

SIS Colloquium Series

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
School of Information Sciences

135 N. Bellefield Ave., Pittsburgh PA 15260

Thursday, December 3, 2015

IS Building, 3rd Floor Theatre | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Greg Leazer

Associate Professor, Department of Information Studies
University of California Los Angeles



iSchools, Legitimacy, and the Contribution of Archival Studies

To what degree are iSchools fitting and gaining acceptance into their larger university environments? Their legitimacy rests upon the degree of acceptance within academia. Over time, isomorphic pressures such as coercion and normativity will lead iSchools to more resemble similar units on campus. The iSchools face many challenges, in part to a relative immaturity of research conducted in the field including pretensions of scientific status and a loss of identity through an overly interdisciplinary program of research. The quest for legitimacy will depend on the ability of iSchool participants to articulate what is unique about their field. The subfield of archival studies is examined in light of the possibility of serving, in part, as a body of research originating within iSchools. Archival studies is commended for its development of sui generis conceptual apparatus, a commitment to the full cultural record, expanding notions of use, and its own contributions to interdisciplinarity.

Professor Leazer is an associate professor and recently served for six years as the chair of the UCLA Department of Information Studies. He conducts research on the organization of information. He is also interested in the role of libraries in public education, and addressing the public school library crisis in California. He is a recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award on Science and Engineering from the National Science Foundation and awarded by President Bill Clinton.