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Sutro Library Director Mattie Taormina Receives Primary Source Award for Research

SACRAMENTO, CA – The International Center for Research Libraries has awarded Sutro Library Director Mattie Taormina one of its 2016 Primary Source Awards for Research. The awards promote awareness and use of primary historical evidence in research and teaching.

Taormina and fellow editors Anne Bahde and Heather Smedberg were honored for their book ***Using Primary Sources: Hands-On Instructional Exercises***. The book is a tool for K-12 and college educators to help them expand their repertoire of active learning techniques with original primary sources.

“Everything about this project excited me,” said Taormina. “The collaboration with Anne and Heather, the creative ideas we learned about from cultural heritage professionals nationwide. I can’t wait to apply the exercises in the book to the Sutro Library’s collections.”

Taormina was named director of the [Sutro Library](#) in March 2016. Sutro is a premier public research library in San Francisco and a branch of the California State Library. Sutro’s holdings of over 90,000 rare books and manuscripts include Shakespeare’s four folios, the Sir Joseph Banks manuscript collection, and titles published in Mexico from the 16th to 19th century. It is also home to one of the largest genealogy collections in the U.S.

Taormina has over 20 years’ experience in special collections, archives, and information management, most recently at Stanford University Library, where she was head of public services for special collections and university archives and was part of the library’s teaching and learning team. Taormina holds a BA in American History from the University of San Francisco, an MA in Public History from Sacramento State University, and a Masters in Library and Information Science from San José State University.

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About the California State Library: Founded in 1850, the [California State Library](#) is the central reference and research library for the Governor’s office, Legislature, state employees, and the general public. The Sutro Library, a branch of the State Library, holds Adolph Sutro’s (1830–1898) original rare book and manuscript collection encompassing materials dating from the 13th to the 21st century. It is located on the campus of San Francisco State University.