

In This Issue

Section Meeting Agenda

Join us in Austin, TX, for the 2019 Marketplace of Ideas. **Page 7**

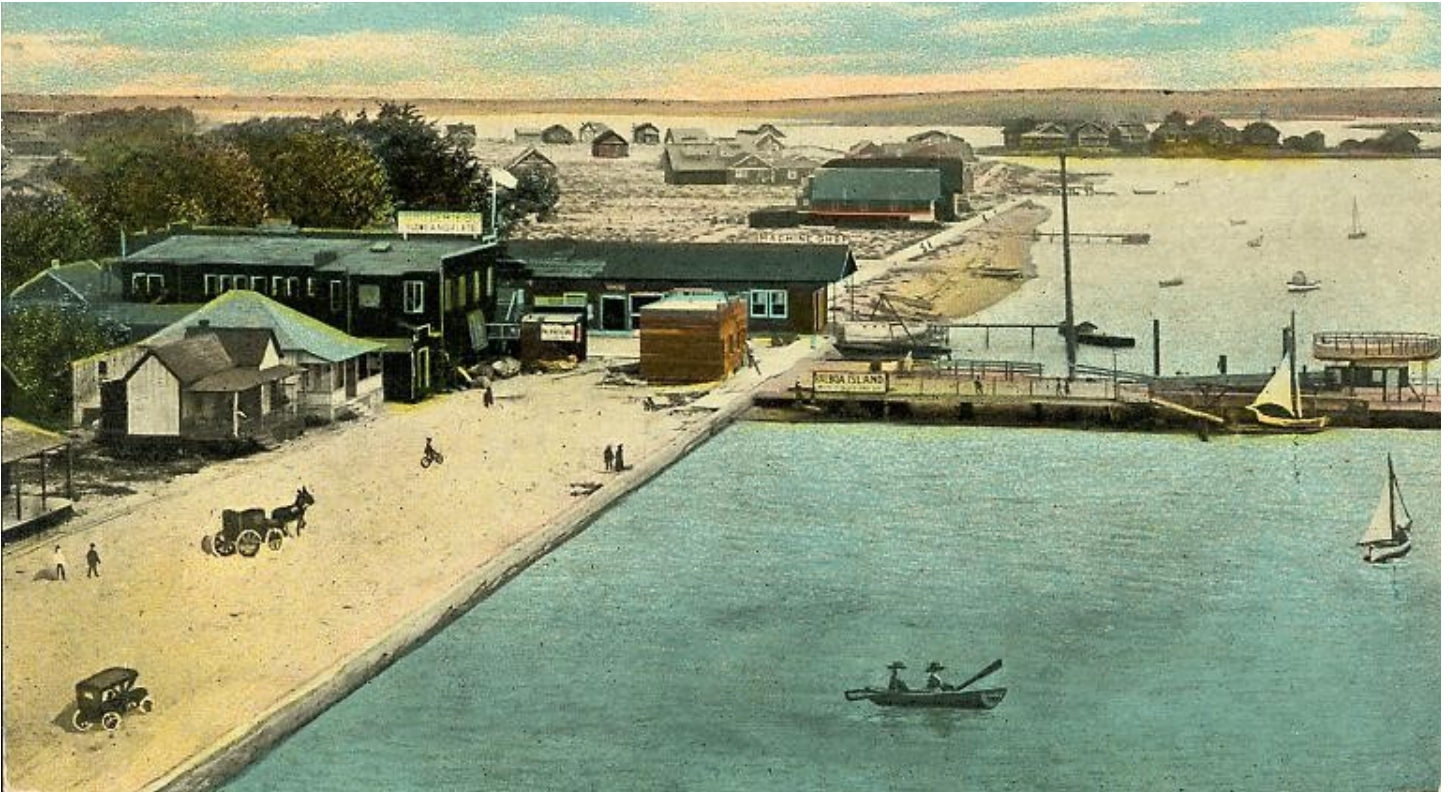
Steering Committee Shares

Meet the current RAO leadership and sub-committee members. **Page 4**

Notes from the Chair
Election Results
Member News

Page 1-2
Page 3
Page 9-10

Summer 2019



Postcard, 1907, Balboa, California. <http://www.newportbeachpostcards.com>

Notes from the Chair

Hello from RAO!

