

American Archives Month Lecture Series
School of Library and Information Sciences
College of Communication and Information Sciences

***Avoiding Scriptocentrism:
Archiving Deaf languages and cultures***

Dr. Darrin Griffin
Assistant Professor
Department of Communication Studies
The University of Alabama

**Monday, October 3rd, 4pm – 5pm
Room 532 Gorgas Library (5th Floor)**

American Sign Language (ASL) does not have a text-based written form. It is a visual-spatial language, and contrary to what people usually expect it is not linguistically related to English. Conversational ASL is one of the forms used by the Deaf* to express their heritage. Theatre, art, and story-telling are other visual mediums used by the Deaf to document their experiences. While archival material is often text-based or supplemented with text, ASL creates a novel situation. This discussion will introduce a foundation for thinking about the experiences of the Deaf, and will highlight historical and contemporary archival efforts.

* Deaf is used to describe a socio-linguistic culture (something people have), and not audiological loss.