

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 23 - 26, 2014
Chicago, Illinois**

Annual Report: Cultural Heritage Working Group

Date Submitted: January 7, 2014

Officers:

- Jennifer O’Neal, Co-Chair
- Kelvin White, Co-Chair

Report from Annual Meeting:

Number of attendees: 9

Appointment Results:

- Kim Christen, Member
- Douglas Cox, Member
- Patrick Stawski, Member

Summary of meeting activities: Meeting minutes attached (by Jennifer O’Neal).

Completed Projects/Activities:

- Selection of new members: Successfully selected three new members. Each began serving in late Spring 2013/Summer 2013.
- Outreach and Social Media Initiative: Spearheaded by Marisol Ramos, the CHWG began an outreach and social media initiative to reach out to SAA members and beyond to inform individuals of our purpose and share important news regarding various cultural heritage issues. We established a Facebook page, Twitter account, and will shortly also begin a blog to highlight specific issues and to keep the membership updated on cultural heritage news and issues.
- Attendance at various conferences and gatherings regarding cultural heritage (see attached CHWG Members Activity report compiled by Jennifer O’Neal).

Ongoing projects/activities:

- Website, Social Media and Networking Initiative: The group will continue to develop and provide a strong website as a Resource Page as a go-to place for resource information for SAA members and non-members about archives and cultural heritage issues. In addition, the group will also continue to develop an active social media initiative to share cultural heritage news and issues.
- A Culture Heritage Bibliography that focuses on archival aspects of this topic and that is organized by topic. The Bibliography will include - to the extent possible - already existing case studies. At this point this will not be an annotated bibliography.
- A Guide to Case Studies that points to existing studies and adds to these as appropriate.
- Reconsideration of the Cultural Framework as a way to organize information shared by the Working Group
- Identification of gaps in the SAA Glossary with respect to terms important to cultural heritage sensitivity and responsibility.
- Statement on Cultural Property and possible guidelines. It is possible that a statement now being prepared by IFLA's Indigenous Matters Special Interest Group will serve this purpose.

New projects/activities:

- Developing and discussing the main issues concerning cultural heritage in reference to archives. Based on these discussions, this in turn will determine the main focus of projects for the group. In addition, the group will also be exploring what are the main venues for discussing cultural heritage issues so that the members can attend these gatherings and conferences to represent SAA.
- Contributions to publications regarding cultural heritage.

Strategic Priority - Diversity Initiatives: Continued work representing a variety of diverse cultures and groups regarding cultural heritage issues. As well as any new strategic initiatives developed for the upcoming fiscal years. The group's investigative work this year will reveal major issues and priorities that they will bring to the attention of the SAA Council.

Questions/Concerns for Council Attention: None.

Society of American Archivists
Cultural Heritage Working Group Meeting (MINUTES)
Wednesday, August 14, 2013
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Hilton Riverside New Orleans
Room: Jasperwood

Attendees: (Members) Jennifer O'Neal, Kelvin White, Helen Wong Smith, Donna McCrea, Marisol Ramos, Doug Cox, Beth Joffrion; (Non-Members) Rachel Lyons (Jazz Cultural Heritage), Ann (National Archives: Denver, working toward MLS, immigration history)

1. Welcome (Kelvin White and Jennifer O'Neal, Co-Chairs)
2. Introduction of current and new CHWG Members (All)

New Members:

- Kim Christen, Associate Professor, Director of Digital Projects, Plateau Center for American Indian Studies, Washington State University
- Douglas Cox, Associate Law Library Professor and International Law Librarian, CUNY School of Law
- Patrick Stawski, Human Rights Archivist, Duke University

3. Review CHWG charge and purpose (Jennifer/Kelvin)
4. Review SAA Strategic Planning Assigned to CHWG (Jennifer/Kelvin)

Went over all the action plans from SAA Strategic Plan (ones that we had questions about SAA from).

