Sophia LaMonica Fernandez, MLIS, MS

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RESEARCH INTERESTS & SUMMARY

My research centers on metadata, archival ethics, and evidence-based information policy as tools for advancing social justice and inclusive knowledge systems. I examine how governance structures shape access, privacy, and community representation, with particular attention to community-based and culturally grounded archives. My work contributes to the field through applied policy research, community-centered archival practice, and sustainability-oriented governance frameworks that support equitable access, ethical stewardship, and the protection of marginalized communities.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Communication & Information Sciences (In Progress, 2025–2029)
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL
Advisor: Bharat Mehra

M.S., Informatics (2023)
San José State University, School of Information

M.L.I.S., Library & Information Science (2020)
San José State University, School of Information

B.A., English (1999)
Loyola Marymount University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Co-Project Manager — Reading Nation Waterfall (IMLS-Funded National Project, 2022–2024)
Co-led national research and evaluation for a literacy initiative serving Indigenous communities. Oversaw project design, evaluation metrics, data collection, reporting, and conference dissemination focused on early children's book access and community-driven literacy ecosystems.

Graduate Intern — USAIN Agricultural Research Internship, UC Merced Library
Conducted digitization and metadata remediation for U.S. agricultural literature (1820–1945). Supported open-access access initiatives and historical collection discovery.

Graduate Intern — Open Access Project, Claremont Graduate University
Assisted with open-access collection development, scholarly communication workflows, and digital repository support.

Data Collector — Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)
Middle School Math and Science Technology Project
Conducted field observations across multiple middle school sites; interviewed principals and teachers; administered student assessments; and supported qualitative and quantitative data coding and analysis for a district-wide educational technology evaluation project. Contributed to research documentation and evidence-based assessment of instructional technology implementation.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Faculty & Part-Time Librarian — Pacific States University, Los Angeles, CA (2024–Present)

Courses Taught:

- EN220 Research Methods and Bibliography, Summer 2024
- EN230 Oral Communication, Fall 2024
- EN200 Composition, Winter 2025
- SS140 Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2025
- GEN107 Perspectives on History & Human Experience, Fall 2025

Teaching Responsibilities:
Course and curriculum design, weekly lectures, grading and assessment, student mentoring, library research instruction, information literacy instruction, scholarly bibliography development, and integration of digital humanities and social-justice pedagogy.

Virtual Librarian — Wongu University of Oriental Medicine (2023–2025)
Provided instructional research support to students and faculty, developed digital collections, and integrated open-access complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) resources into the academic library.

PRESENTATIONS

LaMonica Fernandez, S. Chow, A., et al. (2024). Establishing Early Children's Literacy Book Ecosystems in Indigenous Communities: Reading Nation Waterfall. LibLearnX Conference. Baltimore, MD, January 19-22, 2024.

LaMonica Fernandez, S. Chow, A., Lambert, A., Dial, L., Sellars, H., Harris, R., Coriz, S., McQuillen, J., Metzger, G., Choi, L., Peña, R., Lyons, A., Doctor, K., Smith, M., Katz, K. and Fernandez, A. (2023). Reading Nation Waterfall Year Two: The Role of Libraries in Supporting Early Children's Literacy in Tribal Communities. American Library Association (ALA). Chicago, IL.

LaMonica Fernandez, S., Chow, A., Uriz, I., Choi, L., Dial, L., Peña, R., Kue, S. (2023). Increasing Access to Native American Children, Reading National Waterfall Year 1 Results. California Library Association (CLA). Sacramento, CA.

LaMonica Fernandez, S., Chow, A., Hofman, D., Lyons, A., Uriz, I., Oakes,J., Atwater, M., Belasco, S., Choi, L. and Thompson, M. (2023). Seeking Immortality: Preserving the Language and Cultural Heritage of the Northern Cheyenne in Virtual Reality. California Library Association (CLA). Sacramento, CA.

LaMonica Fernandez, S., Chow, A., Hofman, D., Oakes, J., Uriz, I., Atwater, M., Lyons, A., and Potter, K. (2023). Seeking Immortality: Storytelling Using VR to Preserve Native American Language and Culture. Oregon Library Association (OLA). Bend, Oregon.

LaMonica Fernandez, S., Chow, A., Dial, L. Violett, A., S., Remmer, T., Castle, B., Curione, M., Passey, A., and Uriz, I. (2022). Reading Nation Waterfall: Building an Early Children's Literacy Network in Tribal Communities. International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM). Temecula, CA.

LaMonica Fernandez, S., Chow, A., Hofman, D., Oakes, J., Curione, M., Dial, L., Gifford, K., Violette, and Ortega, C. (2022). Seeking Immortality: Preserving Native American Language & Cultural Artifacts of the Northern Cheyenne in Virtual Reality. International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM). Temecula, CA.

LaMonica Fernandez, S., Chow, A., Farmer, L., S., Martinez, G., Hummel, T., and Akers, K. (2022). A Reading Nation - Addressing Early Literacy in Native American Communities. California Library Association (CLA). Sacramento, CA.

LaMonica Fernandez, S. (2020). Graduate Research Internship: Preserving the History of United States Agriculture and Rural Life: State and Local Literature: 1820-1945 (pre-recorded presentation). United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) 2020 Virtual Conference: Smart Agriculture in the Era of Climate Change. Online.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)

Communications Assistant — California Agricultural Resources Archive (CARA), UC Merced Library
Designed and disseminated public-facing communications highlighting agricultural history collections; managed digital outreach, web content, and social media campaigns to promote open-access archival resources; supported community engagement and digital storytelling initiatives focused on California's agricultural heritage.

Development Associate — Venice Community Housing, Los Angeles, CA
Supported nonprofit development and fundraising operations for affordable housing and community services programs; assisted with donor communications, grant preparation, campaign coordination, and community outreach; contributed to data management, reporting, and stewardship efforts supporting housing justice initiatives.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

Secretary, REFORMA SJSU iSchool Student & Alumni Group (2020–2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Library Association (ALA)
California Library Association (CLA)
REFORMA: National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking
Society of American Archivists (SAA)

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Skills:
Metadata creation and remediation; digital preservation; evidence-based policy analysis; curriculum design; qualitative research methods; instructional technology; digital archives management.

Languages:
English (native); Spanish (conversational)

Certifications:
CITI Human Subjects Research Issued October 2025