

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 15 – 17, 2013
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Publications Editor
(Prepared by Chris Prom)**

Because this is my first report, I would like to thank the Council and SAA for the opportunity to serve as Publications Editor and chair of the Publications Board. As I noted in the March/April *Archival Outlook* article, “Formulating an Expert Literature,” it is a true privilege to serve in this capacity. The work that the Publications Board has done under Peter Wosh’s leadership leaves SAA in a very strong position. SAA’s reputation for excellence in its publications speaks for itself. Our active board and strong peer review process—supported by Teresa Brinati and Anne Hartman—leave SAA in an enviable position.

Over the next three years, the Publications Board will work to solidify and extend SAA’s leading role in publishing an archival literature that serves the needs of our members and those in allied professions. As Peter noted in his January report, the opportunity to reorient our publishing program around a flexible, agile business model (built around resources that are available both in print and electronically) will be a critical element in our strategy. In this respect, the Board intends to focus most of its attention (for the foreseeable future) on developing the new series *Trends in Archives Practice*, a concept which is the result of decisive work completed by the Publications Board and the Fundamental Change Working Group.

Trends in Archives Practice

Trends in Archives Practice is a new, open-ended series of modules (published in both print and electronic form). It features authoritative treatments—written and edited by top-level professionals—that fill significant gaps in the archival literature. The goal of this modular approach is to build agile, user-centered resources that synthesize knowledge around a particularly complex or emergent area of practice. The intent is to publish a set of modules that will work well in a graduate education or continuing education setting, while also being essential reference works complementing the volumes in the Archival Fundamentals Series II. Each module will be 10,000 to 20,000 words in length (between 40 and 80 pages), including appendices.

Modules are being developed in “clusters” and will be sold individually as EPUBs and as an aggregated volume (in both print and EPUB format) with an introduction. The first volume, *Archival Arrangement and Description*, was launched in January and includes three modules:

- **Module 1: Standards for Archival Description** by Sibyl Schaefer and Janet Bunde.

- **Module 2: Processing Digital Records and Manuscripts** by J. Gordon Daines III.
- **Module 3: Designing Descriptive and Access Systems** by Daniel Santamaria.

As of April, three additional clusters are under development for publication in 2014:

- 1) *Digital Preservation Essentials* (Modules 4–7);
- 2) *Implementing Descriptive Standards* (Modules 8–10); and
- 3) *Reference and Outreach* (Modules 11–13).

I will serve a co-editor for each volume, paired with a subject expert. Abstracts for each of these works have been drafted and I am currently contacting potential authors and co-editors. Three of four authors and a co-editor have agreed to work on the modules for *Digital Preservation Essentials* and one author has agreed to work on a module on *Implementing Descriptive Standards*. The balance of authors and editors will be contacted in May. In addition, the Publications Board is keeping a list of other potential clusters and modules to develop in a second round.

At the joint meeting of the Publications Board and the Fundamental Change Working Group in January, we discussed additional steps to build out Trends in Archives Practice, focusing on identifying external support for additional capacity to develop modules. Publications Board member Tawny Nelb has identified several foundations whose missions potentially align with our goals to develop a sustainable publishing model suitable to professional societies. Over the summer, we plan to make initial contacts with one or more of these foundations and/or to develop a grant proposal to best support the publication of additional modules. The production of Trends in Archives Practice is now the chief focus of the Publications Board. The Fundamental Change Working Group will be consulted upon as needed through the summer. At the close of our joint meeting, it was suggested that the Working Group be disbanded after the Annual Meeting in New Orleans this August.

Other Activities

The Publications Board continues to receive and review proposals, and to shepherd current projects through the development and publication process. This includes the following projects:

- SAA Sampler Series: A volume on *Law and Ethics*, compiled with an introduction by Lisa Mix, became available as a PDF in early March. A volume on social justice is currently being compiled with an introduction by Kathryn Michaelis. We hope that these volumes will encourage sales of the works from which the samples are drawn.
- *Perspectives in Women's Archives: A Reader*, edited by Tanya Zanish-Belcher with Anke Voss, and *Exhibits in Special Collections, Libraries, and Archives*, by Jessica Lacher-Feldman, are in production and projected to be available by August.
- The manuscript for *Through the Archival Looking Glass: A Reader on Diversity and Inclusion*, edited by Mary Caldera and Kathi Neal, is with reviewers.
- The copyedited manuscript for *Conceptualizing 21st Century Archives*, by Anne Gilliland, has been returned to the author for final review.
- The Manuscript Repositories Section et al. has submitted new drafts of three brochures (guides to donating personal papers, donating organizational records, and deeds of gift), which are currently being reviewed by the Publications Board.