5. Report of yearly activities (ie. selection of new members, website, social media initiative, etc.) (Jennifer/Kelvin)

Marisol SM Update: Social media update, fan page update, plug into twitter, also pushed to both sites, most useful to have the statistics, etc. Followers fb=82 Twitter=42. She wants to add more people, members agreed that they are willing to serve. Jennifer/Marisol will send out direction to the group. Make sure you like the page so she can add you.

Blog: Jennifer will do first post after this meeting and will update. Everyone will post and we will assign monthly so everyone has a chance to participate.

Helen Wong Smith: Recommendation, connect with Pacific Islander Library and Archive Association

6. Individual Activity Reports and Discussion (All)
7. SAA Strategic Plan: New Plan on pg. 58 of program book. Which has the high level info and goals/performance indicators. Forum tomorrow where we can give input. Send info to Dana and Helen. Here's where CHWG fits and how it can be codified in the strategic plan. Goal 3: Advancing the field. 3.1 – this is where we should be focusing; care and

best practices. CHWG will work with or identify and bring forward best practices. DUE: Done before Winter meeting. We need to send in our measurable outcomes. One or two broad high level goals. Example: Actively disseminate information to members.

8. Questions/Discussion:

Feedback from group, have Marisol put forth questions to community to get information from the broader community.

a. What are the main issues related to Cultural Heritage?

MR--Traditional Repatriation vs. Virtual Repatriation. Replevin. Property vs. Heritage (only copy available) how do you get access to it. Digital Repatriation. Reuniting collections with source communities. Deals more with ownership
DC--Who does the cultural heritage belong to you? Control and access. Tension between how culture accessed.

PS--Record creators can be individual belong to the community. Multiple levels of creator and ownership.

KW--Whole notion of ownership and control over access and sensitivity issues.

MR--Latina American Archivist: From the point of view of colonialist that informed large acquisitions in the 20th century. Why do you have this and how did you get it? Newspaper collections in Latin America at UConn, but other types of collections in Puerto Rico. Legacy of colonialism and what are our moral and ethical responsibilities. Moral and Ethical, nothing to do with property. Nobody owns the newspapers, but becomes property later on when there was war between these two countries. What is our responsibility to the materials? Example: Notre Dame repository.

KW--Pluralizing the archival paradigm. Sensitive educators. One way to make a dent. Woman from Interpretation as well.

MR--Institution needs to support as well. How to get this information out to those in the field (administrators and practitioners). Do this through a basic statement and guidelines.

BJ--Bring source communities into that dialogue. Include the communities.

BJ--Repatriation. What are the alternatives to repatriation? Such as digitization.

DM--Various formats is an issues. Much broader than the regular. Ie. recordings, songs, intangible, etc.

DC--Heritage definition

PS--changing characteristics of an object that is always changing and evolving. Big problem. CONTEXT big issue.

KW--Museum with a pot, if this person was here today what would they say it is? Is it a Pot? Or does the Museum make it something it is not.

Rachel--Music and audio and community of musicians and on top of it are other layers, audio recordings. Also with jazz festival in terms of ownership what happens at event, youtube channel, always looking at our Archive clash between cultural and entertainment world. Music booked is New Orleans and how is that brought together and packaged. Barrier=what is cultural and what's property? More about cultural identity. Diversity of people who knock on her door for video footage, generally what she starts with is that she doesn't own it, it has

various owners. First threshold is with the musician. Balancing with identity, does the musician want to be associated with this use? Larger question.

KW – comes back to definition issue. Culture vs. community.

BJ – In indigenous use that extends to how knowledge should or shouldn't be used.

PS--Human rights groups, Argentina – we don't want American researchers here. If we have time for you, maybe, but usage is limited. Mission of repository or larger group. Research agreement: you will never support the military. Issues of Memory and knowledge. Repository that discovered Human Rights – or Human Rights Issue that discovered Archives.

In these countries these memories are still so fresh, in US there's been more time to forget. System that's been codified, but there are still pockets and groups that are saying we can't still do this. Needs to be sensitivity because of these issues.

