

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
November 1, 3, 2022  
Virtual Meeting**

**Annual Report: Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment  
(Prepared by Erin Passehl Stoddart and Jennifer Gunter King, Co-Chairs)**

The [SAA Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment](#) (CORDA) has established a coherent set of resources and infrastructure that supports and strengthens research and innovation in the archives profession. Chartered and formed in 2019, CORDA “provides access to significant and useful data and research about SAA, American archives, and their users that evidence the value of archives for society and help us improve our services to SAA members and to our consumers. The Committee will work to conduct or support relevant research and to create, gather, and preserve data by directing and engaging in several areas of activity:

- Providing SAA members with standardized tools for gathering and analyzing data;
- Providing a repository or portal for data and other research outputs;
- Providing training on gathering, analyzing, interpreting, and using data; and
- Providing up-to-date and reliable basic facts and figures about archives and archivists.”<sup>1</sup>

**2021-2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**SAA Dataverse**

The CORDA SAA Dataverse team, composed of Emily Lapworth (lead), Maggie Hughes, Jane Fiegel, and Erin Passehl Stoddart, focused on outreach to raise awareness of the SAA Dataverse and to encourage deposits of data. Outreach activities included:

- Published an article in *Archival Outlook*: [“Share, Preserve, and Reuse: The SAA Dataverse Invites Data about Archives”](#)
- Jane Fiegel led a virtual presentation at the [Louisiana ACRL Summer Research Forum](#) on July 26, 2022.
- Erin Passehl Stoddart presented a [poster](#) at the Michigan Archival Association Annual Meeting on June 16-17, 2022.
- Celebrated “Love Data Week” on SAA social media February 14-18, 2022 featuring content from the SAA Dataverse.
- 65 emails sent to individual researchers, regional archival organizations, and all SAA section leaders to promote SAA Dataverse and encourage submissions

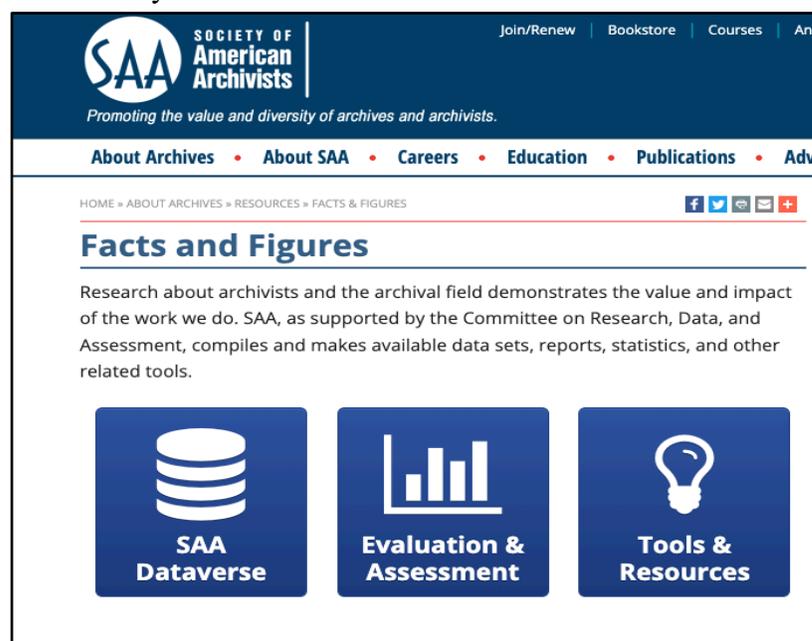
Other accomplishments include:

- Worked with a representative from the SAA Collection Management Section to deposit and publish a dataset in the SAA Dataverse in September 2021: “Collection Management Tools Documentation Portal Survey, 2016” <https://doi.org/10.15139/S3/8PWSBJ>.
- Worked with a representative from the SAA Archivists of Religious Collections Section (ARCS) to deposit and publish a dataset in the SAA Dataverse in August 2022: "Archivists of Religious Collections Section (July 2021 Survey)", <https://doi.org/10.15139/S3/PSRINW>.
- Collaborated with the CORDA Facts and Figures team to provide information about the SAA Dataverse on the Facts and Figure page: <https://www2.archivists.org/saa-dataverse>.
- Consulted with the CORDA Education team on the creation of [SAA Dataverse video tutorials](#).
- Improved SAA Dataverse policies and procedures documentation based on feedback from the CORDA Education team and data depositors: <https://doi.org/10.15139/S3/X4ZO8P>.

