

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 24, 2025
Anaheim, California
Hybrid**

**Standards Committee: Request for Council Approval of
Assignment of Responsibility for the *Best Practices for
Volunteers in Archives* to SAA's Archives Management Section
(Prepared by: Dan Michelson, Co-Chair)**

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the [*Best Practices for Volunteers in Archives*](#) is to provide guidance for archives on when it is appropriate to accept volunteer assistance and how they should be used.

The guidelines were developed by the Graduate Archival Education Subcommittee (GAES) of the Committee on Education as a companion to the *Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies* in 2014. Last revised in 2018, it is overdue for a revision.

In Fall 2024, GAES requested that the Standards Committee find a new group to maintain the standard, since it does not fit within the subcommittee's charge and they are already responsible for maintenance of two other standards (*Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies* and *Best Practices for Internships as a Component of Graduate Archival Education*). In response, the Standards Committee identified the Archives Management Section as the most logical SAA group to take responsibility, and the section leadership agreed.

DISCUSSION

The proliferation of specialized standards over the past decade has led to the increasing need to rely on experts in SAA sections to lead revisions to standards under the

guidance of the Standards Committee. This has proven to be a successful approach, with six sections currently responsible for different SAA standards.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SAA Council approve the assignment of responsibility for maintenance of the *Best Practices for Volunteers in Archives* to the Archives Management Section of SAA.

Support Statement: Approval of the assignment for maintenance to the Archives Management Section of SAA is a reasonable administrative choice.

Impact on Strategic Priorities

The work of the Archives Management Section is consistent with Strategic Priorities 2.2 and 3.1:

2.2 Provide content, via education and publications, that reflects the latest thinking and best practices in the field.

3.1. Identify the need for new standards, guidelines, and best practices and lead or participate in their development.

Fiscal Impact : None