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NARA Headquarters, photo from: <https://www.archives.gov/dc>

Notes from the Chair

Greetings from your RAO Chair! Since our last newsletter, RAO hosted our annual meeting in Washington, DC. We had a fantastic panel, “Ready for Your Closeup? How Archivists Can Handle—and Benefit from—Sudden Celebrity,” featuring archivists and media members discussing how to stay on message, ace interviews, and make sure the media gets it right. Many thanks to all of the presenters and panelists for a lively and timely discussion, and a shout out to 2017-2018 chair Alison Stankrauff for planning the meeting and moderating the business portion of the agenda.



Rebecca May

RAO Chair, 2018-2019

During that meeting, we also heard from RAO’s standing committees including Events and Exhibits (E2), Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS), and the Public Services Assessment Committee (PSAC). Since that meeting, all of these committees have continued their dedicated and important work to represent these interest areas for RAO’s membership. At the upcoming meeting in

Austin, TX, TPS will be hosting the annual “Teaching with Primary Sources Unconference and Workshops” on August 2, 2019, at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. E2 will also be holding its meeting on August 2 from 2-5pm at the Harry Ransom Center, which will include a behind-the-scenes tour and discussion with Ransom staff as well as E2 meeting time. PSAC will be presenting as a “vendor” at RAO’s 7th Annual Marketplace of Ideas that will take place during the

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Notes from the Chair (continued)

RAO Business Meeting on Saturday, August 3, from 11:30-12:45. We hope you can make it to hear from any or all of the RAO subcommittees and the wonderful work that they have been doing this past year.

Speaking of RAO's 7th Annual Marketplace of Ideas, now is your chance to submit your ideas to be a "vendor." See page 7 of this newsletter for more details.

Rebecca May

Know Your RAO!

Meet your 2018-2019 Reference, Access, and Outreach Steering Committee members! On July 30, 2018, we announced the results of our RAO elections. They were:

Julie Porterfield as the 2018-2019 RAO Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Julie is Instruction and Outreach Archivist at Eberly Family Special Collections Library, Penn State University Libraries. She has previously served the RAO Section as Web Liaison and Steering Committee member.

Amanda Hawk, Anna Kresmer, and Erin Ryan as 2018-2019 RAO Steering Committee members

Amanda serves as Head of Public & Research Services at Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University.

Anna is Archivist/Librarian for the National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland. Anna will also take on the role of Communications Liaison starting in May 2019.

Erin, a Processing Archivist, works at Hoole Special Collections Library, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

The members above are joined on the RAO Steering Committee by:

Rebecca May, RAO Section Chair

Rebecca is Public Services Archivist at Z. Smith Reynolds Library, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was the 2017-2018 RAO Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and has served as a past Steering Committee member.

Alison Stankrauff, Immediate Past RAO Section Chair

Alison, University Archivist at Wayne State University's Walter Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs in Detroit, served as the 2016-2017 Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, 2017-2018 RAO Chair, and as a past Steering Committee member.

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Know Your RAO! (continued)

Rebecca Bizonet, Communications Liaison (through January 2019)

Rebecca, archivist for a Private Collection, has served as an intern and liaison for the RAO Section's "23 Things for Archivists" online program, which helps archivists to learn about social media tools.

Kris Bronstad, RAO Webmaster

Kris is Modern Political Archivist at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. This is her second year as RAO Webmaster.

Samantha Crisp, RAO Steering Committee member

Samantha is Director of the Outer Banks History Center in Manteo, North Carolina.

Brenda Gunn, Council Liaison

Brenda is Associate University Librarian for Archives and Special Collections and Preservation at University of Virginia Library in Charlottesville, Virginia.

