The Society of Florida Archivists and the Society of Georgia Archivists are pleased to announce the 2016 Joint Conference in Savannah, Georgia, October 13-14.

The conference theme, *Defining Archives: Ingenuity, Innovation, and New Perspectives*, reflects on the changing identity of the archival profession and how archivists have adapted to shifting environmental, economic, and technological priorities. With the word “archive” in ever more frequent use by blogs, websites, collectors, list-makers, and computer software, archivists find themselves struggling to explain to stakeholders what it is they “do.”

*Defining Archives* calls for archives professionals to explore the inventive and enterprising use of archival concepts, functions, and methods through time and across disciplines. Conference program proposals are sought that highlight innovative research, applied projects, and collective insights that improve our understanding of the following key topics:

- The archival environment, including issues, successes, and key operational differences experienced while working in corporate archives, special collections, academic repositories, and public libraries;
- The roles of archivists as educators, reference sources, spokespeople, liaisons, and gatekeepers; changing jobs and titles and how these varied responsibilities are handled in daily work;
- The vision of archives and next steps for the profession, including novel approaches to archival education, recruiting new generations of archivists, and creatively engaging with researchers and the community;
- The creative practice of archives and the ways in which archivists create innovative responses to challenges such as rapidly changing formats, digital preservation, web archiving, unconventional projects, building exhibits and the management of exponentially larger volumes of data.

**Proposal Submissions**

Proposals are due Friday, July 15, 2016. Please submit proposals via email to Andy Richardson at arichardson@portmanholdings.com. Questions may be directed to this email address or (404) 614-5011.
Submit a Proposal

Submissions may include, but are not limited to, the following session formats:

A. **Skill-building workshops.** Half-day instruction sessions in which particular skills and techniques are taught and the workshop’s application to archival settings is discussed.

B. **Discussion-based sessions.** 45-minute panel sessions that feature a visual presentation (e.g., photo exhibit, films, video, sample objects or files from collections) followed by opportunities for group discussion.

C. **Papers.** 10-15 minutes in length and typically combined into a 45-minute session followed by a comment-and-discussion period.

D. **Lightning talks.** 5-minute talks on initiatives, techniques and issues as given by seven to ten individuals in rapid succession, followed by Q&A.

E. **Poster sessions.** 4’ x 6’ visual displays of applied or theoretical research, innovative projects, or collection findings as presented by graduate students and newer professionals.*

F. **Alternative formats.** Be creative! Fishbowls, friendly debates, storytelling sessions, chain reaction panels—you decide. Suggested length of alternative format sessions 5 – 45 minutes.

All proposals must include the following:

- Name, title, affiliation, and contact information for the session chair or poster presenter. Please include the names and email addresses of all confirmed participants.
- Proposed session format, title, and abstract (not to exceed 250 words).
- One-sentence statement affirming your commitment to attend the 2016 Joint Conference and present the proposed session if selected.**

Please note that proposed sessions involving fewer than three people may be grouped together with other, similar proposals.

* **Poster sessions presentations**

Please contact Andy Richardson for poster session logistics.

** Statement confirming commitment to attend

*By submitting a proposal, potential presenter(s) indicate their agreement with the following statement: “As the Submitting Presenter and main contact for this proposal, I understand that if this proposal is accepted, all attending presenters are expected to register and pay the registration fee for the conference; I understand that it is my responsibility to inform my co-presenters of this requirement. If presenter registration fees are not received by the due date indicated in the acceptance letter, the session will not be included in the conference program. I understand that the title of the proposal may be edited to fit the conference program.”*