

# Erica Huyler Donniss

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## ***Independent Historian and Curator, [ericadonniss.com](http://ericadonniss.com), 1999-present***

Lead consultant and collaborator on curatorial, collections management, exhibitions, and publications projects for museums, archives, libraries, historic sites, historical societies, individuals, and companies. Selected projects:

- Consulting curator and co-author of Historic Furnishings Report for Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, [nps.gov/mabi](http://nps.gov/mabi), 2010-2014
- Consulting Archivist and Manager of Llewellyn Collection of Vermont History at Champlain College, [www.champlain.edu/academics/library/special-collections](http://www.champlain.edu/academics/library/special-collections), 2011-2014  
Cataloguing, manuscript arrangement, database development, digitization ([champlib.com/llewellyn](http://champlib.com/llewellyn)), exhibition curation, reference services, volunteer and work-study supervision, donor relations, rehousing, storage facility upgrades, and collections scope, collections policy, and emergency plan development
- Advisor for StEPs Standards Program, AASLH, [aaslh.org/steps.htm](http://aaslh.org/steps.htm), 2013  
Consulted with three participating organizations on museum and archival collections management
- Project manager for Prospect Center for Research and Education's digitization of the Prospect Archive of Children's Work, in partnership with UVM's Center for Digital Initiatives, [cdi.uvm.edu](http://cdi.uvm.edu), 2009-2010
- Panelist for Re-Envisioning the Historic House Museum, private charette and public symposium hosted by Stratford Hall Plantation, [stratfordhall.org](http://stratfordhall.org), 2009
- Research Associate for Reach Advisors, [reachadvisors.com](http://reachadvisors.com), 2008-2011  
Responsibilities included: museum visitor survey analysis, grant writing, and contributions to a white paper, "Museums & Society 2034: Trends and Potential Futures," published by AAM's Center for the Future of Museums in 2008
- Contract researcher and author for Shelburne Farms, [shelburnefarms.org](http://shelburnefarms.org), 2002-2010  
Author of *The History of Shelburne Farms: A Changing Landscape, An Evolving Vision* (2010), winner of the Historic New England Book Prize in 2011
- Contributor to three inaugural exhibitions at Norwich University's Sullivan Museum and History Center, [academics.norwich.edu/museum/](http://academics.norwich.edu/museum/), 2005-2010

***Special Collections Director, Champlain College, [champlain.edu](http://champlain.edu), 2015-***

An outgrowth of more than three years of consulting work. Responsibilities include cataloguing, manuscript arrangement, digitization ([champlib.com/llewellyn](http://champlib.com/llewellyn)), exhibition curation, reference services, work-study supervision, donor relations, rehousing, and development of plans and policies.

***Manuscript Arranger, University of Vermont, [library.uvm.edu/sc](http://library.uvm.edu/sc), 2007-2012***

Responsibilities included manuscript arrangement, rehousing, and finding aid creation in Archivist Toolkit. Major collections processed included the *Trinity College Records* (231 linear feet) and the *Prospect School and Center for Research and Education Archives* (284 linear feet).

***Curator of Collections at The Mount, [edithwharton.org](http://edithwharton.org), 2002-2006***

Responsibilities included establishing professional practices for collections management, archives, and exhibitions; managing collections of 3,000 objects and 250 linear feet of archival material; managing interpretive programs; supervising up to 20 docents and interns; managing interior restoration projects; overseeing the transfer of Edith Wharton's 2,700-volume library, a new acquisition; and initiating the cataloguing of the Wharton library.

***Curator of Collections at Shelburne Farms, [shelburnefarms.org](http://shelburnefarms.org), 1998-2002***

Responsibilities included establishing professional practices for collections management and interpretation; managing 15,000 museum objects and 500 linear feet of archival material in the Shelburne Farms Archives; supervising conservation interns and archives volunteers; managing internal and external reference; co-managing interpretation programs; and training a 50-person volunteer docent corps.

***Selected Professional Service, Grants, and Awards***

- Presenter on museum collections software, New England Museum Association conference, 2013
- Moderator, New England Museum Association webinar on collections software selection, 2013
- Grant reviewer, Institute of Museum & Library Services, 2006, 2010, 2011 (field reviewer), 2013 (panelist)
- Presenter on CollectiveAccess software, Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board conference, 2012
- Member, Collections Stewardship Team, responsible for developing content for American Association of State and Local History's StEPs Project, 2007
- Author and lead staff member, \$200,000 foundation grant for interior restoration at The Mount, 2004-2006
- Author and lead staff member, \$20,000 corporate grant for paint analysis at The Mount, 2003-2004
- Author and project director, \$21,000 grant from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission for Shelburne Farms, 2001-2002
- Author and project director, \$100,000 Conservation Project Support grant from the Institute of Museum & Library Services for Shelburne Farms, 1999-2001

***Education***

- M.A., Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, University of Delaware, 1998
- B.A., Literature, Art, and Architecture in America, Goucher College, 1996