

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

Paul L. Conway, associate professor of information, without tenure, School of Information, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of information, School of Information.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1991	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
M.A.	1980	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
B.A.	1975	Indiana University

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Associate Professor of Information, without tenure, School of Information, University of Michigan
2001 – 2006	Director, Information Technology Services, Duke University Libraries Director, Digital Asset Initiatives, Duke University Libraries Director, Curriculum Development, Information Science and Information Studies, Duke University
1992 – 2001	Head, Preservation Department, Yale University Libraries
1990 – 1992	Archives Specialist, Research and Evaluation Staff, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC
1988 – 1989	Preservation Program Officer, Society of American Archivists, Chicago, IL
1977 – 1987	Archivist, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, University of Michigan
1977 – 1977	Archives Technician, Records Declassification Division, National Archives and Records Administration, Suitland, MD

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since Professor Conway joined the School of Information (SI) in 2006, he has taught 17 course sections of seven different courses and helped to develop the Preservation of Information specialization for the Master's of Science in Information degree. Professor Conway also led development of the SI component in the new joint undergraduate concentration in informatics and chaired the Informatics Faculty Steering Committee from 2007-09. In addition, with funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (working with colleague Professor Elizabeth Yakel), he introduced a novel information preservation internship program which has connected the teaching in SI with field experience in collections on the campus and elsewhere.

Professor Conway has been a dedicated and effective classroom instructor. He has received good to excellent ratings in nearly all of his courses. Professor Conway's courses are central to the Preservation of Information specialization and play an important role in the Archives and Records Management specialization (both for the MSI degree). He teaches a course in ethics and information technology that is required of all undergraduate Informatics concentrators.

Professor Conway is the thesis chair for three SI Ph.D. students and has served on the committees of an additional three SI Ph.D. students.

Research: Professor Conway is a successful and highly visible researcher. His work engages the questions of quality, authenticity, representation, and understandability that emerge during the transformation of visual and textual materials from analog to digital. He has published 22 peer-reviewed journal articles, of which ten postdate his move to the University of Michigan. Professor Conway has had success in obtaining research funding with awards totaling more than \$2 million from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. Professor Conway's research is well-known and well-recognized. His 2010 article in the *American Archivist* pioneered approaches for evaluation of digitized images and received the Ernst Posner Award from the Society of American Archivists (for the best publication of the year). His 2008 article on modeling the digital content landscape in universities received the Outstanding Paper Award from *Library Hi Tech*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Fear, K. and Conway, P. (2011 in press). Valuing *American Archivist*: An interpretation of SAA's first readership survey. *American Archivist*, 74 (Fall/Winter), 685-702.
- Conway, P. and Landis, W. (2011 in press). Open access publishing and the transformation of *American Archivist* Online. *American Archivist*, 74 (Fall/Winter), 483-506.
- Conway, P. (2011 in press). Archival quality and long-term preservation: A research framework for validating the usefulness of digital surrogates. *Archival Science*, 11(3).
- Conway, P. and Punzalan, R. (2011). Fields of vision: Toward a new theory of visual literacy for digitized archival photographs. *Archivaria*, 71 (Spring), 63-97.
- Yakel, E., Conway, P., Hedstrom, M., and Wallace, D. (2011). Digital curation for digital natives. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 52 (Winter), 23-31.
- Conway, P. (2010). Modes of seeing: Digitized photographic archives and the experienced user. *American Archivist*, 73 (Fall), 425-462. (Winner: SAA Fellows' Ernst Posner Prize for best article in *American Archivist*.)
- Donaldson, D. R. and Conway, P. (2010). Implementing PREMIS: A case study of the Florida digital archive. *Library Hi Tech*, 28(2), 273-289.
- Conway, P. (2010). Preservation in the age of Google: Digitization, digital preservation, and dilemmas. *The Library Quarterly*, 80(1), 61-79.

Service: Professor Conway's service to the School of Information has been outstanding. He played an instrumental role in the creation of the interdisciplinary, multi-unit undergraduate concentration in Informatics, including leadership of the committee that worked on the proposal, mobilization of the SI faculty to support the new program, and chairing the multi-unit Faculty Steering Committee for the first two years of the new program. For his efforts on behalf of the undergraduate curriculum, Professor Conway received the 2008 Dean's Outstanding Achievement Award. He has also been a member of the SI Undergraduate Committee since 2006, and was chair of that committee in 2007-2008 and again this year.

