

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 8-10, 2015
Chicago, Illinois**

**Final Report: 2015 Annual Meeting Program Committee
(Prepared by Co-Chairs Lynn Eaton and Carl Van Ness)**

The 2015 SAA Annual Meeting Program Committee met for the last time at the conclusion of the SAA Annual Meeting in Cleveland. The committee members were: Carl Van Ness and Lynn Eaton (co-chairs), Sharmila Bhatia, Rebecca Bizonet, Brett Carnell, Natalia Fernandez, Jennifer Graham, Kimberly Sims, Ellen Engseth, Joshua Youngblood, Natalie Zagamie-Lopez (resigned prior to Annual Meeting), and Rachel Panella (intern who came aboard in July to assist).

The Program Committee had a busy spring and summer preparing for the 2015 Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. Each member contacted and worked with her or his session liaisons to provide up-to-date information on speakers, topics, etc.

The committee sent out a call for pop-up session submissions in May. Pop-up sessions were envisioned as a way to liven up the annual program by focusing on ideas and content that may have popped up in the interval between November, when the customary program sessions are selected, and the Annual Meeting. The committee also saw this as an opportunity to bring in new voices and as a way to encourage experimentation. We asked the membership to think outside the box and use the opportunity to point the conversation in new directions.

We asked that submissions be in the form of a simple narrative, no more than 300 words, explaining the purpose of the session, its intended audience, and how the session would proceed. We did not ask for names of specific presenters, but simply a designated session leader. Contact information (email and phone) was requested in the proposal.

The Program Committee did not state a format preference; the session would be in the format best suited for the session's purpose. However, because of the setup requirements of the Cleveland Convention Center, all seating arrangements for pop-up sessions required a theater style set-up. (This was one of the unforeseen consequences of switching to a convention center.)

Twenty-one proposals were submitted for five available slots. To select our five sessions, each committee member selected his/her top seven choices. Points were awarded for each choice based on the individual's ranking: 7 points for a first choice, 6 points for a second

choice, etc. The votes were tabulated and the top five were selected. The committee also looked at possible statistical deviations. As it turned out, the margin between the fifth and sixth point-getters was only one point, but the fifth also received one more vote (i.e., choice) than the sixth, so it worked out well. Overall, the committee was impressed by the proposals and could easily have selected three or four more.

The pop-up sessions chosen by the committee were placed in the one-hour slot on Thursday, coinciding with the second half of the two-hour slots for section meetings. Anecdotally, these pop ups were appreciated, but a different time slot was encouraged. Despite this conflict with the section meetings and the lateness of the sessions, attendance at most of the preselected pop-ups was excellent and, at times, comparable with regular sessions. This would indicate that many members were looking for an alternative to section meetings.

The committee decided to fill the remaining five of the ten pop-up session slots through an on-site process at the conference. These were: 409 (Friday @ 11:30 am), 509 and 510 (Friday @ 3:15 pm), and 709 and 710 (Saturday @ 10:00 am).

Information on the onsite process was included on the conference website. For onsite selection, proposers were asked to present their ideas in one paragraph of 75 words or less to be posted at the registration area. One individual printed out his/her description, but the others simply wrote on the poster paper available on the table. Members were able to post their information beginning Wednesday of the conference. A piece of paper was laid out for each slot available (i.e. one for 409, one for 509, one for 510...).

Proposers were strongly encouraged to use Twitter and other social media to get the word out about their session proposal. SAA members voted for the preferred session by stopping by the posted information and placing a check mark by the appropriate session. Voting ended at 8:00 am on Friday for the 400 and the 500 slots and 5:30 pm on Friday for the 700 slots. The program co-chairs emailed SAA the information and SAA updated the app and live tweet with the accepted proposals. The accepted session leaders were also encouraged to use social media to alert attendees of their successful proposal. The Host Committee manned the voting table during sessions so that Program Committee members could fulfill their assigned duties. The Program Committee members filled the other time slots between 11:00 am and 3:00 pm on Wednesday and 7:30 am and 5:30 pm on Thursday and Friday. This arrangement added another layer of responsibility that may have been one too many. If a future committee would like to implement the pop-ups again in this way, we suggest that the Program Committee members for the following year's conference might be helpful assistants in filling these time slots.

The committee encouraged anyone who proposed a pop-up session not accepted over the summer to resubmit their proposals at the conference. Two were resubmitted and one of those was voted in. The number of sessions proposed was limited: two for the first two slots, one for the third slot, and none for the other slots. We discovered an unexpected point of confusion when someone submitted a pop-up session idea for what they would like someone to present, rather than what they would present.

