

**Society of American Archivists Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
January 27 – 28, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

**Grant Report: “Fundamental Change” Working Group
(Prepared by SAA Director of Publications Teresa Brinati)**

Grant Received:	\$20,000.00
Expenditures to Date:	\$6,788.30 Member Travel and Lodging
	\$981.54 Business Meals
	\$150.00 Meeting Room Rental

	\$7,919.84 Subtotal

With assistance from the SAA Foundation, SAA’s Fundamental Change Working Group held its first meeting in Chicago on November 4–6, 2011, to begin research and development on the next iteration of SAA’s best-selling Archival Fundamentals Series.

The 11-member Working Group is composed of a mix of members from the Publications Board and *American Archivist* Editorial Board: Peter Wosh (New York University), Tom Frusciano (Rutgers University), Nicole Milano (AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc.), Michael Shallcross (Bentley Historical Library), Gregory Hunter (Long Island University), Paul Conway (University of Michigan), Donna McCrea (University of Montana), Christopher Prom (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Nancy Beaumont (Executive Director), and Teresa Brinati (Director of Publishing). It is chaired by SAA Immediate Past President Helen Tibbo (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

The Working Group focused on short- and long-term product development, a modular approach to content, and the possibility of implementing distribution options that would include eBooks. The proposed approach to delivering information involves discrete modules, like chapters in a book, that will communicate foundational archival knowledge. But unlike chapters, the modules will be conceived and written as stand-alone pieces. So, for example, instead of a single book addressing arrangement and description, there will be a number of stand-alone modules on different aspects of this topic, which in turn will be part of a larger, evolving series. We anticipate that users would combine these modules in various configurations to produce their own products.

The first modules to be produced would initially complement and fill in subject gaps in the existing titles in the seven-volume AFS II, which were published between 2004 and 2010. Finished modules would be available for purchase and distributed in several

forms: as discrete downloads; bundled and downloaded with other modules relating to a particular topical area; as a book; and as readings for SAA's continuing education offerings. This new and modular approach to distribution of content would provide archives professionals with the information they need and want while also providing the association with a sustainable publishing model in a rapidly changing market.

The modular approach is a work-in-progress and there are many details to work out regarding editorial oversight, content, and production. Even so, the Working Group's goal is to debut a few modules in time for SAA's 2012 Annual Meeting in August.

A final report on this Foundation-funded grant project will be available in late June.