## Facts and Figures

The Facts+Figures (F+F) team of Chris Marino and Dennis Meissner took this developing resource to the next level after spending the previous year designing and building the structure of the microsite. The work focused on populating the new structure with user content and then developing a public launch to make it generally available.

- **Content.** Existing SAA and external resources were investigated for relevant content and a total of 31 content links were added to six of the channels and subchannels into which F+F is organized. The linked content items include survey results, reports, checklists, best practice guidelines, fact sheets, assessment tools, and similar resources to inform archivists and help them perform their work better. The work of adding content to the site will continue indefinitely.



- **Public launch.** The F+F official site was launched in February 2022 with a multi-pronged promotion that included an [SAA press release](#) and an [ArchivesAWARE blog post](#). The team continues to solicit content suggestions through a [Google Form](#) available on the SAA website.



*SAA Press Release on New Facts + Figures website, February 2022.*

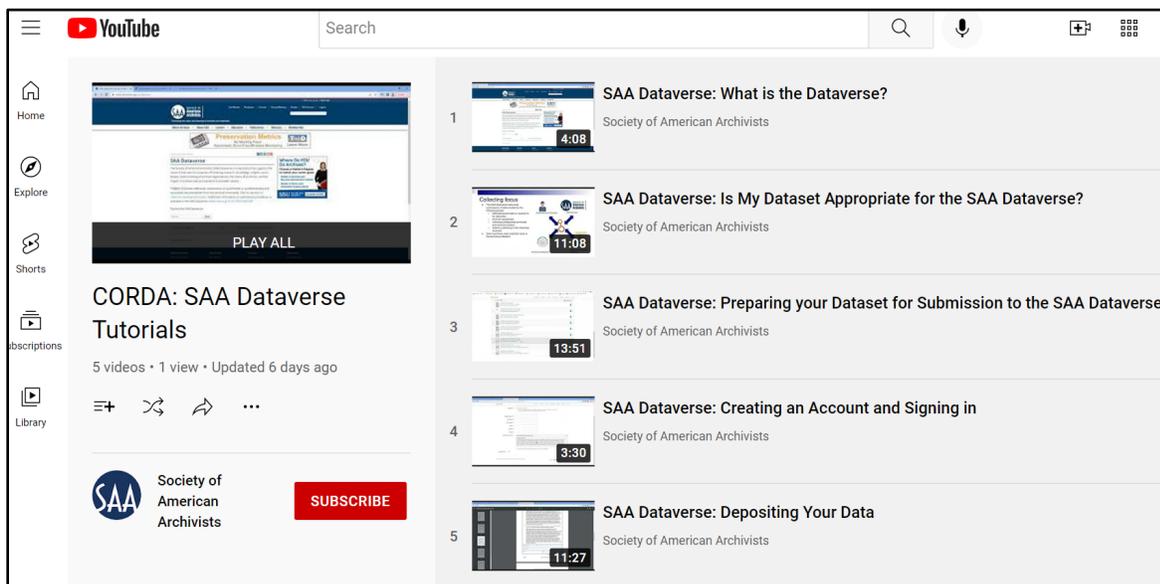


*ArchivesAWARE blogpost on new Facts + Figures website, May 2022.*

## Education

The CORDA Education and Outreach team, composed of Sarah Pratt Martin (lead), Gwen Higgins, and SAA Education Committee liaison Jen Wachtel, oversaw outreach and education programs that included:

- Mapped out asynchronous education courses related to research, data, and assessment (Fall 2021)
  - After considering current SAA course offerings and asynchronous course opportunities, learning objectives and course descriptions were created for the following topics: Research Instruments & Design; Survey Deployment; and Data Analysis.
- Developed outreach schedule for CORDA (Fall/Winter 2021-22)
  - The team collaborated with other CORDA teams to develop an outreach schedule throughout the year to publicize the Committee's efforts, including updates to the Dataverse and the launch of the newly reimagined Facts + Figures page.
- Developed and recorded four new [Dataverse Tutorials](#) (Spring 2022)
  - The team collaborated with the Repository subteam to develop tutorials to accompany the SAA Dataverse to encourage proper use. These videos can be found on the SAA's YouTube channel, and at present the topics include: "What is the Dataverse?"; "Is my Dataset appropriate for the SAA Dataverse?"; "Prepping your dataset for submission to the SAA Dataverse"; "Creating an Account and Signing in"; and "Depositing your Data."



- Recorded module for SAA Leadership Orientation (Summer 2022)
  - Sarah Pratt Martin worked with fellow CORDA members to develop a 10-minute recorded module for the SAA Leadership Orientation for September 2022 (and beyond) to familiarize SAA Leaders with CORDA's mission and work.

CORDA's success requires SAA leader commitment to both utilizing SAA resources for research and innovation, and to recognize the importance of their section and committees' deposit of sponsored data in the SAA Dataverse.

- Presentation at SAA Annual Meeting (Summer 2022)
  - Sarah Pratt Martin presented on behalf of CORDA at SAA's Annual Meeting in Boston, MA as part of the session "Learning to Count and Code: Quantitative and qualitative research needs for archival practitioners," in which she discussed educational offerings through CORDA.

### **Research and Innovation Roadmap**

The SAA Research and Innovation Roadmap team was composed of Jennifer King (lead), Sarah Buchanan, Nance McGovern, and Erin Passehl Stoddart. The roadmap is an active and evolving document, developed by the SAA Committee on Research, Data and Assessment, and asserts the critical research needs and gaps that have been identified by members across the profession. The roadmap reflects an analysis of current and emerging research, assessment, and data needs, to frame and inform work the profession might undertake in the years to come. Archivists throughout North America are actively engaged in research, assessment, and evaluation related to the archival profession. A multitude of independent and SAA section-based research activities are conducted every season and those research results and data subsequently appear in just as many venues and outlets. The goal of the roadmap is to be inclusive of these efforts, and to frame the bigger picture themes that research within the profession seeks to address.

- [SAA Research and Innovation Roadmap beta version 1](#) has been posted on the [CORDA microsite](#).
- Building on the roadmap work from 2021-2022, the team wrote scope notes for themes, revised intro text, and further organized and clarified the topics and examples, before presenting to CORDA for review and discussion. Review and discussion with CORDA was designed to "prototype" the discussion we will undertake across the profession.
- CORDA reviewed the roadmap, answering the following questions:
  - What is missing? In your SAA or archival experience, what recurring topics would benefit from research attention? What would be your top 3 additions?
  - What is here that shouldn't be?
  - Is there anything that would make this document more useful to you?
  - Any feedback on the process of development?
- Based on CORDA feedback, the roadmap was updated to clarify topics, incorporate and integrate research and innovation related items from the SAA 2020-2022 strategic plan and 2020-2021 DEIA plan. The roadmap was improved by Gwen Higgins who created a table to present the themes, topics, and relation to SAA and roadmap themes.

- High-level roadmap goals were shared with the *American Archivist* editor Amy Cooper Cary and SAA staff Teresa Brinati who provided an update on the roadmap to the *American Archivist* Editorial Board.
- CORDA attempted twice to “rank” initiatives in the roadmap to help viewers be able to skim and grasp the profession’s research priorities. The first effort was a google form, and the second effort was in Qualtrics with support and help from the Emory University Libraries Assessment Librarian Michael Luther. Both efforts failed to produce meaningful results, but did lead to further work on clarifying the topics and organizing the themes and topics. The effort to prioritize has been dropped in favor of advancing a roadmap that is inclusive of interests and needs.
- CORDA hosted a Conversation Lounge at the 2022 SAA Annual Meeting and presented the roadmap for the first time to the membership who attended. Attendance was strong given that the program was held on a Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. 80 were registered, and approximately 40 were in active attendance.
- The Conversation Lounge audience actively gave feedback on the roadmap, with excellent additions and observations that will be incorporated in the document. No significant feedback on the process underway.



