

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
May 16–17, 2016  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Publications Editor, December 2016–May 2017  
(Prepared by Christopher J. Prom)**

The Publications Board continues to move forward on several fronts, with multiple book projects underway as well as a variety of initiatives that speak to SAA’s strategic goals and the interests of our members. The board is very active, and it is my privilege to work with board members, authors, and other collaborators to develop publications and publishing channels that meet member needs and demonstrate the utility and impact of our profession in the broader information professions, in American society, and in the global community.

**ARCHIVAL FUNDAMENTALS SERIES III**

Work continues on the seven volumes, coordinated by Series Editor Peter Wosh. Three manuscripts are hopefully nearing completion of the first drafts, and work is proceeding systematically on the other four volumes. We are aiming to publish these books as soon as possible, while maintaining the quality that the series has been known for, and helping ensure the longevity of the texts for their contributions to professional theory and practice.

**TRENDS IN ARCHIVES PRACTICE SERIES**

- The following cluster is currently nearing completion and will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting:

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

- *Module 17: DACS: A Guide to the Archival Content Standard*, by Cory Nimer
- *Module 19: EAD3 Implementation*, by Kelcy Shepherd
- *Module 18: EAC-CPF Implementation*, by Kathy Wissner
- *Module 20: Sharing Archival Metadata*, by Aaron Rubinstein

- The Board approved the following project and letters of agreement have been signed with the co-editor and authors:

*Intentional, Participatory, Transformative: Engagement in Archives* (working title), edited by Jennie Thomas and Christopher J. Prom.

- *Module 21: Creative Public Programming: A Guide and Manual for Developing Cultural and Community Engagement*, by Jessica Lacher-Feldman and Michele Casto
- *Module 22: Lights, Camera, Archives! Making Your Archives Camera-Ready*, by Daniel J. Linke and Travis Williams
- *Module 23: Outreach and Inreach: Or, Sharing to Stimulate Caring*, by Dina Kellams and Jennie Thomas

- I am working with Publications Board members and potential authors to develop two additional ideas for volumes in this series and will provide updates if and when these projects are approved.

## OTHER PROJECT UPDATES

- *Moving Image and Sound Collections for Archivists*, by Anthony Cocciolo. Manuscript is currently in production and will be available for sale at the Annual Meeting.
- *Archival Values: Essays in Honor of Mark A. Greene*, edited by Mary Caldera and Christine Weideman. Work is proceeding, and a manuscript is expected in summer or early fall 2017.
- *Museum Archives: An Introduction (3rd Edition)*, edited by Rachael Chatlabash and Susan Hernandez. The board approved a proposal for a third edition of the book. This work will feature wholly new content and includes a wide range of SAA members as contributors.
- Work is proceeding on several other previously approved projects. Board shepherds and I are offering assistance and encouragement to the editors, authors and contributors.
- The board currently has two proposals under review and expects to receive three or four additional proposals over the next few months. While I cannot divulge the exact nature of these prospective works, I am helping the authors develop their ideas for board consideration and will report them as in process at a future time (if approved).
- We recently published a *Social Justice Sampler* as an open access PDF: This work includes three previously published book chapters and an introductory essay. In addition, our other samplers were converted to open access: <http://www2.archivists.org/publications/sampler-series>.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Survey/New Publishing Models:** As previously noted, the Publications Board developed and conducted a [book publishing survey](#) last spring/summer, which garnered more than 1,600 responses from members and nonmembers. The results were summarized in an article in the September/October 2016 issue of *Archival Outlook*, which I hope you had a chance to read. At our January meeting, we discussed the results of the survey. Individual respondents overwhelmingly preferred print to digital formats (a finding mirrored by other scholarly/professional presses with whom we've been in contact). That said, there is also substantial interest in potential institutional subscription services (i.e., where digital access is provided to an IP range), provided we can find an appropriate platform to distribute books this way. Based on the discussion, the board developed a specific list of action items focusing on three areas:
  - **Marketing:** We are launching several initiatives in this area, including reviving a distribution and marketing partnership with ALA editions, initiating a potential collaboration with an international distributor, more direct marketing regarding new books, new ebook sales channels (Amazon), and increased use of reader testimonials. In addition, Publications Board members Nicole Milano and Colleen Rademaker are pursuing a podcast series about our authors and books.
  - **Content Development:** The board discussed high priority areas for publishing, including a potential book for the general public, cultural competency, international archives literature, and documenting contemporary events. The board is seeking to recruit potential authors and to assist them in developing potential book proposals. We are always interested in hearing from the Council regarding high priority topical areas.
  - **New Formats/Distribution Methods:** The board has been in contact the developers of Fulcrum, a platform in development by the University of Michigan that is intended to give scholarly and professional publishers a cost-effective distribution method for

ebooks, including institutional subscriptions. Based on an initial discussion, this platform appears much more promising than commercial options we had explored, which were both expensive and lacking in features that end users would expect to see. We will continue to explore this potential distribution channel and potential partnerships come fall. In addition, we are exploring print on demand options for modules in the Trends Series. As of this fall, 20 modules will be available in the series, and we believe that allowing teachers to ‘mix and match’ modules.

- **Internal Partnerships:** Had a preliminary discussion with Kara Adams, SAA’s new Director of Education, to explore ways in which SAA’s continuing education and publishing programs can achieve closer integration, for example, through increased use of SAA publications in courses or workshops, enhancing the value of both programs to the membership, and the society.
- **Translation Project:** Partnering with LACHAA, two SAA brochures (*Donating your Personal or Family Papers to a Repository* and the *Guide to Deeds of Gift*) have been translated to Spanish and are available on the SAA website. A third translation (*Donating Your Organization's Records to a Repository*) is currently in process. This project is being coordinated by Ana Rodrigues.
- **Outreach**
  - **Archives Short Fiction Contest.** The second year of this contest also proved successful with 33 entries. The winner was Marcella Huggard for “Family Stories” with was published in *Archival Outlook* and online. There were also three honorable mentions.
  - **One Book, One Profession.** This reading initiative was launched last year to great fanfare. This year the featured selection is *Through the Archival Looking Glass: A Reader on Diversity and Inclusion* edited by Mary Caldera and Kathryn Neal (SAA, 2014).