

“Activists Repurpose Media: 19th Century Scrapbooks”

Ellen Gruber Garvey,
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Men and women 150 years ago grappled with information overload by making scrapbooks – the ancestors of Google and blogging.

From Mark Twain to Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, from African American janitors to farm women, people cut out and pasted down their reading. They devised ways of articulating opinions and compiling data without writing a word. For activists who didn't own the press, scrapbooks became a way of engaging with media.

In this talk, Professor Garvey will explore how the scrapbooks of nineteenth-century African American and women's rights activists reveal their personal, passionate, often critical, and always dynamic relationship to media.

Professor Garvey is the author of the award-winning book *Writing With Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance*. She teaches in the English Department at New Jersey City University.

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Questions?

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