BJ--Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Africa and Canada)

KW – Identify other knowledge domains that we need to figure out what's going on? What are different approaches to accomplish this work?

MR--Creators control. See the outsiders as the enemy. From the Latino community they create own community centers. Hispanic Genealogical Society. They don't trust others. But they don't necessarily don't know how to do it. Post Custodial model.

KW – Women's archive collections study. Are women actually in the Archives or not. Or are Archivists not describing properly? Comprehensive study.

Presentation at Historians of Women's History – but they don't know what the archivist does. "Perceived perceptions." Book publication. Historians use to be archivists. Huge divide. This is what historians this archivists do actually.

Backlog and financial woes.

Create Summary Points.

b. What are the main venues for Cultural Heritage issues/discussion?

- SAA
- ALA: Rare Books Manuscripts Section, etc. (Diversity Section)
Affiliated Groups, be specific, (Beth)
- SALAM (Marisol)
- Library of Congress (Jen)
- AASLH (Beth)
- IPinCH (Jen, Kim)
- UNESCO
- WIPO
- ATALM (Beth, Kelvin)
- ACRL
- ICA (SAE): Get involved in Human Rights Working Group (Kelvin)
- Museum and Anthropology AAM (Kim/Jennifer): Are there separate groups within that focus on these issues.

- US Committee of the Blue Shield
- Lawyers Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property (Doug)
- Archivists without Borders (Based in Spain)
- NAI: National Association for Interpretation (Park Service, Native American Groups w/ and international focus)
- Association of Canadian Archivists: Special Interest Groups (
- Advocating with funders (training and educational needs) (Beth)
- NWDA (Jen, Beth)
- SAA sent someone to WIPO but they got a grant to go.
- AMIA: Association of Moving Image Archivists
- IFLA
- What are other disciplines doing? Be more inclusive.

c. Action plan/Next steps:

9. Action Plan for 2013-2014

- a. Conferences (Kelvin/Jennifer)
- b. Publications (All)
- c. Case Studies (Beth/Jennifer)
- d. Bibliography (Marisol/Jennifer)
- e. SAA Glossary (Kelvin) – old updated terms and new terms
- f. Social Media (Marisol)
- g. Select Intern for Assistance (Kelvin)
- h. Other ideas and suggestions (All)
- i. Monthly Communications (Kelvin)

Patrick and Doug will review the list and will get back to us on what we want to work on.

To help keep the monthly communication going – have an email? On-going conferences, etc. Every month report back or submit names to contribute to the blog. Monthly communications. Make an internal blog, as well, on internal site.

We will discuss the guidelines/statement at a later date after we've done the definitions

10. Suggested Sessions to Attend at SAA:

- Thursday, August 15, 1:30 PM, Session 208: “ Native Americans and Route 66: Hidden Stories of the Mother Road”
- Saturday, August 17, 8:00 AM, Session 603: “To Protect and Connect: Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Heritage Material in the Archives”
- Saturday, August 17, 9:45 AM: “Displaced Archives: Current Controversies and a New Initiative”

11. Other Business

12. Adjournment

Cultural Heritage Working Group Member Activity Report 2013

In order to plan accordingly for the Working Groups next steps and strategic planning, members reported information on the following items. This will assist us in compiling a master list of relevant conferences, upcoming publications, and current research being done by the Working Groups' members. Overall, it will also assist in determining the current landscape of cultural heritage and determine the Working Group's next steps.

Conferences: List the Cultural Heritage (or related) conferences attended this year and major presentations given.

Kim Christen:

"Relationships not Records: Connecting Communities and Collections." Invited Keynote presentation for the joint Northwest Association of Archivists and the Archives Association of British Columbia annual meeting. May 4, 2013. Vancouver BC.

"Local contexts: traditional knowledge & indigenous cultural heritage" invited presentation at the IPinCH symposium: Cultural Commodification, Indigenous Peoples and Self-Determination, May 2-3 2013. UBC Vancouver BC.

"Mukurtu CMS: a community-centered digital heritage management tool" presented at the Society for American Archaeologists annual meeting. April 4, 2013. Honolulu, HI.

