

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
May 28 - 30, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Publications Editor  
(Prepared by Christopher J. Prom)**

**PUBLICATIONS BOARD MEETING**

The board had a productive meeting in Chicago in early February, with the majority of our time devoted to a discussion of the topic “The New Face of Book Publishing at a Professional Association: Intellectual Capital versus Revenue Generation.”

As a board, we read several articles concerning the role that publications have played and are currently playing in shaping professional conversation and identity. For a certain period of time and for specific reasons, publications programs contributed a disproportionate share of revenue to professional associations and societies (including SAA), but changing market dynamics and the demand for new content forms are putting pressure on these revenue sources. All publishers are seeking to adapt while maintaining if not enhancing the primary role of societies in developing, communicating, and discussing high-quality contributions to the theories and practices that shape their professions.

Board members emphasized that SAA, as the primary representative of archivists in the United States, can and must continue its leading role in shaping the conversation around archival topics. The key element here is our member-driven publication process, which nurtures authors and ideas through rigorous peer review, quality editing, attractive design, and accessible publications in both print and digital formats. This model has been SAA’s historic strength and it has been difficult for commercial and noncommercial sources to emulate.

Board members discussed several potential models for developing and distributing new publications, including hosted digital content, a membership dues supplement model, institutional licensing, open access, and non-traditional publishing (e.g., podcasting). A funding committee will be investigating whether grant funding might be available to assist in our efforts to develop a new distribution model. We are also exploring other ways to learn about new approaches to publishing, and will continue these discussions at our upcoming August meeting and through attendance at appropriate workshops or other venues.

**PROJECT UPDATES**

**Trends in Archives Practice Series**

The following five modules have been produced this calendar year:

***Rights in the Digital Era***, edited by Menzi Behrnd-Klodt and Chris Prom, with an introduction by Peter B. Hirtle

- *Module 4: Understanding Copyright Law*, by Heather Briston
- *Module 5: Balancing Privacy and Restrictions: Organizational, Business, and Government Records*, by Menzi Behrnd-Klodt
- *Module 6: Balancing Privacy and Restrictions: Personal and Family Papers*, by Menzi Behrnd-Klodt
- *Module 7: Managing Rights and Permissions*, by Aprille McKay

***Module 8: Becoming a Trusted Digital Repository***, by Stephen Marks, edited by Mike Shallcross with an introduction by Bruce Ambacher

Work is progressing on ten more modules, with manuscripts expected in late summer or early fall.

***Teaching with Primary Sources***, edited by Lisa Hinchliffe and Chris Prom

- *Contextualizing Archival Literacy: Environments and Issues*, by Beth Yakel and Doris Malkmus
- *Teaching with Archives: A Guide and Manual*, by Sammie Morris, Tamar Chute, and Ellen Swain
- *Helping Students Learn: Cases and Examples*, by Sammie Morris, Tamar Chute, and Ellen Swain

***Putting Descriptive Standards to Work***, edited by Kris Kiesling and Chris Prom.

- *Implementing DACS*, by Cory Nimer
- *Introducing EAC-CPF*, by Katherine Wisser
- *Using EAD3*, by Kelcy Shepherd
- *Sharing Archival Metadata*, by Aaron Rubinstein

***Appraisal and Acquisition Strategies for Digital Archives***, edited by Mike Shallcross and Chris Prom.

- *Collecting Digital Manuscripts*, by Gabriela Redwine and Megan Barnard
- *Appraising Digital Records*, by Geof Huth
- *Accessioning Digital Archives*, by Erin Faulder

Delays continue to hamper production on the ***Digital Preservation Essentials*** cluster, and the board is currently assessing options.

The board will continue to develop other modules and clusters for Trends in Archives Practice, but at this time our major focus is turning to the Archival Fundamentals Series III.

### **Archival Fundamentals Series III**

Authors for the seven volumes in the series have developed outlines for their proposed books. Preliminary comments were provided by Series Editor Peter Wosh and myself. Once revisions are made by the authors, the outlines will be shared with the board and also all of the authors. A new publisher/author agreement was drafted by Menzi Behrnd-Klodt this spring. Shortly it will be issued to authors and the series editor.

### **Component Group Case Studies**

The Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct launched *Case Studies in Archival Ethics* last August

and now has six case studies available. The *Campus Case Studies* series will now be peer reviewed by the College and University Archives Section. The Government Records Section plans to issue a call for case studies related to government records this summer. The board is working with the Diversity Committee on a set of cases on diversifying the archival record. Several other component groups have expressed interest in publishing open-access, peer-reviewed case studies.

### **Other Projects**

*Archives in Libraries*, by Jeannette Bastian, Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, and Donna Weber is projected to be available in late summer 2015.

*Moving Image Cataloging Manual* (a new edition of the *AMIA Compendium of Moving Image Cataloging Practice*). Thelma Ross of AMIA is spearheading this project. She has done an excellent job in arranging work and leading project collaborators. The manuscript is moving along and since Thelma has taken a new job, additional partners are being solicited to help her finalize a manuscript for review.

**Prospects:** The board reviewed and provided comments on several proposals, and two other proposals are currently under review. I am working with several other individuals regarding other project ideas.