Another point of confusion centered on AV support for the pop-up sessions, both pre-selected and those selected onsite. The lack of AV for pop-up sessions was apparently not communicated to all session proposers, so time was spent changing rooms at the last minute to secure rooms with AV hook-ups. Given that many of the pop-up proposals emphasized recent technical innovations, AV support will be necessary in the future.

In all, the onsite pop-up sessions were problematic and not well-attended. The highest attendance for any one session was 30. With one notable exception, the sessions also failed to accomplish the stated aims of the committee – namely, to provide a venue for spontaneous groups or spur-of-the-moment ideas. Only three of the five slots could be filled and, as previously stated, one of the sessions had actually been submitted in the summer. On the plus side, many people approached the table and expressed pleasure in being able to vote on proposals. Consideration should be given in the future to other ways of fulfilling the democratic objective of the pop-up concept.

The Program Committee also heard many, overwhelmingly positive comments on the venue. This was particularly true in regard to the layout of the rooms and their relative proximity to each other. The only consistent complaint was the lack of onsite food and beverage.

The committee lost one member through resignation between January and the meeting. Nancy Beaumont's suggestion to fill the slot with an intern was met with great appreciation. The intern acted as liaison onsite for program sessions and one of the pop-up sessions. The intern allowed the other committee members to attend to their sessions and have necessary (and well-deserved) breaks.

The bulk of the committee members met for lunch on Saturday after the last session to celebrate the conclusion of their responsibilities and an overall successful program.

Accompanying this report is a compilation of liaison session reports and general comments from the Program Committee members (Appendix).

Program Committee Session Reports and General Comments

Session Reports

Session 101 – Archives Confidential: Enacting Privacy Policies and Requirements in Digital Archives

Attendance: 269+

The presenters found the set-up slightly awkward with the screen to their left and slightly behind them. (This room was used for Plenary 1.) They used another computer to view their own presentations, but it was not synced with the display.

Session 102 – Archives and Storytelling

Attendance: 278

Panel tried sound clips for their presentation well before the session started and they didn't work. Tech support arrived in a matter of minutes and got the clips working immediately.

Session 103 –Big Web, Small Staff: Web Archiving with Limited Resources

Attendance: 114

There were no A/V issues once they restarted their Mac laptop (well before the session started). No mass exodus. The format was a bit different in that the chair (an employee of ArchiveIt subbing for her colleague who was out on maternity leave) interviewed the panelists, asking a question that each one answered. There were no formal presentations. The session was divided into sections (topics related to web archiving) and after the panelists finished answering a question, they opened the floor to Q&A with a panel member taking a wireless mic around the room and then going back to the podium. That stopped after the second or third question, because it wasn't really working due to time.

Session 104 – Advocating for Access through Japanese-U.S. Pilot Project About Atomic-bomb-related Archives

Attendance: 40

Only a few people left early. The presentation was informative and interesting. There were a lot of questions at the end. The whole session ran smoothly. Although this session was subject specific, it addressed many issues related to making digitized records available on the web.

Session 105 – Connecting Collections and International Communities in Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, and the Middle East

Attendance: 55-60

Good session, no major problems. I know the presenters would have preferred a more flexible room with a different set up in order to be more interactive/participatory with the attendees, as presenters had prepared questions for the attendees to answer, but the attendees did indeed ask questions and share experiences even with the formal room set up.

Session 106 – Yes, I Google Better: How Technology Has Changed Archival Reference

Attendance: 145 maximum

Standing room only, with folks sitting on the floor and standing in the back. This one had several people leaving after a while, and there was a significant exodus during the Q&A.

This room had a pillar or some ductwork on the left side of the room that obstructed the view for many of the people sitting on that side of the room. I counted 10 seats that offered a completely obstructed view of the screen, and more suffered a partially obstructed view. Compounding this problem was the fact that the screen was positioned in the left corner of the room. This room configuration was problematic for future sessions as well.

The speakers ran long and offered a shortened time period for Q&A. The format was meant to be an “innovative” one, with user questions submitted in advance for the panel to discuss, but what happened in reality was very long pre-selected, combined questions up on the slides (which were hard to read). I think the intent was to have something more dynamic, but unfortunately, it didn’t really play out that way. A custom Twitter hashtag was invoked, but as some social media-savvy seatmates noted, it wasn’t really integrated into the talk, and it duplicated the utility of the session number hashtag.

