

**Society of American
Archivists Council Meeting
October 31 – Nov 1, 2023
Hybrid Meeting (Chicago, IL)**

Annual Report: Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment

Prepared by Sarah Pratt Martin and Chris Marino, CORDA co-chairs

OVERVIEW

The Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA) is currently organized into three sub teams to carry out the committee’s activities, initiatives, and contributions to the SAA strategic plan. These sub teams include Repository, Research, and Resources. The following sections outline the committee’s overall work as it relates to each sub team, as well as work carried out by the co-chairs. [Committee Charge](#)

ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

Completed

Co-chairs:

- **Workshop:** The co-chairs of CORDA planned and offered a two-part workshop titled “Basics of Quantitative Data Analysis Using A*CENSUS II.” The facilitator was [Sarah Pugachev](#). Part I was held on July 11, 2023, and was fully virtual (Zoom). This session was recorded and can be found on SAA’s PathLMS Online Learning Portal. Part II of the workshop was a hybrid session held on July 29, 2023, in Washington, D.C. at the Annual Meeting and streamed live on Zoom. More than 60 individuals registered for the two-part workshop. After the workshop, a survey was sent out to registered participants; overall, the feedback was very positive in regard to content, pace, and instructor. 100% of respondents said they would attend another session with this instructor and were happy to have the workshop recorded for future reference.

Repository:

- **Outreach & Promotion:** The repository team continued promoting the SAA Dataverse across various channels. This included presentations to the Research Data Access and Preservation Summit, the Society of California Archivists, and the Society of Southwest

Archivists. The team also contacted authors of recent professional journal articles seeking any relevant datasets.

- **New Datasets:** Four new datasets were published in the SAA Dataverse this year. Two were SAA section surveys and two were A*CENSUS II surveys.
- **Technical Updates:** UNC's Odum Institute, which hosts the SAA Dataverse, made some technical changes that affected our Dataverse instance related to login requirements (Shibboleth logon requirement). The repository team implemented a new workflow and updated policies and procedures accordingly.

Research:

- **Research and Innovation Roadmap:** In July 2023, SAA Council approved v1.4 of the Roadmap, incorporating revisions based on SAA member and Council feedback including updating themes and more clearly incorporating SAA's strategic and DEIA plans. This Roadmap is the culmination of years of work, including work that the CORDE-TF completed prior to CORDA's establishment in 2019.
- **Research Forum:** The 2023 Research Forum was held on Zoom on July 12 and 19, 2023 from 1:00-4:30 pm CT. We received 38 platform submissions and 18 poster submissions, an increase from years prior. The two-day forum was managed and facilitated by the five members of the research team. Survey feedback from presenters and attendees of the Forum was overwhelmingly positive.

Resources:

- **Education:** The resources team developed and held a panel titled "Navigating the IRB Process" on Zoom which was held on April 17, 2023. The panel included four panelists (*Susan Askren*, Research Compliance Office, Smithsonian Institution; *Adam Bailey*, Senior IRB Manager, Social & Behavioral (Non-Medical) IRB, Stanford University Research Compliance Office; *Amanda Hawk*, Public Services Manager for Distinctive Collections, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Margaret Hoogland*, Clinical Medical Librarian, University of Toledo) and had over 100 people register. 30 individuals attended live; all registrants received a link to a recording of the panel.
- **Facts + Figures:** The resources team added new resources to the Facts + Figures site, including A*CENSUS II reports and annotated readings lists on the state of research in the profession.

Ongoing

General:

- CORDA and its leadership are committed to enhancing SAA members' professional growth in the areas of research, data, and assessment.

Repository:

- **Outreach & Promotion:** The repository team will continue to maintain, promote, and grow the SAA Dataverse by ensuring that policies and procedures accurately document the technical requirements of the Dataverse, through presentations and targeted outreach within and outside of the Society, and by ingesting all appropriate datasets when received.

Research:

- **Research and Innovation Roadmap:** With Council's adoption of the roadmap, the research team is dedicated to the advocacy for and maintenance of the Research and Innovation Roadmap.
- **Research Forum:** With consideration to the survey data gathered this year, the research team will implement improvements and maintain practices to ensure another successful Research Forum in 2024 and beyond.

Resources:

- **Education:** The resources team continues to develop free or low-cost educational programming, including webinars and workshops, as well as educational resources, for SAA members on topics related to research, data, and assessment. Survey data collected this year has provided insight into future topics and tools that are of interest to members, such as OpenRefine and qualitative data analysis.
- **Facts + Figures:** The resources team continues to monitor submissions for the Facts + Figures page and update as necessary. Improving the usability of F+F was explored with SAA's Director of Operations but was paused until SAA's website is updated (project currently in process).

Future (2023-2024)

General:

- Explore developing a community of practice for SAA members to engage in conversation around research, data, and assessment; connect and collaborate on research projects; and share knowledge and best practices.

Dataverse:

- Continue to conduct outreach within and outside of SAA to encourage the deposit of new datasets.
- Continue collaboration with *The American Archivist* editor and team to support submission of datasets related to published articles.

