

Committee on Public Policy

Monthly Conference Call

Agenda

September 14, 2020

<https://zoom.us/j/98229427835>

Present: Sam, Matthew, Krista, Eira, Virginia, Jess, Brad, Emily, Nancy (SAA), Vince (COPA), Stephen (Council)

Absent:

Notetaker: Bryan

We have provided everyone with access to all of the COPP information about onboarding. If you have any questions, please ask any members of COPP for more information.

Old business

- **2019-2020 work plan updates (Workplan created in Fed. 2019 in Atlanta - See [Workplan on Shared Workspace](#))**
 - Communications plan - [Link to Draft](#) (Bryan)
 - Please leave feedback by next meeting (10/19)
 - Judicial records brief (no update)
 - The goal is to continue revisions through the fall and then get it to Council by the end of the Calendar year (Note: Council is meeting every other month via Zoom. Judicial Records Brief tentatively on the agenda for Jan. 2021 meeting)
 - Congressional records brief (no update) - waiting on our colleagues from Congressional Papers Section to respond to the meeting about the previous draft, which took place before March 2020.
 - [Presidential Candidate survey](#) (links to folder with content) - time to resend?
 - Nancy has reached out to Biden Campaign previously and has not heard back. She is happy to send it to Bidens's camp again. She will also send to Trump Campaign and Jorgensen (Libertarian) and Hawkins (Green) campaigns.

New Business

- **2020-2021 work plan review (Review and discuss [existing work plan](#))**
 - Current priorities for Fall 2020
 - Collaborate with COPA to write "evergreen" press releases on recurring issues
 - Brad and Matthew are interested. Looking to create 3-4 "evergreen" press releases in the near future. Vince will contact 2-4 COPA members to make sure they have a full team on this project.
 - Strategies to build new partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - Traditionally, the chair and vice-chair have handled this. We will now make it a little more flexible and for those COPP members plugged into specific SAA component groups, please pass news that you hear from

your other component groups along to COPP (and create a conduit to facilitate communications).

- Strengthen communications (inreach/outreach)
 - The first step in the formal communications plans is finishing up the Draft communications plan.
 - Informally, if you can communicate about advocacy and the work that COPP does through COPA's blog, the I&A blog, Archival Outlook, or other vehicles, please do.
- Continue responding to legislative/policy issues on demand
 - Central to COPP's work. COPP becomes aware through a variety of sources (our own research, from Council, from the Exec. Committee, from SAA members).
 - Remind any SAA member who asks that they submit suggestions for action and can contribute knowledge and research to us. Sam/Bryan will send an "introduction to COPP" note to the Leaders List to remind SAA members about it.
 - We have drawn on outside expertise of those from outside COPP for recent statements/issue briefs and we plan to continue to do so for issues in which there is a wealth of knowledge in SAA to make sure we have comprehensive coverage of the issues.
- Schedule and assign briefs/statements for electoral transition
 - Federal electronic records management is one possible topic.
 - Electoral transition is simply a helpful calendar marker as opposed to anything specific about the machinations of the transition and the issue we plan to tackle.
- Additional tasks to consider
 - Review [Joint Working Group recommendations for presidential transition team](#) (update for 2020)
 - Depending on the results of the election, this is a chance to reiterate key points that archivists want to hit home with the current administration or inform a new administration about what is expected of them
 - Please review the above-linked document by the next meeting (10/19)
 - Prepare recommendations for congressional transition teams?
 - There are documents that the Senate and House Archivists send to congressional staffs. Is there something we can add to this -- maybe, maybe not. We will need to take a look.
 - Develop advocacy toolkit(s) around archival funding?
 - With the financial challenges that are developing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many archives are going to be affected and many SAA members could use some tips.
 - Bryan, Krista (Business Archives perspective and tools), Virginia (Non-profit archive perspective and tools) willing to chip in.
 - SAA Staff has many tools, but they are scattered. We are definitely going to pull much of this together for a toolkit.
 - COPA is very interested and energized to engage with this and very happy to use their platform to spread information.

Committee on Public Policy

Monthly Conference Call

Agenda

October 19, 2020

zoom.us/j/97064678272

Present: Bryan, Virginia, Eira, Jess, Krista, Brad, Nancy, Stephen (Council), Vince (COPA), Rachel S. (COPA), Rachel W. (COPA), Sam

Absent:

Notetaker: Virginia

We have provided everyone with access to all of the COPP information about onboarding. If you have any questions, please ask any members of COPP for more information.