Session 107 – The ARL/SAA Mosaic Program: Lessons Learned and Next Steps

Attendance: 33

Most everyone in the session was directly involved in the Mosaic Program somehow, whether they were on the committee, an institution hosting a fellow, or a fellow her/himself.

Session 108 – Creating Opportunities for Innovative Digital Projects Through Collaboration Among Faculty, Students, Librarians, and Archivists

Attendance: 150

This session was completely filled and there were 15-20 people sitting on the floor or standing in the back. No other problems. I cannot comment on the panel as I left the room to make room for others. In the future, any session related to digital anything should be in a larger room.

Session 109 – ICA Expert Group on Archival Description: Interim Report on the Development of a Conceptual Model.

Attendance: 86 at start, maximum 101

Good Q&A. Very technical information about metadata and description standards that was pretty intense for a first session. However, I heard during and afterwards that conference attendees were glad to hear about the conceptual model and appreciated this session in particular for its real-world significance. One presenter couldn’t attend, but the well-structured presentation allowed for all of the pertinent information to be included anyway. No AV issues.

Session 110 – Born-digital Access Hackfest: Collaborative Solution-Building for Current Challenges

Attendance: 55 (limited attendance session, 60 max)

This session was scheduled for room 13, set up as tables in the round, as requested, but lacking A/V. In the original proposal under Audiovisual Requirements, the submission listed “Round tables and chairs to break out into groups easily.” It’s possible they assumed that A/V was included. The session was moved to Room 20 and the chairs were re-arranged into four large circles. The session chair explained that the presenters arrived at about 10 am to check on the room (for an 11 am session) and contacted conference services for a room change. The conference staff were very accommodating and efficient, and the session was switched to the other room. The session itself went very well – the speakers were very organized and the non-traditional format to split the attendees into teams for structured activities was very successful.

Session 201 – "Mind Your Own F#@king Business": Documenting Communities that Don't Want to Be Documented and the Diversity of the American Record

Attendance: Well over 300

This session was in one of the double ballrooms and was at capacity. The speakers were great – this session was as popular as predicted; attendees continued to trickle in throughout the presentations. No comments were made by anyone regarding the session title censorship.

Session 202 – Can I Trash This? Managing Physical Media Collections Post-digitization

Attendance: 300

The room was mostly full. A lot of people came in and out. This was a VERY informal panel. The moderator asked questions to the speakers and they answered them. This would have been fine, but the moderator kept laughing and there were some inside conversations between him and one of the panelists. I think this session had potential, but it failed to deliver.

Session 203 – Marriage, Separation, Divorce: Managing Collections During Organizational Change

Attendance: 88

Attendees stayed through the session. Good session from the Business Archives section. Good Q&A at the end.

Session 204 – Measure Up: Assessment Tools and Techniques from the Field

Attendance: 172 at beginning, 195-200 maximum

There was a computer hookup issue during setup, but we were very quickly and ably assisted by C&LC. The chair and the speakers were really well organized and prepared. The chair had done a couple of clever but simple things to ensure that this lightning talk sped along: 1) the presentations were combined into one big PowerPoint, so that no one had to spend extra seconds loading up their presentation; and 2) the chair had a separate microphone to introduce the speakers and she spoke from the front row of the audience, with each panelist taking a turn at the lectern. Again, transition time was minimized in this way. In terms of content, it was a good, meaty session.

Session 205 – Documenting the Fight for Equality: Class, Race, Gender and Economic Justice Struggles Through the Lens of Labor Collections

Attendance: 38

Under attended, although there were some people who came in as others left. Major AV issues at the beginning due to the chair's laptop compatibility. Caused ten-minute delay that was finally resolved with a really simple solution: different laptop. Presenters were all good, but the chair needed to manage time more firmly. As a result they went over, had no Q&A, and the last presenter was only allotted 3 or 4 minutes to abbreviate her talk. I ended up talking with roundtable chair coming in immediately afterwards to smooth over the time lag—a task I was glad to take on, but maybe should not have had to.

Session 206 – Before It's Lost in the Ether: Strategies for Collecting Current Undergraduate Records

Attendance: 79

No A/V issues; attendees stayed through the session. Straight-up presentation format.