"Digital Return: cultural heritage & the ethics of circulating indigenous knowledge" invited presentation at Whitman College Public Lecture Series, Walla Wall WA. February 8, 2013.

"Traditional Knowledge and Digital Heritage" invited session paper presented at the UNESCO Memory of the World Conference. September 26, 2012. Vancouver, BC.

"Digital Preservation and Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Mukurtu CMS a Community Tool" paper presented at the UNESCO Memory of the World Conference. September 27, 2012. Vancouver, BC.

Douglas Cox:

"Captured Documents, Displaced Memory & Sequestered History", Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability Conference, Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University. I discussed the cultural, historical, and human rights aspects of seized Iraqi and Panamanian records in U.S. custody.

Elizabeth Joffrion: I am involved in ATALM. I attended the past two meetings, reviewed program proposals and scholarship applications for the meeting in New Mexico, and I think I am currently assigned to the Washington DC planning committee. You know about our recent session at the last ATALM conference on collaboration between tribal and non-tribal orgs. I also presented a half day workshop on NEH grants for tribal orgs at the ATALM meeting in Oklahoma. SAA---will be presenting with you at the conference in New Orleans. My paper will again deal with collaboration. ALA/ RBMS, I am on the Diversity Committee for RBMS and have submitted a session similar to the one we did for ATALM.

Jennifer O'Neal:

"To Protect and Connect: Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Heritage Materials in the Archives," Society of American Archivists, New Orleans, LA, August, 2013

"Community Archives," Chair, Archival Educators and Research Institute, University of Texas, Austin, June 2013

"Developing Successful Partnerships Between Tribal Communities and Non-Tribal Cultural Heritage Institutions," Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, New Mexico, June 2013

"Developing and Organizing Professional Development Gatherings for Tribal Communities," Chair, Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, New Mexico, June 2013

"Oregon Tribal Archives Institute," Northwest Archivists Conference, Vancouver, BC, May 2013

Marisol Ramos:

SALALM (Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials) Annual Meeting, Miami, May 17-22, 2013. Moderator for panel *Andean Classical Thought: El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and Guamán Poma de Ayala*.

SAA (Society of American Archivists) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, August 11-17, 2013. Panel presentation, "Cultural Sensitivity in the Archives: Digitizing Controversial Materials, a Balancing Act." Panel: *To Protect and Connect: Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Heritage Materials*.

Patrick Stawski:

Most of the conferences I attend are human rights focused, not directly about cultural heritage issues. We do discuss many related themes: patrimony, memory and social justice, privacy issues, etc.

Kelvin White:

"Charting Your Course: Critical Pedagogy and Cultural Consciousness in Archival Education Environments". Invited lecture at the Conference and School on Records, Archives, and Memory Studies. University of Zadar. Croatia, May 2013.

"Archival Approaches to Remembering, Forgetting, and Excavating Memory". Invited lecture at the Conference and School on Records, Archives, and Memory Studies. University of Zadar. Croatia May 2013.

Research Focus: Describe what is your current research focus in regards to Cultural Heritage.

Kim Christen: Multicultural Information Studies, Digital Technology and Culture, Media Studies, Digital Humanities, Museum Studies, Cultural Studies, Cultural Anthropology, focusing on: indigenous use of new technologies and media production, collaborative curation models, social media in practice, open access movements, digital technology and global access,

intellectual property rights and indigenous traditional knowledge, digital repatriation and curation, archive standards and new technologies, indigenous cultural production, cultural heritage and international policy, indigenous knowledge and the public domain, and articulations of law, culture, and technology.

Douglas Cox: In the upcoming year, there are a few issues related to cultural heritage I hope to focus on. One is the different legal definition of cultural property being used by the U.S. government in different contexts, which appear in certain respects to be inconsistent. Another are issues related to immunity of certain cultural property in the United States from seizure.