Old business

- **Time-sensitive updates**
 - Updates on Ahmad v. Michigan brief (Nancy)
 - Draft of Eira's response she's working on ([Does private property override public obligations?](#)). Work towards a December 1 deadline for Archival Outlook?
 - Nancy: Council was enthusiastic about education re: issue. Waiting on brief. Interest from COPA and Education department. Everyone stands by ready to assist. Council requests "balanced view."
 - Eira: Write-up of two major issues with original ARL amicus brief. Not an issue brief:
 - Issue no. 1: Private property override public considerations.
 - Issue no. 2: Archivists and librarians should not narrow what FOIA applies to.
 - Where can this go next? Archival Outlook and elsewhere?
 - Need for counterpoint to current write-up, although the write-up is in response to ARL brief.
 - Nancy: Suggest we consider "Off the Record" blog, which will allow for comments and conversation.
 - Krista: Suggest panel to offer both sides of the issue as a reflection of differing viewpoints. Advocating for SAA to be venue / moderator for discussion.
 - Nancy: With advance notice and written background, COPP Forum is possible. ARL is interested in working with us, despite SAA not signing on to brief. Also interest from IBWG.
 - Bryan: Reminds us that implications are for Michigan, which requires legal groundwork for understanding how law works. Anything we do should be framed to stress that such cases should be understood within a specific state context. There is no national precedent for addressing this issue.
 - General discussion on chat and in person: How specific do we need to be re: legal precedent and specificity of case. Think through what the implications for archivists might be.

- Potential next step: Meeting between COPP, COPA, and other interested groups to collaborate on toolkit.
- Rachel: Primary goal is to advocate for institutions facing closure and speak to their value.
 - Results of survey: Two main issues - how to articulate and communicate value externally and internally.
- Vince: COPA has documentation and a template for creating press release for financial advocacy toolkit. Interest in further input from COSA and NAGARA.
- Sam: Proposed next step would be to contribute to collaborative toolkit. COPP's contribution could be to provide concrete recommendations for advocacy, especially stemming from past workshops. Anyone interested in contributing should contact Bryan and/or Sam. No need to reinvent things, but we can point to existing resources, like Kathleen Roe's book.
- Potential idea: "Read-along"?
- Use cases: University of Georgia, Birmingham Public Library.
 - Potential idea: Include use cases in upcoming blog posts.
- Evergreen press releases on recurring issues
 - (Brad/Matthew/Vince)
- January advocacy workshop with Bryan and Sam, Virginia and Krista volunteered to join.

New Business

- **Forthcoming briefs**
 - Federal electronic records management brief? Anyone interested?

- **Advocacy workshop with SAA planned for January**
 - Invitation to put on virtual workshop.
 - Potential interest from Jess, Krista, Virginia.
 - Opportunity to formalize prior workshop structure and offerings.

- **Updates from other groups**
 - National Humanities Alliance
 - National Council on the Humanities
 - SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness
 - COPA
 - Council

Committee on Public Policy
Monthly Conference Call
Agenda
November 16, 2020

Present: Eira, Nancy, Sam, Brad, Virginia, Bryan, Jess, Vince, Stephen, Krista

Absent:

Notetaker: Eira Tansey

Old business

- **Time-sensitive updates**
 - Updates on Ahmad v. Michigan brief (Nancy)
 - IPWG is discussing this right now and knows that we are planning to do an education effort through COPP and IPWG.
 - Privacy and Confidentiality section has been in touch with us about helping with any education initiatives.
 - Essay deadline - December 1 or spring? (Eira)
 - Nancy suggested a spring deadline in order to compile things together
 - Bryan has spoken with Aprille McKay from UMich who would be willing to write something. One possibility would be to wait until there is a final decision from the Michigan SC so that our work has more impact. Bryan has confirmed that the case is on the court's docket for the upcoming year but no set date is scheduled for oral arguments yet.
 - Nancy has reservations about Aprille writing something due to a possible conflict of interest.
 - New deadline: February 1 for March/April Archival Outlook (Eira's essay, Bryan's part, additional counter views)
 - National Coalition for History Policy Board
 - Has approved letters going out supporting money for NHPRC (\$7 million). SAA/CoSA will be following up on this and working with Lee. Those letters will be going out later today.
- **Ongoing initiatives**
 - Judicial records brief - [Link to work folder](#)
 - The group is really close to finalizing the issue brief and is doing some final summarizing of the existing literature. Our current timeline:
 - Nov. 20th - finalize by this date & send to Harvard Law School colleagues (who were on the 2019 panel)
 - Dec. 2 - send to COPP colleagues
 - Dec. 9 - COPP discussion
 - Communications plan finalization - [Link to Draft](#)
 - No further comments were received so this is moving forward.
 - Comments on [Joint Working Group recommendations for presidential transition team](#)