RAO has had a very productive and collaborative year, and we are excited to share it all with you! On Saturday, August 3, from 11:30-12:45, RAO will host its seventh [Annual Marketplace of Ideas](#) at the SAA Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. Check out a description of the Marketplace and the list of “vendors” on Page 7 to plan your experience.

At the meeting, you will also have an opportunity to hear about what the RAO sub-committees have been up to. That includes TPS (Teaching with Primary Sources), E2 (Exhibits and Events), and PSAC (Public Services Assessment Committee). RAO meeting attendees will also have an opportunity to hear from the SAA Task Force to Revise Best Practices

(continued on Page 2)



Rebecca Petersen May
RAO Chair, 2018-2019

Notes from the Chair (continued from Page 1)

on Accessibility about the document “Guidelines for Accessible Archives for People with Disabilities.” RAO is invested in this issue and hopes to work closely with this group and on the document moving forward. RAO is also looking into taking on some responsibility for [SAA's publication “Case Studies on Teaching With Primary Sources” \(TWPS\)](#). Series editor Bill Landis and Teaching with Primary Sources sub-committee chairs JoyEllen Williams and Heather Oswald have been in communication over the past year to work out these details. Stay tuned!

Speaking of Teaching with Primary Sources, do you plan on going to the [TPS Unconference & Workshops “Teach With Stuff”](#) on Friday, August 2, at the Harry Ransom Center? I always love going to this, and am really looking forward to a day of learning, discussion, and brainstorming.

You may have seen the [Spring 2019 RAO Newsletter](#), which introduced this year’s RAO Steering Committee members. I would like to thank everyone in RAO leadership for their hard work over this past year. I would specifically like to give a shout out to Jaime Marie Burton, Erin Ryan, and Kris Bronstad for their dedicated and professional work on these 2019 RAO newsletters. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

I have had a great year as Chair of RAO and look forward to working on the RAO nominations and elections next year. I encourage everyone who is interested in SAA leadership to consider getting involved with RAO. There will be many open positions for 2020, including Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and Steering Committee members, and lots of opportunities to contribute to sub-committee work. This is a great group with a lot going on — join us!

Rebecca Petersen May



Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. Wikimedia Commons, Daderot (CC0).

2019 Election Results

This July, the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section completed its elections for the 2019-2020 year.

The RAO Section members choose a new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect each year. This person will serve on the Steering Committee for three years: first as Vice-Chair, then as Chair, and then as Immediate Past Chair. The procedure helps to ensure continuity and gives new Chairs a chance to receive guidance from those who have just navigated the position.

Here are the results:

Our new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for 2019-2020 will be **Marissa Vassari**, Archivist and Educator in the Research and Education division of the Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC), New York.

We are also welcoming two new Steering Committee members, each of whom will serve a two-year term. They are:

JA Pryse, Senior Archivist, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, University of Oklahoma; **Ryan Lee**, Curator of Nineteenth-Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts, L. Tom Perry Special Collections, Brigham Young University, Utah.

Other changes to the RAO Steering Committee roster:

Julie Porterfield is now the 2019-2020 Chair of the RAO Steering Committee.

Rebecca May is now the 2019-2020 Immediate Past Chair.

Alison Stankrauff, Immediate Past Chair for 2018-2019, is rotating off the Steering Committee.

Samantha Crisp, at-large member, is rotating off the Steering Committee.

Anna Kresmer, current at-large Steering Committee member, has agreed to serve as RAO Communications Liaison for 2019-2020.

Erin Ryan is finishing her one-year term as Steering Committee at-large member, but will remain with RAO as part of the Publications Committee.

