Lost in Translation -
Faculty and Archivist Communication

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2018 ACRL NEC Annual Conference – Failing Forward
May 4, 2018
Labor 697: United States Labor History

• Labor history, unions, & working class culture from 1800s to present
• Required Labor Studies grad course
• 18 students
• 2.5 hours

ARCHIVAL INSTRUCTION SESSION

Thematic focus – labor collections
Methods focus – primary source analysis
Delivered vs Desired

Thematic – labor collection contents
Methods – primary source analysis

Learning Outcomes
• Excitement about archives
• Learn items in labor collections
• Analyze and question sources
• Browse and search awareness

Thematic – labor collection coverage
Methods – archival research

Learning Outcomes
• Learn roles for primary sources in research (assignment)
• Understand timeline for archival research, including topic generation
• Learn labor collections coverage
• Browse, search, finding aids expertise
Lessons: Past

Enthusiasm and lots of communication is not enough

Don’t be satisfied with the status quo!

&

Future

Improved collaboration and detailed dialogue around:

Library instruction planning

Assignment design, library visit integration

Syllabus construction, semester learning outcomes & activities

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