- Comments have been shared via email. This document is being finalized right now and will be sending this document to the Presidential Transition Team in the first week of December. Nancy is sending this document to EC tomorrow. Once it is finalized it will be available on SAA's website and promoted via its channels. Nancy will update any changes to this timeline via our listserv.
 - Bryan shared a cover letter for the transition document via the listserv. This will be sent to Congressional members to let them know about archives and what archivists/records managers expect of the administration.
 - Question re: what we should be doing about the Trump end of the transition. Is there boilerplate language we can have in our back pocket to use?
 - Bryan pointed us to this:
 - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G53eyAfzpllbRdBycleXb90DGc1yR4h8hQDgVbXPE/edit>
 - If anyone wants to amend anything related to transition documentation, get it in to Nancy ASAP. Bryan reminded us we may need to be prepared to do a quick COPP turnaround in case things get ~*~*~weird~*~*~ this week
 - Updates re: partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - Krista spoke with the Business Archives section. They're open to hearing from us and recommended putting something on the listserv
 - Bryan - Local Government Records is spreading the word about local government records issues related to budget crunches. [Link to draft survey questions.](#)
 - Advocacy Toolkit
 - COPP and COPA volunteers met to discuss this. Virginia has been compiling use cases related to NEH CARES funding. Considering how the loss of archives makes it into national media. Bryan is working on a blog post for COPA.
 - Advocacy workshop in January
 - The COPP advocacy workshop is coming back through SAA Education. Contract is currently being negotiated. There will be a fee for the workshop. Currently scheduled for January 27.

New Business

- **Tracking archival closures**
 - Stephen was interested in whether anyone was tracking archives closures, especially given the next wave of COVID-related lockdowns. Is anyone tracking this beyond some of the [spreadsheets that existed earlier](#) in the pandemic? Stephen wanted to float the idea of collaborating with RAAC/Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness to track such closures.
 - Could we get any data via the AWE Fund?
 - Not sure if RAAC/Joint Working Group is working on this yet - Stephen is waiting to hear back from some folks. Suggestion that we bring this to the Joint Working Group to see if they want to take it up.
 - Sam suggested that we keep this on our agenda and will follow up with COPP's early career member and Joint Working Group to see if she/they are interested in working on this.

- SAA is considering doing more regular 2-3 question surveys of membership (similar to the one recently done for membership dues). This might be a good question for survey.
 - Eira suggests we consider institutions who are losing staff due to COVID transitions, not just institutions formally closing or furloughing people. Thinking about parameters of data. This also has ramifications for the implementation of A*CENSUS II.
 - This kind of data can be important for both internal governance and external advocacy.
 - Sam will follow up with Nancy and SAA Foundation about potential funding for a bigger project.
- **Responding to House Democrats letter about records preservation**
 - There was an article in the Washington Post about House Democrats contacting agencies about their records obligations. Sharing our transition documentation with those individuals could be a “teaching moment” for those individuals.
- **Updates from other groups**
 - National Humanities Alliance
 - No report
 - National Coalition for History: Letter to Kennedy and Quigley re NHPRC
 - No report (Except for previously mentioned NHPRC letters)
 - SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness
 - The group met last week and most of the discussion has been governance-related and focusing on the presidential transition documents. Bryan has been appointed ex officio to the group.
 - COPA
 - COPA has finalized their work plan for the upcoming year. It’s ambitious! Will include revising microsite, assessing member needs and developing tool kits, assembling a speaker’s bureau for media inquiries, development of webinars for outreach opportunities, events (Finding Aid To My Soul, etc), continued content for the blog and SAA channels, and media training (pending budget)
 - Council
 - Council is meeting on Friday. Focus is on the strategic plan. Looking at resuming the Open Forum schedule in January/February, though Courtney Chartier may be doing one earlier on volunteering for SAA groups.
 - Other Updates:
 - If we know of anyone who would be a good addition to SAA COPP, please have them fill out the appointment form so they can be considered per the appointment procedures.
 - Diversity Committee seems interested in partnering with other SAA groups - there was a short list but we weren’t on it. How can we get on their radar in the future?
 - Jill Lepore’s article in the New Yorker is a good argument for sharing our transition documents as much as possible. Nancy is interested in finding a way to reach Jill Lepore - Krista has a connection.

