

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
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Chicago, Illinois**

**Staff Report: Education
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In-Person Education

Continuing to offer high-quality in-person courses is a priority, and partnering with hosts across the country will ensure that SAA members' demonstrated interest in traditional classroom-style education is met. A Call for Course Hosts (formerly "co-sponsors") was held in March 2017 to solicit interest from existing hosts and new partners at institutions across the country. From this open call, seven locations have been identified as being able to offer the entire Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) or Arrangement & Description (A&D) certificate curriculums in FY18, providing a unique opportunity for members in these areas to earn a certificate in a timely and convenient manner. Sixty-six courses currently are being scheduled in advance for FY18.

FY17 Statistics:

- Scheduled 107 in-person courses with 1,622 attendees (as of April 25, 2017).
- Cancelled seven courses (four at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Atlanta).
- A total of 75 test takers took the DAS Comprehensive Exam, with 58 (77%) earning their DAS Certificate.

Online Learning

Increasing the quality and quantity of online education opportunities will diversify SAA's education product catalog. Reducing product costs and making these offerings more accessible to members will help SAA's continuing education program remain relevant and competitive in the professional development space.

For this reason, SAA has acquired two new educational technology platforms. The **AdobeConnect virtual meeting platform** allows SAA to manage its own webcasts at no additional expense per event, and provides the option of replacing some in-person committee meetings with virtual committee meetings. SAA will also be acquiring a **new Learning Management System (BlueSky Path LMS)** for FY18. This platform will feature single sign-on (SSO) integration with SAA's AMS, allowing for simple live webcast registration and product purchases as well as application of discount codes for "flash sales" and group purchases. The platform is more flexible, more visually approachable, and more "aware" of the end user's experience, which will allow SAA to meet members in their comfort zone versus struggling to train members to utilize cumbersome and non-intuitive technology.

The list of existing online education to be “refreshed” is lengthy. Potential *new* webcasts and/or online courses being considered for development include the following:

- Advocacy Café
- Administrative Essentials for Archivists (to encompass Archives: Principles and Practices, Developing RFPs, Financial Management for Archivists, Grant Proposal Writing)
- Cultural Diversity Competency
- Municipal Clerks Archival Education Program (based on the NHPRC-funded “MMCARP” online training program in Massachusetts)
- Train the Trainer: Building a Successful Continuing Education Course
- Web Archiving Fundamentals

Members frequently request the option to take the entire DAS series online. We are introducing an online DAS Practice Exam for those preparing to earn that certificate and are working with the DAS Subcommittee on offering more content online.

FY17 Statistics:

- Held nine live webcasts with 439 registrants (as of April 25, 2017).
- A total of 562 individuals viewed on-demand webcasts, of which five were Advocacy Café programs made available free to members.

Potential Partnerships

We are currently negotiating a partnership agreement with the Hong Kong Government Records Service to offer the entire DAS series in person to 16-22 members of their staff starting in April 2018 and extending for a period of two years. We are working on a similar partnership with the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) to take place in FY18.

Education-Related Appointed Groups

The Committee on Education, which met in March in Chicago, has revised and posted for member comment the Archival Continuing Education (ACE) Guidelines. Revisions will be sent through the Standards Committee and submitted to the Council for approval. CoE continues to focus on collaborations with other SAA entities, particularly sections, to increase communication regarding available content expertise and course offerings in related fields of interest.

The DAS Subcommittee met in Chicago in October and February to continue its work on content development, course revisions, and exam item writing. The subcommittee currently is looking into the lower-than-usual pass rate of DAS Comprehensive Exam test takers.

The GAE Subcommittee will meet informally for its inaugural meeting at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Portland. The group’s initial focus will be to review and revise—and prepare for member comment and Council approval—the Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Science (GPAS).