

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 9 – 12, 2014
Chicago, Illinois**

**Annual Report: Cultural Heritage Working Group
(Prepared by CHWG Chair: Jennifer O'Neal)**

Report from Annual Meeting

Number of attendees: 6 members, SAA Council Liaison, 3 guests

Summary of meeting activities:

- Introduction of all CHWG members and guests.
- Council update from Helen Wong Smith relating to various topics with specific focus on the establishment of the Committee on Public Awareness and strategies for CHWG involvement, if needed.
- Reviewed conclusions and results of the recent CHWG conference calls and member survey regarding a strategic action plan for the coming year. Conference call discussions and results of the survey revealed importance of focusing on a strong education initiative through case studies, communication, outreach, and expert participation on various groups and at conferences regarding cultural heritage.
- Reviewed submission of draft case studies. Decision to submit to either the Diversity or Ethics portal for publication to streamline and align with formal case study process.
- Discussion of possible collaborations with RBMS using their diversity model.
- Report regarding attendance at various cultural heritage conferences, groups, and projects, as well as key forthcoming conferences.
- Discussion of SAA session ideas for 2015; how practitioners and educators are incorporating cultural heritage issues into daily work and education.
- Update and discussion of continued development of the bibliography.
- Discussion concerning possible development of a statement on cultural heritage. Decision made to possibly pursue at a later date; for now focus on education, case studies, and outreach.

Completed projects/activities

- Three conference calls during the year on various strategic topics.
- SAA 2014 Annual Meeting session proposals.
- Completed a detailed working group membership survey regarding the group's strategic initiatives, providing detailed guidance for short- and long-term planning.

- Communication and Outreach Initiative: CHWG continued a strong outreach and social media initiative to reach out to SAA members and beyond to inform individuals of our purpose and share important news regarding various cultural heritage issues. Continued significant outreach work with social media and began a blog initiative.
- Submission of 5 in-depth cultural heritage case studies for upload to Diversity or Ethics case study publication portal.
- Served as Associates to the Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage program (Simon Fraser University)—Jennifer O’Neal and Kim Christen.
- Attendance at various conferences and gatherings regarding cultural heritage archives including;
 - Library of Congress Culture Heritage Symposium: “Networks, Innovations, and Collaborations” (September 2013)
 - Community Informatics Research Network: Nexus, Confluence, and Difference: Community Archives meets Community Informatics (October 2013)
 - Radical Archives Conference (April 2014)
 - Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (May 2014)
 - Association for Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums, International Conference on Archives (June 2014)
 - Sustainable Heritage Network (June 2014)
 - Intellectual Property Issues in Cultural Heritage (Various 2013-2014)

Ongoing projects/activities:

- Outreach and Communications Initiative: The group continues to develop and provide a strong website as a Resource Page as a go-to place for resource information for SAA members and non-members about archives and cultural heritage issues. In addition, the group will continue to manage and develop a robust social media initiative to share cultural heritage news and issues.
- A Culture Heritage Bibliography that focuses on archival aspects of this topic and that is organized by topic. The Bibliography will include - to the extent possible - already existing case studies. At this point this will not be an annotated bibliography.
- Continued development of cultural heritage case studies to support strong education initiative; contribute to the established Diversity or Ethics case study publications portals.
- Identification of gaps in the SAA Glossary with respect to terms important to cultural heritage sensitivity and responsibility; propose new terms for inclusion.
- Statement on Cultural Property and possible guidelines. Decision made to possibly pursue at a later date; for now focus on education, case studies, and outreach.
- Attendance at relevant upcoming conferences.
- Contributions to publications regarding cultural heritage.

New projects/activities:

- Session ideas for 2015 Annual Meeting in Cleveland
- Appointing new members
- Selecting an SAA intern to assist with various projects and social media initiatives

- Investigating possible solutions for developing policies, guidelines, and literature regarding cultural heritage collection. The group will work in three key areas to infuse improvements and change into the larger membership, including improvements to the educational curriculum through collaboration with the Archival Educators Roundtable, development of case studies for archival practitioners, and continued communication, dissemination, and awareness of the complexities of cultural heritage archives. As part of this project, in the winter 2015 *Archival Outlook* the Working Group will solicit feedback from the SAA membership through an announcement of the survey with the goal of determining the specific resources that are most needed regarding cultural heritage archives. This will be the first step in a long-term initiative to develop those resources, including, but not limited to, publications, sessions, workshops, and possibly later the development of best practices and guidelines regarding the effective stewardship of cultural heritage archives.

Strategic Priority - Diversity initiatives

Continued work representing a variety of diverse cultures and groups regarding cultural heritage issues. As well as any new strategic initiatives developed for the upcoming fiscal years. The group's investigative work this year will reveal major issues and priorities that they will bring to the attention of the SAA Council.

Questions/concerns for Council Attention

Advisability of attendance at UNESCO meetings.