

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 10, 12, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

**2020-2021 Section Annual Reports (Compiled)
(Compiled by SAA Governance Manager Felicia Owens)**

Compiled here are the 2020-2021 annual reports for all SAA section. For the fourth year, reports were collected through a Survey Monkey survey created and shared by SAA staff. This process proved to be very successful, as it limited email churn, standardized the reports to make compilation easier, and created a secondary record of the reports. Outgoing chairs were asked to complete the reports by September 1 and to include the most complete and accurate information for the 2020-2021 term.

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Government Records Section

Council Liaison: Eric Chin

Report Submitted by: Brad Houston

2020-2021 Steering Committee Roster

Position	Name	Term Start	Term End
Chair	Brad Houston	8/1/2020	8/15/2021
Vice Chair / Chair-Elect	Cathrine Giles	8/15/2020	8/15/2021
Immediate Past Chair	Stephanie Bayless	8/1/2020	10/1/2021
Steering Committee Member	Gina Nichols	8/15/2019	9/1/2022
Steering Committee Member	Genevieve Preston	8/15/2020	9/1/2022
Council Liaison	Eric Chin	7/24/2019	9/1/2022

ACTIVITIES

Completed: The pandemic threw a wrench into the plans and ability to devote time to professional development of many SAA members, unfortunately including the GRS. We did not accomplish any major initiatives this year, although we did lay the foundation for some in the future (see ongoing). We did manage to publish a Government Records Case Study from the State Archives of Alabama, available on the SAA website.

Ongoing: A few projects that were planned, but for various reasons never got off the ground or continue to be in progress: --GRS Presentation Workshop-- helping members with practicing or touching up presentations related to government records --Bylaws revision (need to submit to membership for a vote, then to Council for approval)

New: We had discussed increasing our web presence with blog posts, social media, etc. but again did not get around to doing so; as chair during this time I take responsibility for this inaction. Hopefully the incoming chair will be able to take this plan further for 2021-22.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

No direct action, though the section had its ear to the ground about opportunities to support government archivists and will continue monitoring for 21-22.

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

Provided a workshop for assisting members with presentations; offered to help connect potential panelists. Unfortunately few takers from the membership.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

The publication of the case study from the Alabama State Archives will help government archivists think about ways to implement electronic records programs at their own institutions,

which will result in a more complete historical record and a field more prepared for the needs of modern records.

Goal 4: Meeting Members Needs

No direct action in this area.

ANNUAL MEETING

Number of Attendees: Approx. 60

Summary of Meeting Activities: This was a joint meeting with Local Government Records. LGRS put together a speaker lineup, with Katy Klettinger discussing the LYRASIS study of small government archives and its implications, and Brian Whitley discussing the activities of COPP and their relevance to government archivists. In the second half of the meeting, members of the GRS steering committee facilitated a group discussion of how members were coping with the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes (good or bad) that had come out of it thus far.

Link to Meeting Minutes:

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of your section? How engaged are your members?

The section is somewhat listless at best. At least in part because of the inaction from the steering committee and me as chair in particular, we had great difficulty recruiting candidates for Vice Chair and Steering Committee, and in fact are still down one slot going into September. The incoming chair will hopefully have more time to work on engaging membership and breathing more life into the section.

What forms of communication work best for your section members? (For example: email listserv, conference calls, in-person meetings)

Email listservs are really the best option, as many of our members do not have access to social media, blogs, etc. at work because of government firewalls.

SAA is exploring programming and topical affinities between sections. ([Learn more here.](#)) Does your section share issues or scope overlap with other sections? If so, which sections?

There is obvious overlap with the Local Government Records Section (hence the joint meeting), but also with Congressional Papers, Military Archives, Records Management, Electronic Records and Public Libraries.

If your section were to be part of an umbrella of affiliation with other sections, how would you describe the overarching theme of that umbrella?

In a lot of ways GRS already IS an umbrella-- as noted above there are a lot of sections which are comprised of subunits of the GRS' full remit. In this light a merger could be appropriate to help prevent members being overwhelmed by choice.

Do you have any concerns or questions about the potential for your section to merge or affiliate?

No.

QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL

No.