# Medical Archives and History: Local Informal Network Support and Shared Expertise of CAMA

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### **Questions and Needs**

Institutional records, photographs, archives, and artifacts, especially at smaller health institutions, do not always receive formal or sustained attention and staffing. Yet the demand for expertise and services in this area often arises. An informal network of colleagues can provide support for both novice and experienced information professionals, who are charged with organizing their institutions' archives or answering internal and external medical history questions, often in addition to other duties. CAMA is one such network.



Survey

Respondents to a small survey conducted in

an August 2019 show CAMA member variety

Archivist & Exhibition Director 1

history questions as part of their

responsibilities.

resource.

7 manage an archives or answer medical

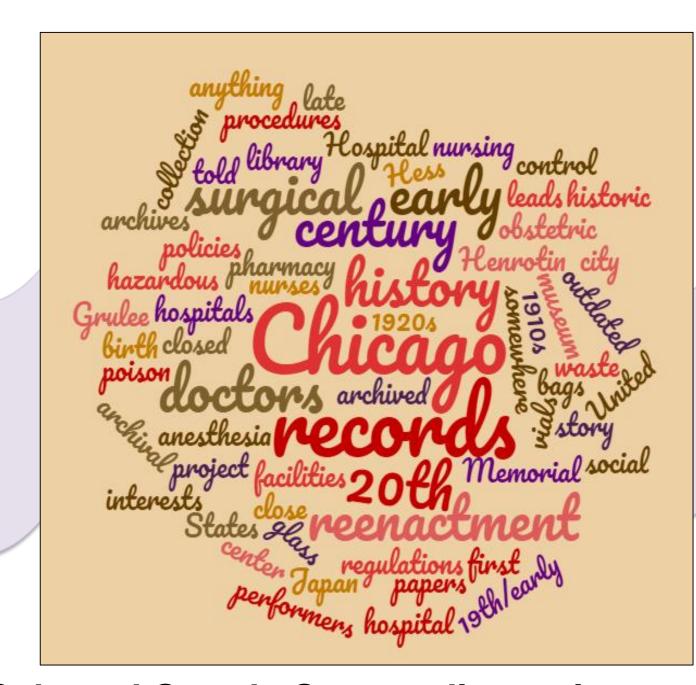
All 8 feel CAMA is a useful network or

 $(n=8)^{3}$ 

-Archivist

-Librarian

-Other



Selected Google Groups discussion topics in a word cloud generated in WordClouds.com

### Chicago Area Medical Archivists October 27, 2010 Registration -Pritzker Auditorium, Northwestern Memorial Hospital 251 Stephen L. Adams, MD, Professor of Medicine, Professor of Em Chief, Division of Sports Medicine: Chief Emeritus, Division of Eme Department of Medicine Northwestern University Feinberg Sch Head Team Physician, Chicago Cubs National League Baseba Allen Buckner Kanavel, MD, FACS: Surgical Proteus David Tate, MD, FACS, private practice, Louisville arching for the story of a post-reconstruction/progressive era African American Wom Susan Rishworth, MA, MLS, Archivist, American College of Surgeons, Chicago Franklin H. Martin and ovarian transplantation in Chicago, 1902 Sarah Rodriguez, PhD, Senior Research Fellow in Medical Humanities Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago Eileen Tanner, Special Assistant for University of Illinois at Chicago Campus Relations, Ch malignantly pious': hospital management by Chicago Methodisa Susan Sacharski, Archivist, Northwestern Memorial Hos Pictorial history of Northwestern University

Sue Sacharski, Susan Rishworth, Ron Sims & Kevin O'Brien.

Contact Kevin O'Brien: <u>kevinm@uic.edu</u> or 312-996-8977 or any member of th

### **Members of the informal CAMA** network include those who are affiliated with:

- American College of Surgeons
- Northwestern Memorial Hospital
- Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
- Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine
- Rush University Medical Center
- University of Illinois at Chicago

& independent researchers, history of medicine enthusiasts, students...



Montage of CAMA events, people, artifacts, and presentation items...

## **Medical history** symposia

Highlights of Chicago area:

- Medical history
- Research in progress
- Institutions
- People
- **Events**

. . .



## CHICAGO AREA MEDICAL ARCHIVISTS (CAMA)

TENTH MEDICAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2012 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room 9 a.m. Coffee Hour 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Presentations 12 - 1:15 p.m. - Lunch on your own 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Presentations

History of the University of Chicago Hospital Dr. Lucy A. Gaynor, Advocate for Children—Nanking China, 1892 Anatomy, Pathology and Infection Risks of Foot Binding

History of the American College of Surgeons

Diane Friedman, RN, MSN, Instructor, Marian University School of Nursing, Indianapolis Indiana

History of Children's Hospital

### **Expectations**

... "given the workloads and staffing resources of the archives involved, the informal nature of CAMA is appropriate. The group email list provides a place where we can reach out to a wider pool of archivists/institutions that hold similar records...

What do you feel are misconceptions about medical institutional archives, records, photographs, etc., n=8

> 50% (4) -No need (no interest, no future demand) 50% (4) -Can be done by staff in other departments, units Someone else will do it -Requires archival expertise -Can be done by the library

## CAMA

\*Acknowledgement: Thank you to fellow CAMA members who provided inspiration and input for this poster

### Chicago Area Medical Archivists (CAMA)

- -Founded in 2002 as an informal networking group -Members: librarians, archivists, historians, & independent researchers
- -Sponsors an (almost) annual fall history symposium
- -Maintains a GoogleGroups list- by being a member of the list, one becomes a member of CAMA...

Information: <a href="http://www.chicagoarchivists.org/cama">http://www.chicagoarchivists.org/cama</a>

### -Both librarian and archivist 2 -Independent researcher

Rank priorities for the preservation of medical institutional memory (highest-1 to lowest-5), n=8 #1 (4) #2 (2) #4 (2) -Staffing

#2 (3) #3 (3) #1 (1) #4 (1) -Funding -Policies & procedures for institutional records & memorabilia

#2 (3) #3 (2) #1 (1) #4 (1) #5 (1)

-Administrative support -Other support

#3 (3) #4 (3) #1 (2) #5 (7) #4 (1)



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interested in the history of Chicago medicine/nursing...

**Appeal** 

"One of the appeals of CAMA is that it welcomes

not only archivist/librarians who work with health

sciences records, but it's also a group for anyone