Session 207 – Collaborations with Impact: Working Together on Archives-based Instruction

Attendance: 126

Very popular session. I asked people to scoot to the edges and many people did not move and insisted on standing in the back. I ended up leaving early to leave room in the back.

Session 208 – Massachusetts Municipal Clerks Archival Education Program

Attendance: 25

As expected this session had limited audience appeal. Session was very well done -- included a town clerk who was instrumental in the education program.

Session 209 – The Evolving Archival Record

Attendance: 55-60

Good session, no major problems.

Session 210 – Public Policy: How SAA Comes to a Position

Attendance: 19

Modified fishbowl format worked okay, though the small number of attendees meant everyone had plenty of time to make their comments.

Pop-Up Session 1 – Records Management, Access, and Born-Digital MPLP: A Conversation about Empowering Archivists and Preventing Crises

Attendance: 175+

I counted 175 attendees but couldn't keep up with the # of people coming in late and still pay attention. The panel made it clear they were not going to specifically discuss the Oregon case or the employees affected by it. Rather, they discussed their own workflows, institutions, etc. and how they deal with emails. Audience was engaged and one person did want to acknowledge the Director of Special Collections at Oregon who was fired and he did so.

Pop-Up Session 2 – ePADD Demonstration and Discussion

Attendance: 50

The room was changed and some people were confused about the location since the room was swapped with the other pop-up session room. Everyone stayed. The panel was well prepared. One of the presenters was part of another session in which I liaised on Friday. He spoke of the same software, but that discussion focused on the access module. In the pop-up he focused on the acquisitions and appraisal modules. His presentations were different enough.

Pop-Up Session 3 – Let's Talk About FOIA: An Open Dialogue on Archives and Public Records

Attendance: 12

Shifting of rooms caused a lot of confusion. I spent most of my time directing people to other rooms. Two other sessions which people thought were in the room we were in proved more popular. Those that attended were really into it though. The chair had handouts and question prompts that moved discussion along, and there was a lot of roundtable-like sharing of institutional experiences, solutions, and ongoing issues. A leader in the field, Peter Hirtle, came to the session, which added a different dimension to the discussion and we all had solid takeaways. Overall very effective, despite low turnout and room confusion.

Pop-Up Session 4 – Both Sides Now: Re-imagining Digitally-focused Special Collections Programs

Attendance: 50.

Went well.

Pop-Up Session 5 – Introduction to Metadata Power Tools for the Curious Beginner

Attendance: 73

People stood all around the edges. I personally found the presenters very well prepared and informative. One of the best sessions I sat in on. It seemed well suited for people at varying levels.

Session 301 – Intellectual Property Legislation and Litigation Update

Attendance: 200

No A/V issues, attendees stayed. People sat on the floor or stood along the wall, even though there were empty seats toward the front. They were told there was seating, but several said they wanted easy access to leave. Straight-up presentation format. Peter Hirtle had the audience laughing a number of times. Most audience members were fascinated by the information provided by David Sutton regarding copyright laws in Europe.

Session 302 – Dancing to a New Tune: Managing Your Career in the Archives Profession

Attendance: 150

This session was held in the ballroom. I estimated about 150 people, spread over a vast room, and overwhelmingly women. I thought the session went very well. Balanced panel – 2 employers and 2 recently employed – and an excellent moderator. The panelists were rather free and blunt with their opinions. (Pretty sure that ACA would be very unhappy with the employer who said that certification was not worth it.) Great questions and great responses.

Session 303 – You Do What? Non-traditional Outreach that Works

Attendance: 140

Another very crowded session.

Session 304 – Archival Challenges and Opportunities: Perspectives from the Archivist of the United States

Attendance: 140

A discussion between SAA President Kathleen Roe and Archivist of the United States David Ferriero, who was unable to make the presentation in person and was Skyped in. SAA staff dealt well with the last-minute change in structure, as did the participants. Audience questions were varied. People stayed even with the change.

Session 305 – “Film at 11”: True Stories of News Film Collections

Attendance: 45-50

Only a few people left. The session went well, aside from some technical difficulty playing videos. All around an interesting presentation.

Session 306 – Seeding Engagement: Web Archiving Outreach Opportunities and Strategies

Attendance: 66

Everything went well.

Session 307 – It STEMs from Us: Engaging in Archival Outreach with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Students

Attendance: 57 at start, maximum of 72.