Research:

- Maintain and advocate for the Research and Innovation Roadmap to SAA leadership and members as a living document.
- Continue managing the Research Forum, including call for and review of submissions, scheduling, managing the microsite, and facilitation of the online forum, and consider improvements based on gathered feedback.

Resources:

- Increase functionality of the Facts + Figures. Once SAA upgrades the web platform, Drupal, we plan to increase the functionality of F+F and execute further outreach for new resources.
- Continue to expand our educational programming, supporting the research, data, and assessment needs of SAA membership, seeking joint educational opportunities with the Education Committee, Research Forum, and other component groups (e.g., the newly formed UX Section).

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

CORDA addressed Goal 1.2 and 1.4 by building out the “Facts + Figures” (F+F) page with more resources in support of advocating for the value of archival work, the social and cultural values of archival organizations, and the contributions of the Society. The Committee continues to actively solicit new resources through its feedback form. The 22-23 sub team met with Cherie Newell, SAA’s Director of Operations, in January 2023 to discuss options for improvements of the F+F site’s functionality. It was determined that work to improve the site will be tabled until after SAA updates their website Drupal instance.

Goal 2: *Enhancing Professional Growth*

CORDA directly addressed Goal 2.1 by offering educational programming that mentors and supports the career development of members to assist them in achieving their goals. CORDA offered a free webinar on “Navigating the IRB Process,” a low-cost two-part workshop on quantitative data analysis using A*CENSUS II, and managed and facilitated the 2023 Research Forum, giving attendees a platform to share their research with their community.

Goal 3: *Advancing the Field*

CORDA directly addressed Goal 3.2. CORDA’s charge is central to the success of SAA’s goal to foster and disseminate research in and about the field. Nearly all CORDA’s work this year in some way advances this goal. With CORDA’s Dataverse expertise, the Committee facilitated the publishing of the full A*CENSUS II data for reuse by the larger profession. Several CORDA

members presented about the availability of data via SAA Dataverse encouraging member engagement at four different regional conferences. Conferences included Society of California Archivists, Research Data Access and Preservation (RDAP), Society of Southwest Archivists, and ACRL-LA.

To further promote the use of this important study, CORDA organized a two-part workshop titled “The Basics of Qualitative Analysis Using A*CENSUS II” facilitated by Sarah Pugachev, the Somerville Director of the Science & Engineering Libraries and Research Initiatives at the University of Rochester. This education opportunity using A*CENSUS II data was offered at the affordable price of \$10/registrant. Part I (virtual) took participants through the full process from understanding and organizing data to showcasing their analysis to highlight key insights. Part II (hybrid) focused on using data analysis to create visually appealing dashboards to showcase significant data insights. More than 60 individuals registered and participated. CORDA recorded both sessions and SAA will make them, as well as the supplemental material prepared by the instructor, available on PathLMS.

CORDA BUSINESS 2023 MEETING

Number of Attendees: 20 attendees total, 8 non-CORDA.

Summary of Meeting Activities: The annual business meeting took place via Zoom on June 20, 2023, 2-3:30pm ET (90 mins) and was recorded. The business meeting served three purposes: review the accomplishments of the Committee in the past year, highlight the Research and Innovation Roadmap, and preview the Committee’s goals for the year ahead. After the welcome and brief overview of CORDA’s charge by the co-chairs, the meeting devoted time to each of the three sub teams: Repository, Resources, and Research. The leaders of each sub team summarized accomplishments and identified ongoing work.

One of the Research team leads then led a dedicated discussion of the Research and Innovation Roadmap, including its origin and the plans for the future.

Before soliciting questions from the audience and/or contributions to a Google Jamboard, co-chairs addressed the Committee’s plan for the year to come focusing on establishing a community of practice surrounding research and outreach for the resources that CORDA has worked so hard to implement: Dataverse, Facts + Figures, as well as educational offerings like the Basics of Qualitative Analysis two-part workshop.

Link to meeting minutes on microsite: <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/committee-on-research-data-and-assessment>

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

In the coming year, it is very important for CORDA, SAA Council, and SAA leaders to collectively decide on how to steward and maintain the SAA Research and Innovation Roadmap. While it was developed by CORDA members, with immense help and contributions from SAA membership, we believe that it is important to share ownership of this tool so that it remains representative of our professional research needs. We pose to Council: *what is the best way to advocate for the Roadmap and enlist the support of SAA leaders in its maintenance?*

Now, with one year under our belts managing the Research Forum, we have questions related to the Forum and its leadership. Since its inception, Nance McGovern was at the helm; her in-depth knowledge and dedication were a significant part of the Forum's success over the years. Because of the length of CORDA appointments (three years, with the possibility of reappointment), we have become acutely aware that this could negatively impact the Research Forum in regard to long term planning and consistent leadership. We pose to Council: *are there opportunities to invite non-CORDA members to volunteer to the Research Forum for longer, staggered terms (or an alternative solution), in order to be proper stewards of the Forum?*