Thanks to all our candidates for stepping up, and to everyone in RAO for your hard work!

Check out our "Steering Committee Shares" feature on Page 4 for some insights from Alison, Julie, Rebecca, and others who help keep the RAO Section running.

[Morgans Swimming Pool, Abita Springs, Louisiana.](#) LSU Libraries Postcard Collections.



Know Your RAO!

Steering Committee Shares

We asked some of the members of our Reference, Access, and Outreach Steering Committee to tell us about their work. Here, they reflect on their favorite part of being an archivist, share some of the things they've been up to over the past year, and talk about what they hope to learn at the SAA meeting in Austin this summer. We look forward to profiling more of our Steering Committee members in future issues! (See Page 11 for the full roster, including all RAO sub-committee co-chairs.)

Each member has answered the following questions:

1. Tell us some of the things you've done this year as part of the RAO Steering Committee/your RAO sub-committee.
2. What are you most looking forward to at the SAA conference in Austin? Are you attending any archives-related conferences this year besides the SAA Annual Meeting? What are they/what were some highlights?
3. What is your proudest archival accomplishment?

Their answers:

Julie Porterfield, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect (soon to be Chair)

Instruction & Outreach Archivist, Penn State University Libraries

1. I am currently the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of RAO, and I will be beginning my term as Chair after the annual meeting. During the past year, I've spent most of my time learning from our current Chair and Immediate Past Chair, so that I can fulfill my duties well during the 2019-2020 year.
2. I'm really looking forward to our RAO Section meeting! As the incoming Chair, I'm hoping to spend some time getting to know the Section members, especially my fellow Steering Committee members.
3. My greatest archival accomplishments are anytime that I am able to reach students in a meaningful way with primary sources. Teaching and learning are my passion, and student success is at the heart of all of my achievements.

Rebecca Petersen May, Chair (soon to be Immediate Past Chair)

Public Service Archivist at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.

1. I am the current Chair of RAO, and worked with sub-committee chairs and Steering Committee members to continue coordinating RAO activities. Specifically, with the help of many people, I worked on publishing two RAO newsletters and also coordinating the RAO Marketplace of Ideas for the 2019 RAO Annual Meeting at SAA.
2. I always look forward to the many different areas of programming that RAO coordinates. The Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Unconference is always so inspiring, and so many people contribute to making that happen. I can't wait to hear what the E2 (Exhibits and Events) and the

(continued on Page 5)

Steering Committee Shares (continued from Page 4)

PSAC (Public Services Assessment Committee) have been up to as well — which we will hear about at the RAO Section Meeting on Saturday, August 3. After the business meeting will be the seventh Annual Marketplace of Ideas, which is going to be great — so many awesome vendors to listen to!

3. I love helping people find what they are looking for, so I am proud of my work every day. What can be a very small act on my part can make a huge difference to a researcher, which never fails to delight me. Public service can be challenging, but I am proud of knowing I am consistently and equitably helping people access and engage with records that I am responsible for.

Alison Stankrauff, Immediate Past Chair

University Archivist, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

1. As Immediate Past Chair of RAO, I was Chair of the Nominations Committee. This great team made the RAO election happen.
2. I'm not attending SAA this year unfortunately. But I did have the luck to attend the Midwest Archives Conference (which was in Detroit — and I was on the Local Arrangements Committee) and the Michigan Archival Association annual conference, which was up on beautiful Mackinac Island.
3. Working with collections that document local civil rights activists and activism. Making these important stories available has been so meaningful.

Sub-committee work: The RAO Nominations Committee is charged with putting together the slate for the annual election, making sure this is done on time and communicated out to both SAA and RAO memberships and SAA staff.