Very good and informative. Great Q&A at the end. Although the title and description told us what to expect, as a practitioner I was nonetheless impressed with the number of practical and tested curricula and classroom techniques presented. The session was very well-centered and convincing in the thrust of each presentation including pragmatic, if innovative, outreach and teaching approaches. One presenter was a last-minute substitution but was very effective nonetheless. She ended up presenting in two sessions (back to back!) but was great in both, and I heard no complaints.

Session 308 – Just Take Those Old Records Off the Shelf: Reconciling Legacy Digital Content with Current Preservation Practice

Attendance: 150 at beginning, 163 maximum.

This session was full and could have been in a bigger room. (Maybe everything “digital” could have?) No AV problems, despite participants using a Mac and having some initial worries about this; they brought the necessary adapter. This was another session in a room with an obstructed view. (See description for Session 106.) Detailed (in a good way), engaging session, and all the speakers kept to time. I had to leave during the Q&A, but it seemed like there was strong audience interest and participation at the start of it. In this and other panel or lightning sessions where the chair introduces the speakers all in one go at the start, it would be helpful if speakers would repeat their names before beginning their talks.

Session 309 – The Community IS the Archives: Challenging the Role of the Repository in Community Archives

Attendance: 90

No issues; great speakers.

Session 310 – Learning to Manage/Managing to Learn

Attendees: 120+

Had a problem with a cable -- a pin was damaged. The session chair requested AV and it was fixed before I got there. Lots of discussion -- I held the microphone for the Q&A segment which seemed to work fairly well.

Session 401 – Arrangement, Description, and Access for Digital Archives

Attendance: 450+

450 attendees when I stopped counting to focus on the session (continued stream of latecomers). No A/V issues; no mass exodus; well-organized session with limited slides that were combined into one file. The panelists said a lot in a short amount of time in an effort to engage with the audience. They were successful in this approach, and questions had to stop when time ran out.

Session 402 – Walking the Talk: Risks and Opportunities in Online Publication of Oral Histories

Attendance: 110-120

Attendees stayed. Great content, with lots of questions and interaction. Well received.

Session 403 – Best Practices for Volunteers in Archives

Attendance: 88 maximum

Between 5 and 10 people total got up and left throughout. It was in a big room (we had guessed there would be higher attendance for this one), so turnout felt low. One speaker could not attend due to a death in the family. The chair read this speaker's notes, so all was fine there. The talks from the SAA task forces and a user's perspectives were well done and insightful. There was a lot of really good, significant discussion in the Q&A. Everything was well organized and ran on time. The panel had arranged in advance to have someone assist them with a roving microphone, which worked well for audience participation in the big room. I learned quite a bit from this session personally.

Session 404 – Digital Archivists and Information Technologists: A Collaborative Challenge

Attendance: 80+

The Q&A session was awkward; having the chair repeat questions for the whole audience did not work well, and presenters did not have an equal chance to answer. I had offered to handle the microphone. Otherwise, the session went well.

Session 405 – You've Come a Long Way, Baby: Images of Women in Advertising

Attendance: 100

The room was pretty full and there were a few people in and out. It was a visual session as the session name implies. It was not as "light" as I had expected. Overall a good presentation. I did dim the lights in this session so that the images on the screen were easier to see.

Session 406 – Postcustodial Theory of Archives: A Debate (and We're Not Talking About Janitors)

Attendance: 175-200

The room was at capacity. The non-traditional format of a debate was very engaging – the speakers left about 30 minutes for questions and discussion. There was an issue with the A/V – the session proposal stated "Microphones on tables for presenters; *microphones for the audience participation*. Means of playing audio files from computer" as A/V requirements; however, there was no wireless microphone in the room. I informed Matt at the registration desk of the needed microphone and he contacted the conference staff – no one came, not even to let the speakers know they would not receive one. The speakers asked attendees to form a line at the front of the room for the Q & A as an alternative. It worked, but it would have worked better with the roaming microphone as they had requested.

Session 407 – Portal to the Black Experience

Attendance: 55-60.

Good session, engaged audience.

Session 408 – No More Silence in the Library: Documenting Fandom and Fan Culture in Archives and Special Collections

Attendance: 123 at start, maximum of 135+.

Very popular with enthusiastic participants. Could've filled a larger room. Great presentations that demonstrated how effective a lightning round can be if managed well by the chair. Each presentation was tightly organized and got to core issues quickly, and the chair was stern (but nice) in moving the presentations along. Almost ran out of time for Q&A but still got some in. No AV issues, which was key so that each of the presenters could quickly transition and show a wide variety of media through slideshows. The PowerPoint™ was preassembled which helped. Very popular on social media as well, as several people in the audience (including me) were live-Tweeting it.