RAO Section Sub-committees

Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Group

Heather Oswald, co-chair
JoyEllen Freeman, co-chair

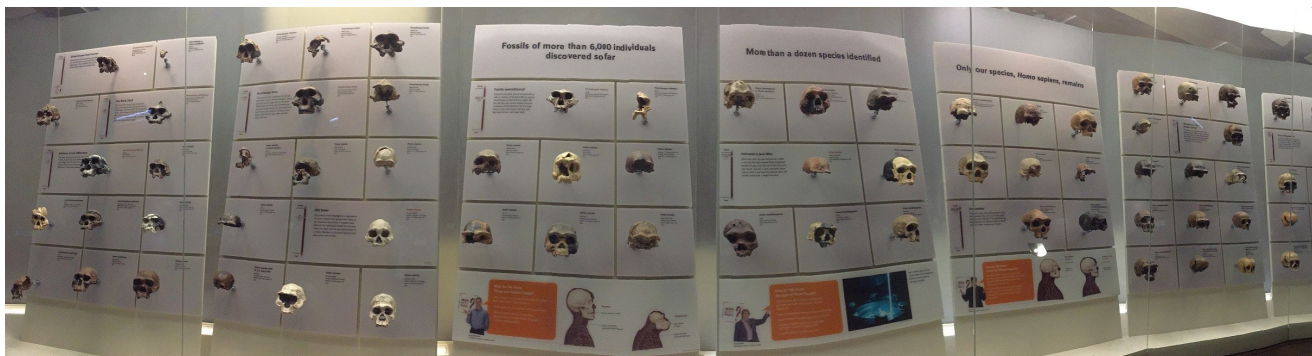
Exhibits and Events Committee (E2)

Amy Schindler, co-chair
Jill Severn, co-chair
Jessica Lacher Feldman, co-chair

Public Services Assessment Committee (PSAC)

Jaime Marie Burton, co-chair
Amanda Pellerin, co-chair

Stay tuned for more about the RAO Steering Committee in our next newsletter—coming Summer 2019! We'll introduce ourselves in a "Steering Committee Shares" section and talk about what we've been doing behind the scenes in RAO this year as we participate in committee projects, work to get ready for the annual SAA Conference in Austin, and many other activities. We will also include more details about each sub-committee, the co-chairs, and their work.



Smithsonian Museum exhibit on human fossils, photo by Jaime Marie Burton

Review of 2018 Annual Section Meeting and Joint Annual Meeting in D.C.

The annual section meeting kicked off on Thursday, August 16, 2018, with chair Alison Stankrauff welcoming all, then delivering an RAO leadership and election update. Next, the Communication Committee summarized their work, and Amanda Pellerin provided a review and summary of the PSAC committee's work. Amy Schindler and Jill Severn contributed a report and announcements for the E2 sub-committee, and Deb Schiff furnished an "Archivists to the Rescue" update, followed by a brief Q&A.

The centerpiece of the section meeting featured the panel presentation, "Ready for Your Closeup? How Archivists Can Handle—and Benefit from—Sudden Celebrity," which provided details from a wide array of experiences interacting with the media, and cautionary tales from archivists suddenly thrust into the national spotlight.

Presenters:

Lynn Smith, Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum

"Hoover Family Home Movies: When an Archivist Becomes a Reluctant Celebrity"

Geof Huth, New York State Unified Court System

"Let Me Tell You About Aaron Burr's Divorce: Turning Sudden Celebrity Into an Enduring Narrative"

Miriam Kleiman, National Archives and Records Administration

"Both Sides Now: Facing the Media as a Researcher and as a Spokesperson"

Michael Ruane, Washington Post

"Archivists and the Press: How to Make Your '15 Minutes of Fame' Work for You"

Julia Griffin, PBS NewsHour Shares

"Managing the TV Interview: Practical Advice for the Archivist in the Spotlight"

Moderator:

Daria Labinsky, Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum



SAA Annual Meeting welcome sign, photo by Jaime Marie Burton

The PSAC Open Forum was held on Wednesday, August 15, and provided the opportunity for archivists from a variety of institutions to discuss their needs, concerns, and pending implementations of the new [SAA-ACRL/RBMS Joint Task Force on the Development of Standardized Statistical Measures for Public Services in Archival Repositories and Special Collections Libraries](#). Forum attendees discussed technical infrastructure and data-gathering tools, interface functions, potential data access options, and costs—both at the institutional level and for a national repository.

Review (continued)

Many RAO members began their conference experience on Tuesday, August, 14, 2018, at the annual TPS Unconference, held in the Library of Congress Madison Building Montpelier Room. Attendees were treated to several great presentations by Rebecca Newland and Matthew Poth, [LC Teachers-in-Residence](#), and Sherry Levitt and Grace Leatherman, LC-TPS Program Coordinators, with [Danna Bell](#), LOC Educational Resource Specialist, as moderator.