*Twitter discussion, Research and Innovation Roadmap Conversation Lounge.*

- Created a [google form](#) for feedback on the roadmap that can be used for the open call for feedback.

### **Organizational Structure and SAA Research Forum**

CORDA collaborated with SAA Council Liaison Jasmine Jones and SAA staff Felicia Owens on a large initiative to bring the SAA Research Forum officially under CORDA’s charge. SAA Council approved the addition of the SAA Research Forum and acknowledgement of work on A\*CENSUS II to its charge at the May 2022 Council meeting. In June, CORDA held a special meeting to address the organizational structure change with the addition of the SAA Research

Forum with special guest Felicia Owens. CORDA submitted a request to amend the CORDA charge to increase its membership by 2 appointments, which was approved by the SAA Council at the August 2022 meeting. Following the 2022 Research Forum, CORDA is responsible for managing the forum going forward. SAA Research Forum leadership transitions include leaders rotating off (Heather Soyka, Nance McGovern, Kate Neptune, Kari Smith). Remaining Research Forum member Rebecca Thayer and ex officio Nance McGovern will support outgoing CORDA co-chair Jennifer King who will head up the forum for 2023.

### **CORDA and the 2022 SAA Annual Meeting**

CORDA continued to play an inclusive role at the 2022 SAA Annual Meeting. CORDA participated in and contributed to several sessions.

1. CORDA Business Meeting (virtual) held on Thursday, July 28.

Topic: Review of the past year and looking ahead, open to SAA members. Ex officio member Nance McGovern gave a presentation on the history of the SAA Research Forum in recognition of it moving under the CORDA umbrella.

2. SAA Research Forum held Wednesday, August 3 and Wednesday, August 10.

Topic: CORDA ex officio member Nance McGovern presided over the Research Forum in her last year as co-chair. CORDA co-chair Jennifer Gunter King served as a co-moderator with Kari Smith.

3. Educational Session 503: “Learning to Count and Code: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Needs for Archival Practitioners” held on Friday, August 26.

Topic: Sarah Pratt Martin presented on “Educational Offerings for SAA Members via CORDA” as part of a panel discussion.

4. Conversation Lounge - Research and Innovation Roadmap held on Friday, August 26.

Topic: Jennifer Gunter King and Erin Passehl Stoddart presented on the Beta release of the Research and Innovation Roadmap, with an audience discussion around four questions about content found in the draft.

5. SAA Business Membership Meeting held on Saturday, August 27.

Topic: CORDA was the recipient of a SAA Council Resolution in recognition of its service to the profession. (see below)

6. A\*CENSUS II Forum held on Saturday, August 27.

Topic: Members of A\*CENSUS II Working Group and Ithaca S&R presented a high-level report on individual survey results and dissemination plan. CORDA co-chair Erin Passehl Stoddart presented as part of the panel.

7. SAA Leadership Forum Online Module

This online module was recorded by Sarah Pratt Martin to help highlight aspects of CORDA's charge and leadership resources for incoming leaders.

**CORDA Received SAA Council Resolution**

The SAA Council presented the Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment with a 2022 Council Resolution, to honor CORDA's significant contributions to the archival profession. Co-Chairs Erin Passehl-Stoddart, Jennifer King, and incoming co-chair Sarah Pratt Martin were present at the SAA member business meeting to be acknowledged on behalf of the committee.