Pop Up Session 409 –Open Finding Aids

Attendance: 15

We had to switch rooms as the session needed AV. This problem also occurred with the next pop-up sessions. Only 15 people attended this excellent session on allowing open use of finding-aid metadata. It was an interesting discussion and it probably deserved to be on the Thursday slot.

Session 410 – Identity Management Metadata in Digital Archives and Repositories

Attendance: 30

Speakers couldn't connect their computer to the projector. Tech support arrived in a matter of minutes and resolved the issue immediately.

Session 501 – What's in the Box: Caring for Unusual Materials in Collections

Attendance: 205

No A/V issues, attendees stayed. This was a lightning round. The chair had all slides on one file, which made the presentation seamless and well-run. As we expected in November, the content was devoured by the audience.

Session 502 – Narrowing the Focus of Digital and Social Media Outreach

Attendance: 111

Not as well attended as I thought it would be, and the size of the room (a large space) made the crowd seem smaller. Talks were good overall, although the theme as directed by the chair overly "narrowed" the content under discussion (in my opinion). Social media platforms were constrained to just a few that the presenters had chosen (Tumblr, mostly, with some Twitter, WordPress, and Facebook). Good Q&A, though, and there was plenty of time and no AV issues.

Session 503 – Out of the Underground: Documenting Your Local Music Community

Attendance: 85

Great speakers, very engaging, no issues.

Session 504 – Doing More by Doing Less: Stopping Programs Without Regret

Attendance: 82

One speaker couldn't make it and did her presentation via Google Meet-Up. During the Google Meet-Up participant paper 17 people left. I'm not sure whether people became disengaged because of the Google Meet-Up format, the content of the speaker's talk, or her delivery, but I personally found it hard to follow the speaker due to the audio distortion of Google Meet-Up.

Session 505 – Regional Advocacy, National Impact

Attendance: 25

AV and timing ran smoothly. The speakers were all interesting, informative, and well prepared. I was disappointed by the low audience turnout, but I got a lot out of this session personally and am raring to implement some of these ideas in my own professional sphere.

Session 506 – The Archives as Data Set: Creating Opportunities for Big Data Through Archival Access and Description

Attendance: 139

Problems with some of the audio, so it started a little late. Otherwise it was fine even though they were Skyping someone in.

Session 507 – Out of the Frying Pan and into the Reading Room: Approaches to Serving Electronic Records

Attendance: 150

Very full room—lots of people on the floor and standing in the back. This session would have benefitted from a larger room. It was hard to hear the speakers at times. Personally, I found this session useful and interesting. The content was good. This was one of two sessions on access to electronic records that I attended. Both were well attended.

Session 508 – The Role of Archives and Archivists in the Search for Truth and Reconciliation

Attendance: 70

Good session. Engaged audience.

Pop-Up Session 509 – Somewhere to Run: Acting on Climate Change within the Archival Profession

Attendance: 5

Small group. I did not remain for the discussion, but the individuals there seemed to appreciate the session, as they lingered at the end.

Pop-Up Session 510 –Linked Data 101: Weaving Archives and Libraries into the Fabric of the Web

Attendance: 30+

We had to switch rooms with Session 509 at the last minute as this session needed AV and the other pop-up didn't. Consequently, I had to stand outside and direct traffic for the first 15 minutes. I believe this was our most attended onsite pop-up with more than 30 people. Very lively and a lot of interaction. Attendees were able to follow along on their laptops.

Session 511 - Behind the Scenes with StoryCorps: An Introduction to the StoryCorps Archive

Attendance: 47

Had a problem with sound; AV was able to address the problem before the session began. The presenter showed an animated story, but forgot to warn folks about images of violence/language. I have no idea if this was a problem. Q&A session -- the chair also tried to repeat the questions rather than having the questioner come to the microphone.

Session 601 – Don't Break It on Tuesdays and Other Tales: ArchivesSpace in Practice

Attendance: 190

Some people in and out. It was an interesting look into the difficulties of implementing the software and migrating data. This session went over more than 5 minutes as the moderator continued to take questions.