At the university level Professor Conway has been active with the Dean of Libraries' Scholarly Communications Committee and the University Library Council, the latter a committee

appointed by the Regents. He was part of the Provost's Multidisciplinary Learning and Team Teaching Initiative between 2006 and 2009, and has been appointed to the Faculty Advisory Board of CRLT for the years 2011-2013.

Professor Conway is an active participant in his professional community. He has been a member of the editorial board of *American Archivist*, the leading journal in his field, since 2006. In this role he has led efforts to transform the journal toward an open access publishing model and to convert the journal's back issues to digital form for online access. Professor Conway has served on the program committees for several international conferences and played an integral role in organizing the national digital humanities meeting, HASTAC V, held in Ann Arbor in 2011.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "In my mind, there is really no question about him meriting tenure. ... Since he arrived at Michigan, he has built and followed a serious and coherent research agenda. ... There is no question ... that his contributions have been important, and his quantity and quality of output has significantly exceeded what one would expect of someone who had not yet achieved tenure."

Reviewer B: "Professor Conway has been productive for his entire career. He is the author of highly-cited works such as *Preservation in the Digital World*. His recent publication[s] are perhaps the most exciting of his career. He seems to have thrived at Michigan and he has a solid research trajectory for the next several years. ... I believe that Conway would earn tenure not only at [my institution], but at other top-ranked programs in Information Studies."

Reviewer C: "I appreciated the opportunity to look at his entire dossier, and will say right away that in my view he is easily deserving of tenure at the University of Michigan. I was already impressed by the articles I had read, but seeing the full arc of his work—both his theoretical ideas and his practical activities—make it clear that he has chosen a critical area of information science to work in, and is having (and will continue to have) a significant impact in several related fields."


Reviewer D: "Paul Conway has created a solid body, in terms of quality but also in quantity, of research and other scholarship on archival appraisal, preservation, archival user studies, digital curation, and professional issues such as education over the course of his career. ... He has the reputation of not only being a fine teacher but also one who has contributed in positive ways to the intellectual foundation of the archival field. ... In terms of his service contributions to the profession, there are few who have been more active and effective than Paul Conway. ... There is little doubt that Paul Conway would be granted tenure if he were on the faculty in our School."

Reviewer E: "I have no hesitation in stating that Dr. Conway has produced a good number of very high quality publications and is on an excellent research trajectory. He has the required funds from his many research grants to continue on this path in the future. Overall, Dr. Conway has a good and very important research record, which has grown stronger during his years at [the] School of Information and his research plans holds even greater promise for the future. ... I believe that Professor Conway would meet the requirements for tenure at [my institution]."

Reviewer F: “Professor Conway’s scholarship is extensive, of high quality, and influential. His research has been supported by major grants from all of the key granting agencies in this area... Both the quality and quantity of his work are excellent and influential. I am also struck by the interdisciplinary nature of his career. ... In conclusion, you asked explicitly if Professor Conway’s work would meet the requirements for someone being considered for tenure at my institution. The answer to that is an unequivocal yes. He is an international leader in building and understanding the emerging cyberinfrastructure of the digital age.”

Reviewer G: “My overall assessment of Professor Conway’s work is that he is a prolific, imaginative, and highly effective researcher, as well as a skilled educator, with a well-deserved and growing national and international reputation. I would recommend him highly for promotion to associate professor with tenure...”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Conway has been a strong classroom teacher and an important educational innovator and leader. His research has defined new approaches to understanding and evaluating the digitization of visual corpora, with important benefits for scholars in the humanities and in archival science. Finally, Professor Conway’s record of service to the School, the University, and the broader professional community is exemplary. With the overwhelming support of the promotion and tenure committee of the School of Information, I enthusiastically recommend Paul L. Conway for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of information, School of Information.



Jeffrey K. MacKie-Mason
Arthur W. Burks Collegiate Professor of Information
and Computer Science, and Dean
School of Information

May 2012