- In December - can we talk more about lobbying Congress during this transition period? Don't want to lose the momentum that seems to be building for recordkeeping matters.
- There's no COI if you are representing only yourself as an individual archivist for contacting media/elected officials

Committee on Public Policy
Monthly Conference Call
Agenda
December 9, 2020

Present: Eira, Krista, Bryan, Vince, Nancy, Stephen, Virginia

Absent: Jess, Brad, Matthew

Notetaker: Sam

Old business

- Judicial records brief (final review) - [Link to work folder](#)
 - Content review: See email for final draft, thanks to Eira/Jess/Krista and external partners. This is the outcome of several months of collaboration with colleagues from Harvard Law. The first draft was presented to COPP in the spring. COPP asked the authors to review extant legal/archival literature to address the broad spectrum of opinions on the matter. Essentially, the current legal landscape treats judge's papers as private property (although archivists tend to consider them, in principle, public records). There is a precedent of donating to cultural heritage institutions. The draft also addresses the ethical issues presented by this gap in the law, as it creates significant tension for archivists who may need to compromise their ethical principles to adhere to the current legal ambiguity. The text also highlights the principle of "co-equal branches of government" in terms of transparency/legal accountability.
 - Next steps: Krista, Jess, and Eira will summarize the recommendations at the conclusion as a position statement. They'll aim to finalize this by 23 December and send the final draft to the list. Stephen and Nancy will pick it up from there for the January 13 council meeting. Nancy will make minor copy edits.
- Updates re: partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - LGRS sent out a survey to its members to gather data for future COPP initiatives around archival closures. Bryan has been in contact with them (primarily Amanda).
- Advocacy Toolkit
 - No updates yet, expect more in January (Bryan/Krista/Vince)
 - SAA staff will not be available during the break for technical assistance
- Advocacy workshop in January
 - Preparations are underway, tell your friends! The workshop is live for registration and has been advertised by SAA education on the announcements listserv.
- Tracking archival closures follow-up
 - Sam still needs to follow up with Emily about a targeted project for the spring.

- Stephen is waiting to hear back from Michael Law of RACC; they've made contact, but no concrete plans yet. Stephen will send out an email to the COPP listserv to see if anyone else is interested.
- Ahmed v. UMichigan case
 - COPP watch party - stay tuned for more details. It will be fun and informal, to follow the oral arguments.
 - Bryan and Aprille M expect to have about a day's advanced notice for timing of oral arguments.
 - For POV pieces, Eira and Peter Hirtle are in the hopper to contribute something to archival outlook. Aprille M and Bryan are also aiming to contribute to March/April Archival Outlook issue.
 - We'll follow up with Nancy to set expectations with AO editor Abigail Christian - need to follow up regarding word count and whether an introduction is needed. A full page of the spread is 700 words.

New Business

- **Military records requests**
 - Military records section advises us to get in touch with Meg Phillips at NARA before moving forward.
 - Potentially an opportunity for us to advocate for increased funding for NARA, in response to those congress people's letters. Let's plan to work together to get SAA members and comrades to lobby their reps.
- **Federal Executive Order 13950 - Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping**
 - Let's keep an eye on it, but we are not going to take any action at the moment.
- **Electoral transition plans**
 - Biden Transition Team archives and RM document
 - The Joint Working Group has a plan for today's meeting to speak with reps on the transition team about processes, principles, and workflows re: government records
 - They will also be highlighting the need for various funding programs that support this work.
 - The woman from the Biden transition team (Arts and Culture transition group) will introduce Joint Working Group to the OMB transition person to highlight procedural concerns.
 - And we'll also be offering partnership/advice to the transition team from our expertise.
 - Lawsuit updates
 - No updates yet, we'll watch for news.
- **Copyright reform efforts (Thom Tillis?)**

- Jess first raised this question. IPWG is aware of the action and is monitoring.
- ARL and NCH are also monitoring, and there's a statement from the Library Copyright Alliance which we might want to sign onto.

- **Updates from other groups**
 - COPA
 - Met on Monday (12/7). Lee Miller is the new blog editor. SAA 2021 session proposals have been extended through January, and COPA is drafting proposal ideas now. Potentially an opportunity for COPA/COPP collaboration? This might be a good platform to highlight the forthcoming Advocacy Toolkit. COPA members will set up a brainstorming session, keep an eye out for a scheduling email on the COPP list.