Session 602 – Beer, Booths, and Budgets: Collaborative Models for Outreach and Advocacy

Attendance: 49

There were a number of late arrivals, no doubt owing to the early Saturday morning time slot. This one was in a bigger room, too, so attendance felt even lower than it actually was. AV and other logistics went smoothly. Convention center AV staff was around to help tweak the setup a little for some video being played. The content for this session was fantastic, and the presenters

were very engaging. There was good Q&A with the audience. I and a lot of others (I think) will be getting in touch with these speakers for more details about their outreach programs and events. I wish more had been able to attend. (This is the tradeoff we get for putting cool things on the last day to try to entice people.)

Session 603 – Get Their Hands on It: Teaching with Objects in Archives and Special Collections

Attendance: 65

No A/V issues; attendees stayed. This panel put together a slideshow with images from each panelist. The slideshow ran on a loop throughout the session while the panelists spoke. Ed Vermue brought in a cannonball which he had us pass around to prove that items can be touched, esp. if said object was created to shoot out of a tube with the purpose of causing destruction (i.e., we weren't going to hurt it).

Session 604 – Email Archiving in a Curation Life-cycle Context

Attendance: 89

Everything went well.

Session 605 – Collecting, Analyzing, and Acting with Assessment Data: A Community Conversation

Attendance: 17

Good session, good content.

Session 606 – Privacy vs. Access: Legal and Ethical Challenges in High-Profile Collections

Attendance: 73

This session was interesting due to difficult content shown and discussed and some emotions were obvious; one question posed from the audience about trauma resulting among archivists regarding such difficult records. ** Should possibly disturbing content be flagged, for the information of attendees?

Session 607 – Research Data Management: A Space Where Archivists Belong

Attendance: 50

The moderator showed up five minutes before the session was to begin and then there were technical issues which the convention center staff handled quickly. The session started 7 minutes late and ran 7 minutes over. The technical issue concerned PDF slides. The moderator's laptop did not have up-to-date Adobe. One speaker read their presentation, which was more in the nature of a paper than a panel presentation. Fonts on a few PowerPoints™ were too small to read. The session was saved by the next two speakers and, overall, the session was well-received. There was a lot of interest in the topic.

Session 608 – What and How: Advocacy with Impact

Attendance: 39

Speakers didn't keep to the time limit, so there was no time for Q&A. Chair was okay with that. It was a good session.

Session 609 – Graduate Student Paper Presentations

Attendance: 15

Very interesting to hear about student projects and the moderator was very enthusiastic. The last presenter ran a little long, but the few people who were there asked lots of questions.

Session 610 – The “Great Society” and the Archives: Fifty Years of Archival Activism

Attendance: 59 at start, 70+ at maximum

Proved to be a good early Saturday morning draw, however, a different time slot might have brought many more people. Seemed that lots of people started coming in as the morning heated up. Even the panel was really late in arriving. Simplicity of set-up (and luck regarding AV) allowed that to not be an issue. Very lively discussion in the room and on social media. (Again, I was an active participant in a robust Twitter discussion.) Proposal and program description did not really get at the controversy and serious professional self-criticism the session entailed. All the presentations were really interesting (although one presenter couldn't come for family health reasons). Each presenter offered challenging ethical issues for the attendees to grapple with and there was very good discussion in the session.

Session 701 – But Where Is It? Access Tools for Born-Digital Records

Attendance: 300

Another good session with practical methods for delivery of born-digital files. This is the other session I found most useful. There was plenty of time for questions, but taking questions in that large of a room was challenging.

Session 702 – Controversial Crawling: Documenting University Scandal in Real Time

Attendance: 107

No A/V issues, attendees stayed. You may recall that this session was one we had to discuss in November before it was accepted, and I'm glad we did. It was exceptional with the information provided by the panelists, especially Jackie Esposito. The more she spoke, the more "holy #*%!" moments people were having and hoping they don't have to deal with the scandal she did (and still is, btw). The audience for each session was engaged. As per usual, people came in late and left early. There were some attendees live-Tweeting. I think I noticed fewer knitters than I have before - people opted more for their laptops or tablets.

Session 703 - Reading from the Crypt: Tales of Archives, Horror, and Dystopia

Attendance: 100+

Speakers were very well prepared and left lots of time for discussion. Attendees liked this session and several stated that they would like to see something similar at future conferences (other genres, for instance).

