

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
July 26, 2023
Hybrid Meeting – Washington, DC**

**Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA)
SAA Research and Innovation Roadmap
(Prepared by Jennifer Gunter King, Dennis Meissner, and Sarah Buchanan)**

BACKGROUND

The Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA) was charged in 2019 with “Engaging academic and other communities within SAA to perform research by helping to set research agendas.” Over the last two years – 2021 to 2023 – CORDA has developed a Research and Innovation Roadmap presented now for adoption and implementation.

The name ‘roadmap’ reflects committee-wide consensus on promoting a collective and representative profession-wide scope for research and innovation. ‘Research and innovation’ reflect CORDA’s core and consistent focus on research while embracing the evolution of terms the committee has engaged in throughout (including data, assessment, evaluation, and applied research.)

<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/committee-on-research-data-and-assessment/research-and-innovation-roadmap-update-13>

The roadmap (above version 1.3 updated from a beta version 1 shared in SAA 2022 Conversation Lounge and expanded from the final deliverable that was shared in the [November 2018 Appendix](#) of CORDA’s predecessor [task force](#)) consolidates research themes and, within them, topics that can be used to inform grant funding, publications, organized activities, and to help focus general attention and support for the finite time and SAA resources that are allocated to underpinning archival practice with research.

CORDA’s iterative work on bringing together current resources, and establishing a roadmap, has been incredibly well received by archivists and, further, leaders of standing committees have expressed a desire that the roadmap be adopted as a tool that can help inform, refine, and evaluate calls for programs, grant applications, journal articles, forum themes, etc.

The Roadmap’s history of member engagement includes the following:

- SAA Annual Meeting 2018 feedback on personas and clustered themes.
- CORDA-led updates to the themes 2020-2021
- SAA Membership at a Conversation Lounge at the August 2022 SAA Annual Meeting

- *The American Archivist* Editorial Board, November 18, 2022
- Standards Committee, February 9, 2023
- 2023 Program Committee, March 7, 2023
- Diversity Committee, March 15, 2023
- Committee on Public Awareness, March 16, 2023
- Committee on Education, April 10, 2023
- Presentation to SAA Council, May 17, 2023
- Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct, July 6, 2023
- *Forthcoming [presentation to Attendees and SAA Membership on Friday July 28, 2023](#)* at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists and the Society of American Archivists, Washington D.C.

DISCUSSION

CORDA presents the Research and Innovation Roadmap for adoption, having updated the roadmap with Council feedback received in April 2023.

[Roadmap beta 1.2 with Council feedback highlighted](#)

The roadmap is a “living” document and will continue to evolve and reflect the archival profession’s interests and needs.

The process of adoption and implementation will incorporate:

- A cyclical review led by CORDA at each SAA Annual Meeting &/or SAA Research Forum.
- SAA committee and section leader engagement to connect the roadmap beneficially in ways that leverage the roadmap to shape priorities and opportunities that advance broader professional interests.
- SAA leaders, including the SAA Foundation, Annual Meeting Program Committees, the Editorial Board of the *American Archivist*, co-chairs of the Research Forum, and Council to seek opportunities to incentivize roadmap priorities.
- SAA and CORDA will seek alignment between themes and committees and a role for committee leaders to play in vetting and updating current themes, topics, and related research. For example, the Diversity Committee's interest and responsibility towards Diversity and Inclusion Theme III; User-Centered Design, and Discovery Theme VII can be refined and advanced by the User Experience Section.
- Sharing through the Society of American Archivists Leadership Orientation and Forum, the Leader List, and the Announcements List, as well as through *Archival Outlook*, *In The Loop*, the SAA website, SAA social media accounts, and email communications.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SAA Council adopt the Research and Innovation Roadmap as presented via the linked document:

[Roadmap version 1.4 reflecting July 2023 Council feedback](#)

Support Statement

The adoption of the Research and Innovation Roadmap will provide SAA and the profession with a cohesive guiding document that encapsulates priority research themes and topics.

Impact on Strategic Priorities

The roadmap and its adoption are specifically called out in the FY23 Goal 3.2.C Advancing the Field: Draft Research and Innovation Roadmap for Council review and approval.

Fiscal Impact

There are no known fiscal impacts on the organization to adopt the Research and Innovation Roadmap at this time. The implementation of the roadmap would require CORDA, SAA leaders (including Council), and sections to advocate for the use and iterative updates to the roadmap.