 - Council
 - In November, Council considered strategic plans and developed some draft revisions. The Council is pretty pleased with the work of COPP and COPA so far; some strategic goals are going to be moved to next year (due to COVID). Council remains strongly in support of big legislative goals.

Committee on Public Policy

Monthly Conference Call

Agenda

February 8, 2021

Present: Jess, Bryan, Virginia, Eira, Brad, Vince

Absent:

Notetaker: Virginia Millington

Old business

- Updates on Ahmad v. Michigan brief
 - January 6 (the other thing, not the coup): Viewing of Michigan Supreme Court arguments about the case. [MPR did story](#) providing possible date for ruling in July.
 - Bundle of Archival Outlook essays written; potential for panel proposal (hope to have ruling in hand by then).
 - Current status: waiting on ruling. Reminder: if the court deems these as public records, then decisions will be made about whether exemptions can be applied. This ruling would establish precedent, which can affect other records / existing agreements.
- Updates from National Coalition for History Policy Board Meeting
 - 1st agenda item: support for education.
 - 2nd agenda item: support for robust funding for NARA.
 - SAA will support calls to action to support NARA funding.
- Updates from NCH push to find a sponsor to a “Dear Colleague” Letter.
 - Last year, the NCH supported a push in the House; this year, aiming for the Senate.
 - Senator Warren is potential supporter due to her support for NARA.
- Updates from Workshop on Advocacy with State and Local Policymakers
 - Presented round II of the advocacy workshop that was presented at SAA 2019
 - Roe joined and spoke about advocacy; Sam led an exercise; adapted 2019 workshop to a fully virtual environment
 - SAA sent a survey
 - Interest in breaking down into modules
 - The case study from 2012 in Georgia is relevant today - this one is evergreen.
 - Can currently access the video via SAA education portal - members only
- Federal Executive Order 13950 - Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping
 - Ruling in December that order is unenforceable.
 - Order has been officially revoked: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

- Judicial records brief - [Link to work folder](#)
 - What are the next steps for giving this more airtime. How can we approach an external comms plan?
 - Some ideas: letters to editor, editorials, email campaign, press release, etc. Who would be responsible? Us, or COPA?
 - Nancy & COPA (Vince) would be happy to support; we just need to do the research for avenues for dissemination. Vince will share outlets and templates for press release / other comms. Nancy has contacts with most allied / kindred professional orgs.
 - Question for Nancy: Do we have precedent for sending out communications to an established list of publications, outlets, individuals? If not, is this something we can establish?
 - Potential contact: Teresa Brinati, Director of Publishing
 - What is our hook? “What kind of records will we know about after the pandemic ends?”
 - Please share your ideas!
 - Do we want to make this a legislative thing? Can we include it in our next discussions about future legislative agenda? What is the will of the members?
- [Joint Working Group recommendations for presidential transition team](#)
 - When to send to legislators to let them know about archives and what archivists/records managers expect of the administration?
 - Supposedly, if legislation is not about COVID-19 relief, economic issues, diversity, equity, and inclusion, or climate change, it won't be looked at until March or April. Does this affect our decision to send the information?
 - Who to send to – Appropriations Committees, Oversight Committee, Legislators who Signed on to the Letter about the Personnel Records Center?
 - Could the format be a press release paired with direct letter from SAA to key people? When should we send this? Eira: Can't hurt to send it sooner rather than later. Bryan will follow up with Nancy and Lee to figure out how to distribute.
- Updates re: partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - Jess met with WAS and ERS to brainstorm issues / areas of collaboration
 - Major issues: labor issues, access, privacy - could be used to support future legislative agenda? Or Public Policy agenda, which needs to be updated in May 2021
 - Information gathered from outreach meeting:
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KtPdo4cQu0bUe6Qx4mCvTpjcefmBtI759IwMo5TYsNI/edit#gid=0>
 - Outreach to SAA groups folder:
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18D5PH6BH16rt1ByzkKZ5hXPvNA7Li0Ye>
 - Are there any other groups to contact? Let Jess know.
- Advocacy Toolkit - no updates

- Tracking archival closures – should also reflect staffing losses that affect access
 - Open house with Committee on Research Data - Eira will attend to see how this affects archive census

New Business

- **Updates from other groups**
 - National Humanities Alliance
 - National Coalition for History
 - SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness
 - COPA
 - Joint Advocacy Session proposal submitted and waiting to hear back.
 - 2-3 blog articles in the pipeline, including a video interview with Tufts
 - Plan to relaunch “I Love Being an Archivist” campaign.
 - Possibility of hosting another COPA webinar
 - Council
 - Other Updates:
 - If you want to participate in Humanities Day of Advocacy, send an email to Nancy.