Elizabeth Joffrion: I've been interested in collaboration and the best practices that acknowledge tribal cultural expression, indigenous knowledge, and appropriate access. As an NEH program officer I worked closely with a number of tribal organizations to develop Preservation Assistance grants, and I was the Program Officer on the Plateau People's Portal. I learned a great deal working on that grant that has influenced my research interests.

Jennifer O'Neal: My research is dedicated to the intersections between social, cultural, and historical contexts in which archives exist for marginalized or underrepresented communities. I have specifically focused on social justice regarding cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and intellectual property rights affecting indigenous archives.

Marisol Ramos: I don't have a particular research focus, since I am not a faculty librarian/archivist. I do have research interests in issues related to access, digital repatriation of cultural heritage and cultural properties collections located in U.S. repositories.

Patrick Stawski: I've done some research on colonial archives, and recently on farmworker activism. These do not have a cultural heritage focus though.

Kelvin White: Using social justice as a framework, my research and scholarship examines the interconnections between the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which recordkeeping activities exist and the implications they have for marginalized or underrepresented communities; critically interrogates constructs such as contemporary archival theory, archival education, and practice; and develops ways in which education and pedagogy might contribute to cultural relevancy and sensitivity in archival practice and research. This is significant because the memories and identity of minority communities are often subsumed and/or controlled through hegemonic processes (e.g. archival methods of deciding which memories are worthy of preservation and which are not) of the dominant culture.

Publications: Detail any upcoming publications on Cultural Heritage that will be coming out (either by you or anyone else you may know).

Kim Christen:

"On Not Looking: Economies of Visuality in Digital Museums" in press for *Museum Transformations* edited by Ruth Phillips and Annie Coombs, Oxford Press, 2013.

"Digital Return: Theory, Methods and Practice," co-authored with Joshua Bell and Mark Turin for the *Museum Anthropology Review* Special Issue: Digital Return: Indigenous Knowledge and

the *Circulation of Culture*, edited by Kimberly Christen, Joshua Bell and Mark Turin, forthcoming July 2013.

“Chuck a Copyright on it’: Dilemmas of Digital Return and the Possibilities for Traditional Knowledge Licenses and Labels,” co-authored with Jane Anderson, accepted for the *Museum Anthropology Review* Special Issue: Digital Return: Indigenous Knowledge and the Circulation of Culture, edited by Kimberly Christen, Joshua Bell and Mark Turin, forthcoming July 2013.

Douglas Cox: The only publication of mine currently slated for the next year that is cultural heritage-related is an article called “The Lost Archives of Noriega: The Law of Armed Conflict & the Fate of Panamanian Human Rights Documents in U.S. Custody” which will be in the *Boston University International Law Journal* in early 2014.

Elizabeth Joffrion: none

Jennifer O’Neal:

“Respect, Reciprocity, and Reconciliation: *The Protocols for Native American Archival Materials*,” in *Identity Palimpsests: Ethnic Archiving in the US and Canada*. (Forthcoming 2013)

“Going Home: Digital Repatriation at the National Museum of the American Indian Archive Center,” *Museum Anthropology Review*. (Forthcoming 2013)

A call for chapters will be coming out for “Cultural Heritage Management in Libraries, Archives, and Museums”. IFLA book series; proposed and edited by Cecilia L. Salvatore. The purpose of this book is to make explicit the way the notion of cultural heritage is treated in libraries, archives, and museums. Libraries, archives, and museums claim to be stewards of our cultural heritage resources. A quick review of the literature reveals that there may not be a general consensus as to which cultural heritage resources libraries, archives, and museums pay particular attention to, and more importantly, as a dialogue about cultural heritage in libraries, archives, and museums so that staff and professionals working in these cultural institutions are more effective in the stewardship of cultural heritage resources.

Marisol Ramos: none

Patrick Stawski: none

Kelvin White:

“Ethnic Studies as a Theoretical Framework for Archival and Recordkeeping Research.” Invited book chapter in *Research in the Archival Multiverse*, (under final review, expected publication Dec 2013, Monash University Press).