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Resolution  
Honoring  
The Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment**

WHEREAS the Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment was established in 2019 and principally charged to “provide access to significant and useful data and research about SAA, American archives, and their users that evidence the value of archives for society and help us improve our services to SAA members and to our consumers;” and

WHEREAS the Committee has published the Facts + Figure microsite which provides a conduit to data, resources, and tools to support archival advocacy efforts, assessment of archival impact, and research and innovation in the Society and archival profession; and

WHEREAS, in February 2021, the Committee developed and launched the SAA Dataverse Repository for data created by the SAA community and allied organizations and individuals, in support of the “reuse of datasets for purposes of fostering knowledge, insights, and a deeper understanding of archival organizations, the status of archivists, and the impact of archives and archival work on the broader society;” and

WHEREAS the Committee has developed educational and outreach offerings and established collaborative relationships and initiatives to build and ensure sustainability of data, research, and assessment in the Society and archival profession; and

WHEREAS the Committee, in support of Goal 3: Advancing the Field in the SAA Strategic Plan, has embarked upon producing a Research and Innovation Roadmap that will frame and inform future archival research, work, and scholarship;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment be honored with a 2022 SAA Council Resolution for their work to advance research, innovation, data, and assessment in the Society.

## **Who is CORDA?**

The Committee is composed of exceptionally committed and hard-working members who all bring complementary expertise and a collaborative work style. All of the above work is possible thanks to this hard-working group of SAA volunteers.

### **2021-2022 Committee**

Co-chair: Jennifer Gunter King (Emory University)

Co-chair: Erin Passehl Stoddart (Michigan State University) & A\*CENSUS II liaison

Sarah Buchanan (University of Missouri Columbia)

Jane Fiegel (Xavier University of Louisiana) - early-career member

Gwendolyn Higgins (University of Alaska Anchorage)

Maggie Hughes (The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens)

Emily Lapworth (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Chris Marino (Stanford University)

Dennis Meissner (retired) - reappointed

Sarah Pratt (Simmons SLIS) - reappointed

SAA Council Liaison: Jasmine Jones (University of California, Los Angeles)

SAA Staff Liaison: Jackie Price Osafo (Executive Director, SAA)

SAA Education Committee Liaison: Jen Wachtel (University of Maryland)

Ex Officio: Nance McGovern (SAA Research Forum)

### **Looking Ahead to 2022-2023: New Committee Roster**

Co-chair: Erin Passehl Stoddart (Michigan State University) - through 2023

Co-chair: Sarah Pratt Martin (Simmons SLIS) - appointed co-chair through 2024

Sarah Buchanan (University of Missouri Columbia) - through 2024

Jane Fiegel (Xavier University of Louisiana) - new appointed member through 2025

Gwendolyn Higgins (University of Alaska Anchorage) through 2023

Maggie Hughes (The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens) - through 2024

Emily Lapworth (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) - through 2023

Chris Marino (Stanford University) - reappointed through 2025

Dennis Meissner (retired) - through 2024

Lulu Zilinskas (National Cowboy Museum) - CORDA early-career member through 2023

Jordan Meyerl (Historic New England, Harvard Business School) - Research Forum early-career member through 2023

SAA Council Liaison: Jasmine Jones

SAA Staff Liaison: Jackie Price Osafo (Executive Director)

SAA Education Liaison (Vice Chair/Chair-elect): Courtney Bailey - through 2023  
Ex Officio: Jennifer Gunter King - through 2023

### **Goals for 2022-2023**

1. Incorporation of the SAA Research Forum into CORDA's charge; maintain its important role in SAA and the profession, look for new opportunities
2. Collaborate with A\*CENSUS II groups to ingest data from the All-Archivists and All-Administrators surveys; explore educational opportunities around interpreting and analyzing census data
3. Facts & Figures: regular addition of content; promotion and solicitation
4. SAA Dataverse: Populate, promote and encourage engagement and submissions
5. Education: year-round research support through new workshops, reading list, and development of self-paced online courses
6. Research and Innovation Roadmap: solicit feedback from SAA section and committee leadership, *American Archivist* editor and Editorial Board to encourage work that advances the profession in acknowledged priorities and needs. Present roadmap to SAA Council in spring 2023 for review, input and next steps; consider 2023 Annual Meeting opportunities for dissemination.