Literary manuscript culture guards secrets that need to be uncovered by scholars. Large parcels of Spanish lyric poetry from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Golden Age of Spanish letters, have come down to us in manuscripts that now are dispersed in libraries throughout the world, some of which still lack catalogues. Many of these manuscripts are waiting to be inventoried, studied and critically edited for the first time. Insufficient attention has been paid to this segment of Spanish lyric that is paramount for advancing Literary History and the History of Ideas. Accordingly, for the past twenty-five years Professor DiFranco has been conducting research in American and European archives, along with José Labrador, and publishing the results. A great deal of this work has been grant-supported, notably by some of the largest awards in NEH history.

In 1997, they developed a database of Spanish Golden Age verse (BIPA) to document and track Golden Age poetry in manuscript and printed sources of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Presently, BIPA records the first lines of some 90,000 poems found in more than 1,200 manuscripts and printed books held at 66 libraries in 17 countries on 3 continents.

The talk will provide a brief history of the BIPA project along with a technical demonstration of some of the salient features of the database including how to execute searches by first line, title, author, and library. Professor DiFranco also will look at another useful feature of the program, the use of the Subject table to identify poems by their topics.

To reserve a seat, please call 216-875-9734 or email b.florjancic@csuohio.edu

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Light refreshments will be served.