“Remembrance in the Costa Chica: Identity, Landscape, and the Archive” (in preparation). *Journal of Pan-African Studies*.

White, Kelvin L. and Richardson, Julieanna. “The HistoryMakers: A Case Study of Diversity, Trust, and the Archive” (in preparation). *Archival Issues*

Guidelines/Statements: Describe any current guidelines/statements that you know exist regarding Cultural Heritage.

Douglas Cox: ICA's Principles of Access to Archives, <http://www.ica.org/13619/toolkits-guides-manuals-and-guidelines/principles-of-access-to-archives.html>.

Elizabeth Joffrion: Statement by Tulalip Tribes of WA on Folklore, Indigenous Knowledge, and Public Domain delivered to WIPO in 2003 in my SAA paper.

Marisol Ramos:

- Guidelines: Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials, <http://www.digitizationguidelines.gov/guidelines/digitize-technical.html>.
- Basic Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Professionals in the Use of Information Technologies <http://www.enamecenter.org/files/documents/Know-how%20book%20on%20Cultural%20Heritage%20and%20ICT.pdf>.

Proposed areas of activity: In general, describe any major proposed areas of activity that you think the Cultural Heritage Working Group can make the most impact (ie. guidelines, statement, publications, case studies, etc.)

Jeanette Bastian: During my sabbatical this past Spring semester, I wrote a chapter on Archival Ethics for a book to be published by Facet sometime next year. One of my goals was to present the ethics expressed in the Native American Protocols and those of the Torres and Strait Islanders alongside those in the ICA, SAA etc. codes to try to work out what an ethical archivist in a broad cultural sense really is. Not sure if my conclusions got things any further but it's an area I would really like to continue pursue.

Douglas Cox: I'm not sure that I have an answer yet on this question, but look forward to discussing it. I am in the process of reviewing past and current CHWG material more closely as guidance. I also think that "impact" might depend in part on the specific topic at issue.

Elizabeth Joffrion: I'd suggest that the WG consider pro-active support for education and training in archival and digital best practices and standards for tribal orgs and others, as well as possibly supporting education and training related to appropriate use/access policies for organizations holding culturally sensitive materials (this could include a range of cultural resources in ethnic and multicultural archives, and even LGBT holdings..). There are so many ways to advocate in this area, including letters of support for grant projects, dissemination of information about funding opportunities, key projects, statements, guidelines, and coordination of information about existing training opportunities. Also coordination with sister orgs such as AASLH. I know that AASLH has endorsed the protocols, but there isn't much on their website. It might be good to liaise with someone there as to any specialized programming or initiatives of interest to SAA.

Marisol Ramos: Ranking of the areas of activities based on what we want to focus first or what we need to address first, etc...

- Statement (what is the position of SAA regarding cultural heritage collections)
- Guidelines
 - For accessibility
 - Preservation
 - Copyrights or cultural property rights
 - Confidentiality/Privacy
 - Cultural sensitivity
 - Repatriation
- Advisory body to SAA president/vp and council when necessary
- Propose panels or forums to discuss any of these issues
- Working bibliography (articles/books)
- Resources Page (to list websites and other sites that deal with these issues)
- Cases studies – to showcase case studies that address any of the issues mentioned above or other that may appear later

Patrick Stawski: Perhaps we could begin with more refined definitions/statements that connect Cultural Heritage specifically to archival practice. The Hague convention, UNESCO and other statements we currently have listed on the website seem broad and vague. As a practicing archivist I don't find them very useful.

Other Information:

Marisol Ramos: I will like to add that although I do publish or present much in this area, I feel I was invited to this group because my practical/professional expertise at UConn working with Iberian and Latin American cultural heritage collections and I have to deal on a daily basis with these issues. In addition, as a founder of LACCHA, cultural heritage issues has been one of my major concerns. Also, as a member of SALALM I get to meet colleagues from Latin American & the Caribbean, who had shared their concerns regarding access to their country cultural heritage (or lack of it) that resides in the US. I believe this is the type of experience that I bring in to this working group.