

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
June 8 – 10, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Executive Committee
(Prepared by Scott Cline)**

Executive Committee Actions and Discussions

- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee expressing strong opposition to the Research Works Act (H.R.3699), a bill designed to roll back policy that secured no-fee public access to National Institutes of Health taxpayer-funded research and to block the development of similar policies at other federal agencies. (February 8, 2012)
- Responding to a request from Immediate Past President Helen Tibbo, who approached SAA in her role as a member of the Library of Congress' National Digital Stewardship Alliance Outreach Working Group, a member of the NDSA Coordinating Committee, and the NDSA-SAA liaison, agreed to partner with NDSA and the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP) in its new collaborative national alliance initiative to support long-term access to digital content. (February 15, 2012)
- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter opposing the CIA's decision to charge fees for the opportunity to challenge secrecy claims, effectively cutting off access to a system used by researchers, historians, public interest advocates, and others to successfully challenge the CIA's secrecy process, called the Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) process. (February 23, 2012)
- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter expressing concern about provisions in S. 2151, a cybersecurity bill introduced by Sen. McCain that would cut off all public access to information in cybersecurity centers before the public has the chance to understand the types of information covered by the bill. The letter focused specifically on one provision, titled "Technical Amendments," that would significantly modify the Freedom of Information Act by creating a new exemption that would give the government the authority to withhold information shared with or to a cybersecurity center. (March 12, 2012)

- Sent a letter to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff in opposition to separating the state's archives and records management functions. (March 30, 2012)
- Reviewed and contributed to written testimony submitted by SAA to the House Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government for consideration in light of the Subcommittee's March 20 hearing on funding for NARA and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. (March 16, 2012)
- After discussion and review, declined to sign on to a letter urging Congress to direct the Library of Congress to improve public access to legislative information. Although SAA typically is very interested in supporting policy issues that relate to increasing access to public information, in this instance the Executive Committee cited concerns that there was no estimate of the costs of such improvements and apparently no report language indicating provision of a dollar amount to allow the Library to complete this directive. (March 27, 2012)
- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter asking the House of Representatives to oppose H.R. 3523, the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2011, because it "constitutes a wholesale attack on public access to information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)." Similar to other cybersecurity proposals in the House and Senate that include provisions that would severely undermine the public's ability to access information under the FOIA, H.R. 3523 would cut off all public access to cyber threat information before the public and Congress have the chance to understand the types of information that are withheld under the bill. The letter cited concerns that the public may need access to some of the information to be able to assess whether the government is adequately combating cybersecurity threats and, when necessary, hold officials accountable. (April 10, 2012)
- Named an SAA/Academy of Certified Archivists joint representative (Gregor Trinkaus-Randall) to attend the International Council on Archives meeting in Brisbane, Australia, in August 2012. Agreed to collaborate with ACA to develop mutual expectations for the representative and develop a Memorandum of Understanding for joint representation going forward, including issuing a call for volunteers in time to carefully review the volunteers. (April 11, 2012)
- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter urging the House to oppose H.R. 3523, Rep. Roger's Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act of 2011, because it "constitutes a wholesale attack on public access to information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)." (April 13, 2012)
- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter opposing S. 2105, the Cybersecurity Act of 2012, if it includes Title 7, and opposing S. 2151, Strengthening and Enhancing Cybersecurity by Using Research, Education, Information, and Technology Act (SECURE IT) because both Sections 704(d) of S. 2105 and S. 2151

“create unnecessary, overbroad, and unwise exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).” (May 14, 2012)

Council Interim Actions and Discussions

- Nominated candidates and elected John Fleckner as SAA’s representative to the NHPRC strategic planning group that is drafting a Report to the President describing current conditions and the challenges ahead for the access to and preservation of historical records. (January 10, 2012)
- Submitted “Documenting a Profession in Transition: A National Forum for A*CENSUS II” to the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the “National Forum Grant” category with support from ten affiliated organizations. (February 1, 2012)
- Solicited input from leaders across the Society about what component group leaders would like to learn and discuss at the 2012 Leadership Orientation and Forum in San Diego. Based on feedback from component leaders, drafted an agenda for the Leadership Orientation (see Agenda Item IV.G.2.). (February – April 2012).
- Elected the Class B members of the SAA Foundation Board: Cassie Cramer, Minnesota Historical Society Director of Development; Chuck Martin, former chief operating officer/chief financial officer of the American Physical Therapy Association (now retired); and Ben Primer, Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at Princeton University. (Passed unanimously, January 23, 2012.)
- Encouraged SAA members to respond to the National Archives and Records Administration’s call for public comments on the Presidential Memorandum on Managing Government Records. (February 21, 2012)
- Disbanded the *Native American Protocols* Forum Working Group with thanks, as the group’s charge had been completed. (Passed unanimously, February 22, 2012.)
- Signed on to an OpenTheGovernment.org letter asking the CIA to withdraw its new Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) process regulations that “could cut off access to the most effective tool the public can use to request declassification of the CIA’s secret documents.” (Passed by majority, February 23, 2012. Yes: Baxter, Cline, Frusciano, Kaplan, Meissner, Theimer. No: None. Abstain: Felker, McCrea, Richardson. No vote: Dooley, Landis.)
- Approached the Society of California Archivists to co-host a regional summit to be held in conjunction with SAA’ 2012 Annual Meeting. Formed a working group to develop a meeting structure and agenda for the summit. Sent invitations to participate to at least 20 state and regional organizations and requested feedback on what should be discussed. (March 2012)

- Prompted by a review of SAA's strategic plan in January, reviewed and commented on SAA's draft advocacy agenda (see Agenda Item IV.A.). (March – May 2012)
- Adopted the minutes of the January 25-27, 2012, Council meeting. (Passed unanimously, March 20, 2012.)
- Based on a recommendation by the Committee on Education, increased by two the membership of the Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Subcommittee, which is charged with managing the DAS curriculum. (Passed unanimously, April 9, 2012).
- Approved a confidential recommendation regarding a recipient of the 2012 Council Exemplary Service Award. (Passed unanimously, April 16, 2012.) Award language will appear in the August 2012 Council meeting minutes.
- Approved recommendations to adopt the *Guidelines for Reappraisal and Deaccessioning* as an SAA standard, to disband the Reappraisal and Deaccessioning Development and Review Team with thanks, and to create a Technical Subcommittee on *Guidelines for Reappraisal and Deaccessioning* (TS-GRD). (Passed unanimously, May 23, 2012.)
- Approved a recommendation to endorse and include in SAA's Standards Portal, with an "Introduction for Archivists" prepared by the SAA Security Roundtable, *ACRL/RBMS Guidelines Regarding Security and Theft in Special Collections* developed by the Rare Book and Manuscript Section Security Committee and approved by the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association. (Passed unanimously, May 23, 2012.)
- Approved a confidential recommendation regarding a second recipient of the 2012 Council Exemplary Service Award. (Passed unanimously, May 24, 2012.) Award language will appear in the August 2012 Council Meeting minutes.