Archiving Psychology's Feminist Voices
Lessons From the Digital World

Alexandra Rutherford
York University, Toronto
What is PFV?

(it is not an STD!)
Oral histories
Life narratives
Research tool
Teaching tool
Education, training, mentoring experience!
Feminist community in an anti-feminist environment
It is an intergenerational feminist encounter,
and it is where...
For a younger generation of feminists, the archive is not necessarily either a destination or an impenetrable barrier to be breached, but rather a site and practice integral to knowledge making, cultural production, and activism. The archive is where academic and activist work frequently converge. Indeed, the creation of archives has become integral to how knowledges are produced and legitimized and how feminist activists, artists, and scholars make their voices audible. Rather than a destination for knowledges already produced or a place to recover histories and ideas placed under erasure, the making of archives is frequently where knowledge production begins.

- Kate Eichorn, *The Archival Turn in Feminism: Outrage in Order*, 2013
Why PFV is our activism

- It allows us to countervail the “violence of the archive” – archives produced within the conditions of patriarchy, heterosexism, and racism that have privileged – and reinforce the privilege of certain kinds of people and experience by limiting, erasing, and distorting what it is possible to know about the past.

- PFV allows us to present immediate access to voices and bodies and affects that express feminism in different ways.

- PFV allows us to create and curate feminist expressions – of intersectionality, methods, mental health – you name it!

- PFV allows us to perform our feminisms through social media, dramatic performances, film screenings.

- PFV allows us to CREATE, COLLECT, DOCUMENT, RECORD, PRESERVE, CURATE, PROMOTE, ADVOCATE, PERFORM.
A Manifesto for Feminist Archiving
(or disruption)

[A brief note]: This Manifesto is a playfully provocative piece, not intended to cause alarm nor offense. It was developed in response to the many voices of artists, performers and archivists who attended our event in January 2016 at HOME MCR. The Manifesto challenges readers to consider their own position in relation to ideas around archival structures and ways of collecting, writing, authorship, preservation and use. We welcome all responses and encourage the content of the Manifesto to be made and unmade, rejected and embraced in equal measure. It is a creative piece – we will not censor creative Feminist practice.

https://dwarchivenorth.wordpress.com/northernwomen/
The feminists are cackling in the archive…

4: STORAGE & TIME

Archives require spaces in which to be stored (physical or digital). Many physical archives end up in a basement due to an assumption that archives are containing histories, and therefore should be separate from the contemporary activities taking place “above”. There is also the practicality of temperature and size. Digital preservationists are finding challenges with both space and formats with an ever changing and increasing content. Time is the archivist’s enemy: a race to preserve and conserve before deterioration or loss.

DISRUPTION:

ALL ARCHIVES TO BE MOVED TO THE GROUND FLOOR

enter via the archive
unlock drawers (give out free keys)
dispose of gloves (beautiful dust)
embrace ageing
playful dust
borrow --- gift --- copy --- display --- move

T O U CH

"Please Take"
"Add your notes to the margins"

crush boxes

dismantle shelves
space takeover
find new containers

Body-As-Archive

Body-As-Container

Play loud music and dance

Move/ don’t be static

USE PEN
Psychology’s Feminist Voices has been substantially supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Secondary funding sources include

- Society for the Psychology of Women of the American Psychological Association
- Committee on Division/APA Relations (CODAPAR) Small Grants Program
- Association for Psychological Science Fund for Teaching and Public Understanding of Psychological Science