Session 704 – A Different Type of Animal? Advocating for Natural Science Archives

Attendance: 30+

It was hard to get an accurate count because of AV issues. Slow being the last session, but people did drift in, so there was interest. Chair was a little unprepared for the use of the multiple PowerPoint™ presentations, and the transitions could have been more effective. Overall, all of the presenters were able to show their prepared slides. Sound was a major issue, and all of the blame seems to go to the Convention Center. Ambient noise, and apparently one mic in the next room, was being piped in. It was a big problem at the beginning, and happened a few times later in the session even though program staff was in the room trying to correct it. Sound issues like this should have been corrected on the first day, I would assume, and not persist until the very last session. The session was great, all the AV issues aside. Very informative about the different

national and international efforts to provide access to the data held in natural history science collections. The session was centered on one specific material type, field notes, which helped tie it all together and bring the uninitiated into the discussion. Intellectually well organized, if not as well organized technologically.

Session 705 – Everyday Memories: A Survey of Multidisciplinary Oral History Collecting Strategies

Attendance: 75

It started well; I did not stay through the whole session.

Session 706 – Keeping the Televised Historic Record: An Archive of Public Media in the Making

Attendance: 35

There were no issues with this session; however, the speakers covered one project in-depth and at times it seemed a bit too detailed.

Session 707 – Recordkeeping in the Cloud and the Advent of Open Data: Mission Critical or Mission Impossible

Attendance: 54

Seemed to be very popular for a Saturday session. Lots of questions. Very smooth presentation. Many people took photos, which was not a problem except for those who did not turn off their camera noises. I would have also opened the door because, for the first half hour, people kept streaming in, which was very distracting.

Session 708 – Advocating for History Out Front and Behind the Scenes: SAA and Its Leaders Protect the Historical Record

Attendance: 16

Program really didn't hold together with these three somewhat unrelated papers. Attendees became restless when one participant read his paper. This was a hard spot being the last program slot of the conference.

Pop-Up Session 709 – Cancelled

This session slot was not filled.

Pop-Up Session 710 –Research Data Management and Archives: Convergences / Divergences

Attendance: 8

Good session. Lots of information.

General Comments from Program Committee Members

The venue: I got a lot of mostly positive feedback about the convention center venue. I found it a net positive myself. I experienced far less noise bleed-through between walls than I have previously at a lot of (most!) hotel sites. There was a lot more room in the corridors for folks to meet, mingle, and discuss. One small but significant issue was the coffee situation. There wasn't enough of it, and not enough of it close by. Case in point: the small Au Bon Pain in the Global Center, the closest reliable option, ran out of most of their coffee options by early afternoon on one of the days. Guess they didn't know we

were coming. The center was far enough away from other coffee shops that getting coffee required skipping parts of sessions when it was possible to do so. After being caught coffee-less on my first morning, I made sure to create my own workarounds, as did others, I'm sure. It's not a make-or-break, but it sure is a strong "nice-to-have"!

General: As far as general programming notes, the obstructed view in two of the session rooms is something that can, I hope, be mitigated at future sites. As mentioned above, probably everything "electronic" or "digital" should automatically get a bigger room (i.e., not the smallest-sized room).

Nearly everyone I spoke to really liked the program. I heard a lot of appreciation for the diversity of content and voices included, and everyone seemed to enjoy Cleveland. I wasn't crazy about the Convention Center as a venue personally, but I think I am a minority in that opinion. I thought it was too spread out, too far to get coffee, a little confusing lay-out wise, and I had AV issues in two sessions. That said, overall I had a great conference and everyone I spoke to got a lot out of the program. The plenaries were very enjoyable. And Carl and Lynn, y'all did a great job keeping us organized and dealing with contingencies. So thanks.

It was a pleasure working with you all! Here are my observations: Generally I heard good feedback about the program and the pop-ups. I liked the conference center—the rooms, the location, the spaciousness, the food. I did not like the way the student posters were set-up—it was hard to get to the inside posters and difficult to hear what I was being told. Perhaps the location for the vendors was too small.

My 2 cents: I liked the conference center: It was clean, no bottlenecks, lots of restrooms, and I especially liked that the rooms were numbered (big numbers). It wasn't that inconvenient from the hotels.

And to start, a few points which folks communicated to us, for next year's committee to consider: I heard lots of people talking about how great it was that membership had the chance to vote on some popups themselves. However, I did hear that it was hard to learn about those later-breaking pop ups. I suggest, thus, hashtags particularly for those pop ups, which people would know to look for. Such as #popupsround2 or similar.

Also, I heard and agree that tweeting was well organized due to session tags (#s105 etc). My sessions were quite standard, no problems noted, no one walking out in groups/high numbers etc.