

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 14–16, 2016
Chicago, Illinois**

**Archives/Library Collaboration
(Prepared by SAA President Nance McGovern)**

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The library community is evolving in response to transformations in publishing the work, focus, and perspectives of all libraries, but especially academic libraries. This transformation has focused the attention of an increasing number of librarians on archives and special collections. The terms “archives” and “special collections” can be used in different ways in the archives and library communities, causing confusion and raising questions. In some contexts, new roles for librarians and libraries may seem to overlap with or even displace the role of archivists. SAA members and other archivists have been noting these trends as they participate in library meetings, presentations, and discussions with varying levels of interest and concern.

One model that is increasingly used for discussions of library trends in collections is Lorcan Dempsey’s concept of “Outside-In” and “Inside-Out” collections. See a brief description of the model [here](#).¹To archivists, “Inside-Out” collections are archives and special collections.

Another example is an emerging [speculative collections model](#)² by Bethany Niwviskie, of the Digital Library Federation (DLF) and the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA), that includes some compelling examples for social justice and collections from a digital library and research library perspective that have significant potential implications for archivists and archives.

The SAA publication *Archives in Libraries: What Librarians and Archivists Need to Know to Work Together*³ could not be more timely in beginning to provide a frame for these discussions.

Digital collections both provide incentives for many communities, including archivists and librarians, to become involved as well as potentially escalating the confusion as programs and services emerge and evolve to support lifecycle management of digital content.

¹ See <http://orweblog.oclc.org/outside-in-and-inside-out-redux/>.

² See <http://nowviskie.org/2016/speculative-collections/>.

³ See <http://saa.archivists.org/store/archives-in-libraries-what-librarians-and-archivists-need-to-know-to-work-together/4700/>.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Please come prepared to share information, raise concerns, and brainstorm ideas to convene, participate in, and inform ongoing discussions and to identify opportunities to raise awareness and collaborate.

Knowing that archives may organizationally exist within libraries and archivists may also be trained and identify as librarians, what are the opportunities and challenges for archives and archivists collaborating with libraries and librarians?