Afternoon break-out sessions included leveraging local history, coping with archival silences, TPS beyond the Humanities, [and more](#). A special post-unconference [zine](#) summarizing lessons learned can be viewed on the [Teach with Stuff](#) main website.



View of Library of Congress Madison Building, photo by Erin Ryan

A bevy of nine education sessions had the critical areas of reference, access, and outreach sewn into their fabric. Attendees could participate in options that spoke to these broad areas each day of the conference. The breadth and depth of the sessions were incredible opportunities to learn more for all RAOers! Sessions also highlighted the connecting themes of transparency, diversity, historical silences, and collaboration.

For many, the most memorable, signature event of the conference was the amazing reception held at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on the Mall, on the evening of Thursday, August



16, 2018. Buses transported attendees to and from the hotel, and guests were met with a multi-floor spread of fine cheeses, unique donuts, acrobatically arranged snack towers, and creative beverages. All of the best galleries and exhibits were open for exploring—many archivists were happily lost for hours in the maze of geological wonders, fossils, and re-created depths of the North Atlantic ocean.

View of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History rotunda, photo from: <https://www.smithsonianchannel.com/videos/the-elephant-in-the-rotunda/12564>

Member News Teaser!

The Reference, Access, and Outreach Section of the Society of American Archivists has over 1,300 members from all over the United States, working in university archives, public libraries, museums, historical societies, records centers, private and community collections, as consultants—we are a group with lots of experience! Here are just three of the stories we found online about grants awarded for RAO initiatives at the institutions of our members:

Binghamton University Libraries, Binghamton, New York, received a grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation to digitize—and make available online—a collection of 132 promptbooks from their Max Reinhardt Collection in the [Max Reinhardt Archives & Library](#). “The Max Reinhardt Collection covers major aspects of the life and career of Austrian-born theatrical director and producer Max Reinhardt (1873-1943),” says [the announcement on their website](#). “Reinhardt was widely recognized as a major creative artist and played a leading role in the transformation of the director as the key figure in theatrical production and the innovative use of new theater technology and experimentation with theater spaces and locales.” The promptbooks are annotated by Reinhardt. Work on the project was to be done between May 2018 and April 2019.

The **Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives**, Butte, Montana, will use funding from a recently awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage Grant to “conduct outreach to the Hispanic, Jewish, Finnish and German communities in Butte to record and digitize stories and images of cultural artifacts, family documents, artwork, as well as heritage properties, institutions and traditions that have sustained them,” [according to a post from the Archives](#). Workshops with each community will result in an exhibit focused on the group and their role in Butte’s history, and the digital materials will later be housed and made available in the Archives. The project, done in partnership with the Montana Preservation Alliance, will take place from Spring 2019 through June 2020.

In August 2018, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded grant funding to the **University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; University of Maryland, College Park; Central Michigan University; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Ohio History Connection; and University of North Texas**, in conjunction with the National Digital Newspapers Program (NDNP), a project to digitize historically significant newspapers from around the United States. The NDNP is cosponsored by the NEH and the Library of Congress. These eight RAO member institutions were among those in eighteen states to receive NDNP awards in 2018; the University of Alabama was joining the program for the first time. Each organization is “charged with selecting and digitizing approx. 100,000 newspaper pages from their state for contribution to the online newspaper collection ‘Chronicling America,’ hosted by the Library of Congress. Since 2005, cultural institutions in 46 states and Puerto Rico have contributed more than 13 million digitized American historical newspaper pages, published between 1789 and 1963 and in 14 different languages, to the collection.” See more at <https://www.loc.gov/ndnp/news/>

We’d love to hear more about what you’re doing. Has your library received a grant for a major outreach project? Are you developing a class on archives for your undergraduates? Is your institution upgrading the tables in your reading room? Do you have any recent exhibits to share? Anything that has to do with reference, access, and outreach activities—let us know, and we’ll include it in our Summer 2019 newsletter! Watch for an upcoming call for Member News on the RAO Section listserv, or contact a Steering Committee member.

