Proposed URSUS Special Collections Retreat

The heads of Special Collections (SC) for the URSUS libraries propose a planning retreat to be held during the summer of 2015. The ideal location would be College of the Atlantic. Similar retreats held by the reference and circulation heads served to encourage comradery and yielded specific action plans.

As with the previous retreats this should take place from Thursday morning through Friday afternoon. Lodging, transportation and meals will be covered by home institutions. Attendees who do not work a 12 month contract may need to have accommodation made by their institution for their time. Institutions that have very small SC staff may need to reduce services during the retreat.

Topics to be covered include:

De-accessioning: What is involved in removing materials from SC? Why would you want to? What are best practices?

Caring for Rare items: How do we define rare? White gloves, surgical gloves or clean hands? Current standards in climate control? When to digitize?

Statewide initiatives: DP.LA; Digital Commons; Chronicling of America; MACON; MSCS;

Advocacy: How do we let our local stakeholders and/or the rest of the world know about our treasures? How do we encourage donations of both collections and the resources to support them?

If given the go ahead to plan this retreat members of the group will make take responsibility for planning the logistics and facilitating the discussions.