

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
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Chicago, Illinois**

**Oral History Interviews of the
SAA 75th Anniversary Oral History Project**

**(Prepared by Abigail Nye, Interim Head of Archives,
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The Archives of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) Libraries is pleased to provide the SAA Council with a report on the completion of the Oral History Interviews of the SAA 75th Anniversary Oral History Project.

From 2010 to 2012, interviews were conducted with 20 SAA leaders to document the development and future direction of SAA. Volunteers organized the material, completed basic metadata, and, in some cases, prepared first-draft transcripts. In May 2015, the Council approved the expenditure of \$3,500 to support an intern at the UWM Libraries to conclude work on the project.

Our goal was to develop an online collection of all oral histories using CONTENTdm, our digital collections platform. Additionally, we planned to present all interviews using OHMS, a tool developed by the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries that synchronizes transcripts and/or indexes with the interviews themselves and facilitates greater access to oral history content by users.

In September 2015, the UWM Archives received the collection of oral history interviews. We inventoried the collection, creating working copies of all interviews and then archiving the original digital files. Over a period of 8 months, Treshani Perera, the SAA Oral History project intern, built records for 19 interviews in the digital collection (<http://collections.lib.uwm.edu/cdm/search/collection/saa>). Each interview record included an index and/or full transcription. The remaining interview with William Maher was excluded from the collection due to permissions issues that could not be resolved within the scope of the project.

Perera unveiled her work on the collection at the Oral History Section's business meeting during the 2016 Joint Annual Meeting in Atlanta. She also worked with SAA staff and Oral History section leadership to develop a series of video clips, social media snippets, and a poster to promote the collection at the conference. She subsequently submitted an article on the project to *Archival Outlook*. The UWM Archives has promoted the collection through our own social media channels as well.

UWM archives staff processed the physical and digital media from the project and updated the SAA archives finding aid and catalog record.

My sincere thanks to SAA for funding this project and creating a valuable internship opportunity for Treshani. For additional information, please feel free to contact me at 414.229.6980 or anye@uwm.edu.