Purpose of project
• Identify trends in the development of archives in Washington, DC and the surrounding area
• Identify or confirm archives locations, website and contact person
• Identify category of any archive and archival repository
• Identify any archivist instrumental to the development of archival theory or practice
• Create a map with the data and make it publically available to researchers and scholars
• Use the information to develop collaborative research on archival scholarship in the Nation’s Capital
• Use the information to recruit mentors and develop pool of internships/practicum sites for CUA students

Methods
Online research
• Starting with a list of 35, research was conducted during 2014 to identify additional archives.
• Descriptions of archives, addresses and contact persons were identified from 108 archive websites

Survey
• In 2015, an online survey was created and sent to 108 contact persons in the database
• The survey asked respondents for details about their archive including foundation date and archivists instrumental in the development of archival theory or practices

Results
The Data and Map
• Responses to the online survey is ongoing. To-date, 17 responses have been collected, 16 respondents included founding dates, 1 respondent included an archivist instrumental in the development of archival theory or practices, 2 respondents included additional repositories, now totaling 115
• The data collected from both the online research and survey was input into Excel and the data was imported into a map called BatchGeo which creates a layer of data from Excel on Google Maps
• The map includes a search box allowing users to search for an individual archive by name. The map data can be viewed as clusters by choosing different groups

References
BatchGeo Features http://batchgeo.com/features/
Nation’s Capital Archives Map http://batchgeo.com/map/ef8c1bb0f02a5a2571a77351ceef7ad
Online Survey http://goo.gl/forms/kydqdMhTY8

Conclusions
Trends
The foundation date for 60% of the archives was learned. Of the 70 archives with foundation dates, 2 were founded before 1800, 16 were founded in the 1800s and 48 were founded in the 1900s. New archives continue to be founded with 4 established after 2000.

More than half of the archival repositories were identified as either academic (33%) or cultural heritage/museum (26%). Government repositories accounted for 18% of the total.

New Data
New data continues to be collected focusing on determining the foundation date and category to define development trends and compare development growth among types of archives (i.e., government, academic, cultural heritage).