2019 Marketplace of Ideas

Call for Submissions

On Saturday, August 3, 11:30-12:45, RAO will host its 7th annual Marketplace of Ideas at the SAA Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. The Marketplace will kick off with each "vendor" giving a 2-minute infomercial to entice "shoppers." After that, we'll divide up and vendors will "sell" their ideas to shoppers in two 20-minute rounds.

The program committee seeks proposals for presentations and demonstrations to stimulate provocative conversation and deep thinking! We are especially interested in hearing from folks who'd like to present on the following topics or themes:



Photo from: <https://www.bmmagazine.co.uk/2017/08/>
ID: shutterstock_307471286-e1502701735485.jpg

- **Access to Born Digital Collections** -- This could be a policy discussion regarding privacy or confidentiality, as well as access policy and procedural issues, or the technology and manpower needed to make it happen.
- **Assessment** -- What stats do you keep? What's important? How do you track these stats? How do you use these at your institution?
- **Archival Outreach on a Shoestring** -- Do you use any project planning tools for outreach? What do you need to commit to outreach at a minimum level?
- **Community Archive Outreach** -- Have you designed a program to reach out to local community organizations and groups to make sure their voices are included in the archive? What is involved in a successful outreach initiative?
- **Pop-Up Exhibits** -- Have you found a way to do quick and easy exhibits that enable your archives to reach a variety of different constituencies with less staff time and involvement than traditional exhibits?
- **Designing Assignments** -- How to design/help design an archival research assignment or program that incorporates faculty and their students?
- **Lone Arrangers and Advocacy 101** -- How to educate your host institution or non-archivist colleagues about what an archives is, what you/the archives does, and why it's so darn important?

To submit an application, simply complete all of the questions in this form:

<https://forms.gle/xsLNPWapcPzK2Tg86>

We will be accepting applications until **Friday, May 31**. The RAO Program Committee will notify all applicants about the status of their proposal by **Friday, June 28**.

2019 Call for Nominations

Hello RAO Members!

Are you looking to shape the future direction and activities of the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section? Put yourself forward for an elected RAO position!

The RAO Nominations and Elections Committee is seeking nominations to fill vacancies on the RAO Steering Committee; we invite you to volunteer yourself or someone you know as a candidate! We value a variety of ideas and perspectives in RAO, and we encourage candidates from diverse backgrounds, institutions, professional settings, and experience. Students and new professionals should feel welcome to run for these leadership roles.

The Nominating Committee seeks nominations from all current RAO members for the following vacancies:

Elected Positions

- Two Steering Committee Members, for two-year terms.
- One Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, for a three-year term. (The successful candidate will serve one year as Vice-Chair, will automatically become the RAO Chair for the following year, and will serve one year as Immediate Past Chair.)

Appointed Positions

- PSAC co-chair

The only requirement for candidacy is that nominees must be members of the RAO Section.

To nominate yourself or someone else for a leadership role in RAO, please fill out this Nomination Form. Those who are nominating themselves will be asked to submit their candidate statements and biographical information.

Nominations should be received by **Friday, May 17, 2019**.

If you would like additional information about these leadership roles or the election process, please contact the 2019 RAO Nominating Committee. We will be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



View of Library of Congress Jefferson Building lamp, photo by Erin Ryan



<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/reference-access-and-outreach-section>

Steering Committee, 2018-2019

Rebecca May, Chair*

Julie Porterfield, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Alison Stankrauff, Immediate Past Chair*

Rebecca Bizonet, Communications Liaison (through January 2019)

Kris Bronstad, RAO Webmaster

Samantha Crisp, at-large

Amanda Hawk, at-large

Anna Kresmer, at-large, Communications Liaison (beginning May 2019)

Erin Ryan, at-large*

Brenda Gunn, Council Liaison

Heather Oswald, co-chair, Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Group

JoyEllen Freeman, co-chair, Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Group

Amy Schindler, co-chair, Exhibits and Events Committee (E2)

Jill Severn, co-chair, Exhibits and Events Committee (E2)

Jessica Lacher Feldman, co-chair, Exhibits and Events Committee (E2)

Jaime Marie Burton, co-chair, Public Services Assessment Committee (PSAC)*

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*2019 Spring Newsletter Contributors and Editors