Anna Kresmer, at-large and Communications Liaison

Archivist, National Federation of the Blind Jernigan Institute, Baltimore, MD

1. I am an at-large steering committee member and the RAO Communications Liaison. So far this year, I have mainly assisted with the planning and execution of the section elections.
2. Not attending annual meeting in Austin.
3. I'm always thrilled to work with researchers, but one of my proudest archival achievements was assisting Allie Tubbs with research for her entry in the Junior Individual Performance category in the 2015 National History Day Competition. She went on to win second place in the competition. It was gratifying to see both her much-deserved success and a collection in my care used to such great effect.

Erin Ryan, at-large and Publications Committee copyeditor

Processing Archivist, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

1. I'm an at-large Steering Committee member. I've mostly been working this year on the RAO newsletter — writing content and proofreading the copy.
2. I won't be attending the SAA Annual Meeting in Austin this year, but I did get to present at a panel on archives at the "NASA in the South" conference in Huntsville, Alabama, in March 2019. I talked about one of our congressional collections, the John J. Sparkman Papers, which contains a lot of NASA-related materials. (Sparkman was in Congress from 1936-1979; I am working on processing these papers now.)
3. I'm always happy when I hear that a finding aid I wrote has made a collection easier to navigate and helped someone pinpoint a piece of their research. That's what I'm here for!

(continued on Page 6)

Steering Committee Shares (continued from Page 5)

Amanda Hawk, at-large

Head of Public and Research Services, Louisiana State University Special Collections

1. I am an at-large steering committee member and primarily have assisted with the recent RAO election, including creating a new nomination form.
2. I'm excited to attend the RAO Marketplace of Ideas, as well as several education sessions that are RAO-focused, including teaching with primary sources (Section 103), updating use policies (Section 205), and providing exceptional service to patrons (Section 904). I'm also a member of SAA's new Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment and look forward to participating in an open forum about the committee's role.
3. Anytime we can make our collections and services more accessible to patrons, that's a huge win for my department. We've recently lowered our duplication fees and are working to make the permissions process equally affordable (or free when possible). Reaching out to new users of archives and special collections and giving them a positive first experience is also a highlight for me.

Jaime Marie Burton, co-chair, Public Services Assessment Committee, and Publications Committee layout editor

Director of Research Services & Education, University of Kentucky Special Collections Research Center

1. I serve as a co-chair for the Public Services Assessment Committee, and through that role, also as a Steering Committee member. This year I have helped relaunch the RAO newsletter by trying a new layout, adding content, and helping with copyediting. Meanwhile, the PSAC has been working to coordinate with the new Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA), established by SAA in fall 2018; begin new collaborations with RBMS; and develop a plan for a Quick Guide to the *Standardized Statistical Measures and Metrics for Public Services*.
2. In Austin, I'm looking forward to the TPS Unconference, the RAO Section Marketplace, the CE course on advocacy, a few particular concurrent sessions, and BBQ brisket. I also attended RBMS in Baltimore this June, and really enjoyed being part of a seminar session on the Public Services metrics, and moderating a panel on archival activism in communities facing extreme flooding events.
3. I love when a student (or anyone for that matter) has the "ah-ha" moment and they make that leap through archival materials to really understanding how to do research, or they make a big discovery on the topic they have been researching in one of our collections. Whether this happens in class during an active learning session with primary source documents, or in the research room, I live for seeing and sharing those moments!

Sub-committee work: The RAO Public Services Assessment Committee was established in November 2017 to explore and promote how archives and special collections can better assess public services functions and develop the resources necessary for implementing an assessment program. The charge includes collaborating with other SAA committees and other archival professional organizations to advocate for assessment and the implementation of the *Standardized Statistical Measures and Metrics for Public Services*. I've also served as layout editor for the last two newsletters.

2019 Section Meeting Agenda and Marketplace of Ideas

On Saturday, August 3, 11:30-12:45, RAO will host its section meeting and seventh Annual Marketplace of Ideas at the SAA Annual Meeting in Austin, TX. Please join us for our business meeting followed by the Marketplace!

