

Awards and Scholarships

Louisa Bowen Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students in Archival Administration

By Alessandra Liberati



Alessandra Liberati

I would like to begin by showing my appreciation for receiving this award. The Louisa Bowen Scholarship has helped me to further my knowledge of copyright and its impact on archives and their collection materials when it comes to digitization for accessibility and preservation.

In May of 2020, I graduated from Beloit College with a bachelor of arts in history and classical civilizations, focusing on the Middle Ages and ancient Rome

respectively. This was at the beginning of the pandemic, and I, along with thousands of other students, spent my last semester of undergraduate school using digital resources to complete my papers. This revealed to me the inconsistencies within the digital resources that were currently available, as opposed to those that were still only accessible in physical form.

Currently, I am a little more than halfway through my master's degree in library and information science at Wayne State University's School of Information Sciences, with a focus on archives and digital content management and a concurrent archival administration certificate. I am also still utilizing digital resources almost completely, as I am completing my program online and out of state.

I became interested in archives when I began volunteering at the Beloit College Archives, and the interest has been fostered since then through classes and various work positions. As I have moved forward from my undergraduate background in ancient history into the field of library science and archives, I have cultivated my interest and passion in information accessibility for all users. Throughout my classes at Wayne State University's School for Information Sciences, I have learned about the various methods and practices that go into digitizing materials. One of these classes revolved around copyright and its impact on the practice of digitizing materials. This has become an important point of knowledge for me as it pertains to my ultimate career goal of making archival collections accessible to differently abled users through the guidelines given by the Americans with Disabilities Act and beyond.

I believe that everyone deserves equal access to all knowledge, and this scholarship has helped me to get closer to achieving that goal.