Saturday, August 3, from 11:30-12:45

Business meeting

Committee reports

- PSAC (Public Services Assessment Committee)
- TPS (Teaching with Primary Sources)
- E2 (Events and Exhibits)
- Accessibility
- Chair update
 - "Interested in contributing to RAO?"
- Marketplace "pitches" (two minutes per person)



Austin, TX Postcard Mural. Wikimedia Commons, Hannah Paymayesh (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Marketplace

The Marketplace will kick off with each "vendor" giving a two-minute infomercial to entice "shoppers." After that, we'll divide up, and vendors will "sell" their ideas to shoppers in two twenty-minute rounds.

Vendors include:

Lucy Barber, Deputy Executive Director, National Historical Publications and Records Commission. **"Let Us Help You"** NHPRC's records programming focus is on increasing access to, and engagement with, archival records. Lucy will discuss the available NHPRC programming and keys to successful applications.

Jen Hoyer, Educator, **Kaitlin Holt**, Program Manager, and **Julia Pelaez**, Educator, Brooklyn Connections, Brooklyn Public Library. **"Break Out! Gamify your Collections"** Our presentation will share our experience developing Retro Detectives, a fun and engaging program that replicates the thrilling anticipation and mystery of today's trendiest escape rooms minus the physicality and space commitment involved. With hands-on activities, we'll demonstrate how breakout box activities can integrate primary source material as a key to accessing archives material in exciting new ways, in both formal and informal outreach settings. We'll explain the process of designing Retro Detectives from genesis to implementation and evaluation alongside successes and challenges of the project in its first year, and we'll share how a similar activity can be replicated at your institution.

(continued on Page 8)

2019 Section Meeting Agenda and Marketplace of Ideas (continued from Page 7)

Lydia Tang, Special Collections Archivist, Michigan State University Special Collections. **"Accessibility and Disability in Archives"** Introducing the revised [Guidelines for Accessible Archives for People with Disabilities](#) and the proposed Accessibility & Disability Section of SAA. What are these Guidelines? How can they be applied at your repository for digital and physical access, exhibits, outreach, and more? Do you have questions on accessibility? Why is disability representation important? Join us to learn more!

Mary Johnson, Coordinator, TPS Teachers Network, and **Danna Bell**, Educational Outreach Specialist at the Library of Congress. **"Outreach Extended: Bringing K12 Teachers into the Conversation"** If you are an archivist seeking new users through your outreach efforts, we have the audience for you! K12 educators (9,000 and growing) in the TPS Teachers Network are eager to tap into your expertise and your resources, both locally and nationally. Invite them into archival conversations through the "Partnering with Museum Educators and Archivists" group. Let's network!

Arlene Schmuland, Head, Archives & Special Collections, UAA/APU Consortium Library, Alaska. **"Reference Training: Brainstorming Topics for Short Training Tutorials"** Continuing education for reference work is often hard to obtain and not well-attended when offered. One solution to the barriers of time, money, and management priorities could be a series of short tutorials on various aspects of the reference process that would allow archival managers to pick and choose components that would meet the needs of their own institutions. This is a brainstorming session to elicit training topics, participants in creating tutorials, and methods and support for developing a repository for those tutorials.

We'll see you in Austin!



Austin History Center. Wikimedia Commons, Larry D. Moore (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Member News

New Accessibility for Museum of Flight Archives

**Submitted by: Nicole Davis, Supervisory Archivist
The Museum of Flight, Seattle, WA**

The Museum of Flight's archives team, part of the Collections Department, is very excited to announce the launch of our ArchivesSpace public interface at archives.museumofflight.org. Our archival collections, up until now, have been relatively hidden because of a lack of a way to present finding aids publicly. With the ArchivesSpace public interface, we now have more than 200 collections, or roughly 10% of our archival collections, represented online. The aggregator site ArchiveGrid is also now harvesting our finding aids, giving our collections even greater visibility.



After completing our migration from Archivists' Toolkit to ArchivesSpace in the fall of 2018, we spent a few months reviewing resource records, cleaning them up, and standardizing some stylistic variances before launching the public interface. We still have a fair amount of post-migration clean-up work to do on our accession records, primarily instance and location updates in relation to a reorganization of our storage areas. While we are chipping away at that, we are also working hard to catalog more collections. We implemented extensible processing procedures at the beginning of the year in order to make a bigger dent in our backlog and get more collections available more quickly. We now are doing minimal cataloging on most collections and reserving creation of more detailed finding aids for more high-demand collections.

Our ArchivesSpace public interface complements our online repository, TMOF: Digital Collections (<https://mof.omeka.net/>), which we had launched in late 2017. If a collection has been scanned and is available in our online repository, the finding aid in ArchivesSpace links to the online repository, and vice versa. We are continually digitizing more items and adding them to our digital repository, and in the coming months we will also be enhancing that site (moving to the self-hosted ".org" version) to allow for better browsing and searching.

Meanwhile, we have also reorganized our reading room to better serve our customers. The Kenneth H. Dahlberg Reading Room is open to anyone wishing to do research and does not require Museum admission. The reorganization of the reading room has made it more comfortable for researchers to work and allows for better preservation and security of our collections. We've moved our audiovisual viewing station into the reading room so that A/V materials are more easily accessed. We've also added additional workstations to help us accommodate our growing team of interns and volunteers. The room also feels brighter with a new selection of artwork on the walls. With our ArchivesSpace public interface up and running, new processing procedures implemented, storage areas re-organized, Omeka site undergoing upgrades, and our reading room refreshed, our team has undertaken a lot of projects this last year. With more and better access to our collections, we hope to see our customer base grow.

Member News (continued from Page 9)

Connecticut College Special Collections to Participate in *Humanities Research for the Public Good* Community-based Initiative

Submitted by: Rose Oliveira, Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives, Connecticut College

Connecticut College is among twenty-five [Council for Independent Colleges](#) member institutions selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of [Humanities Research for the Public Good](#), an initiative to promote student research at private colleges and universities, address issues of public significance, and showcase the rich archival, library, and museum collections held by participating institutions. Each college will partner with a community-based organization to engage members of the public on a topic of local importance. Our team is made up of Rose Oliveira, Linda Lear Special Collections Librarian, Anna Vallye, Assistant Professor of Art History and Architectural Studies, Kim Sanchez, Director of Community Partnerships, and Patrick Lynch, Associate Director of Community Partnerships. Our community partner is [New London Landmarks](#), a local historic preservation non-profit.

Our project focuses on the impacts of urban renewal on the New London Community. New London experienced profound ruptures in its social and physical fabric following a series of urban renewal campaigns during the 1960s and 1970s. We propose to reveal the impact of urban renewal in New London through a digital mapping project. This project, tentatively titled *Mapping the History of Urban Renewal in New London, CT*, will build upon and extend the current programming of New London Landmarks. Over two semesters, students will explore the New London collections held at the [Lear Center](#) as well as the rich collection of archival documents and oral history interviews held at New London Landmarks. Using this as a base, they will build a website and digital map that captures the changes in this East New London neighborhood and its impact on the community. We are excited to share the results of this project next spring.



Connecticut College Team members at the CIC launch event in Washington DC. Top: Patrick Lynch. Bottom (L-R) Anna Vallye, Kim Sanchez, and Rose Oliveira.

**Great grant opportunity
for smaller institutions —
the program will have
another cycle of projects
next year!**



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

Steering Committee, 2019-2020

Julie Porterfield, Chair

Marissa Vassari, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Rebecca May, Immediate Past Chair

Anna Kresmer, at-large and Communications Liaison

Kris Bronstad, RAO Webmaster

Amanda Hawk, at-large

Ryan Lee, at-large

JA Pryse, at-large

Brenda Gunn, Council Liaison

Sub-Committees:

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)

Erin Ryan, copyeditor, Publications Committee