 - From last time:
 - Diversity Committee seems interested in partnering with other SAA groups - there was a short list but we weren't on it. How can we get on their radar in the future?
 - Jill Lepore's article in the New Yorker is a good argument for sharing our transition documents as much as possible. Nancy is interested in finding a way to reach Jill Lepore - Krista has a connection.

Committee on Public Policy

Monthly Conference Call

Agenda

March 11, 2021

Present: Bryan Whitedge, Brad Houston, Eira Tansey, Krista Ferrante, Stephen Curley, Jess Farrell

Absent: Everyone else

Notetaker: Eira Tansey

We opened the meeting with discussion of the Brood X cicada invasion and our gardening plans.

Old business

- Updates on Ahmad v. Michigan brief (Eira/Bryan)
 - Bundle of Archival Outlook essays went to galleys. Will be in press soon.
 - (as an aside, American Archivist is fully digital going forward... no paper copies and Archival Outlook will cease a paper copy soon).
 - The SAA conference panel was accepted
 - Will feature Eira, Bryan, Aprille McKay (IPWG), and Peter Hirtle (IPWG).
 - One of 10 “live” sessions (pre-recording but aired as a featured session during the conference sessions).
 - Teresa Brinati was very happy with the Archival Outlook content and the way it came together.

- Judiciary Brief Outreach (Eira/Jess)
 - Eira and Jess talked about outreach to spread awareness about the issue brief
 - Drafted an [outreach plan](#) to use to spread awareness
 - We suggest integrating long-term advocacy on this into the longer-term revision of the Legislative Advocacy Agenda
 - Short-term advocacy: Jess and Eira will email the panelists who had helped us draft the early version of this, and the legal scholars whose work we cited in drafting the brief
 - Bryan suggested this might make for a good COPA interview, or to add it to one of the section meeting presentations/webinars
 - When we’re ready for a more full-fledged publicity campaign, Krista is still willing to reach out to Jill Lepore
 - Question about whether Meg Phillips knows
 - Eira can get it on her radar - Trudy Huskamp-Peterson had also reached out to Eira.

- Action item - Jess: Draft an FYI (not press release) letter for people we want to know this exists
- Updates from NHA and Humanities Advocacy Day (Jess/Bryan).
 - Jess is lobbied 4 (5?) legislators from Massachusetts
 - Advocated for IMLS and NARA
 - Others advocated for NEH and Fulbright-Hays
 - Jess emphasized the staffing levels for providing access to materials, including complexities of digital materials, labor issues with things like IMLS term positions, libraries as a feminized profession and wage issues. She also talked to Ed Markey's staff about archives and climate change.
 - Bryan had 4 meetings.
 - Most of his meetings he was the only one so he could focus on NARA.
 - The work yesterday was for general advocacy and not related to lobbying for a specific bill. Reminding people that they will see appropriations soon for LAM-related purposes.
 - Bryan and Barbara Teague (CoSA) did a lot of training of the humanities people to help them understand importance of archives
 - Eira asked about the status of the library modernization act ("[Build America's Libraries Act](#)"). Was introduced into the House last week- might be part of a big economic justice package of other bills.
- [Joint Working Group recommendations for presidential transition team](#)
 - No status updates yet but Bryan and Nancy are working on something for the next month
- Updates re: partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - Krista had a message out to the Business Archives Section and was invited to submit something to their newsletter
 - Jess wants to develop some outreach for when the Legislative Agenda is being developed. This could be a good opportunity for us to go to different SAA constituent groups to get their feedback.
 - Bryan noted that an email solicitation went out about four years ago, but the feedback through this method can be limited.
- Advocacy Toolkit Updates (Bryan)
 - Bryan is going to be working on this soon
 - Looking at example of "Documenting During an Emergency/Crisis" for similar format
 - CoSA is going to be hosting a webinar in a couple weeks about the Birmingham case and either Sam or Bryan is going to be present to talk about what SAA is offering
- Tracking archival closures

- The CORDA group from SAA has a narrow scope right now -- focusing on being a data repository for archives-related data (A*Census data, datasets for American Archivist articles, datasets created as part of SAA Foundation-funding research, etc.).
- It would be ideal for CORDA to take over stewardship of the RepoData - that could eventually reflect closures of archives. No commitment has been made yet but Eira and Ben Goldman have been trying to meet with Jennifer King (CORDA co-chair)
- A*CENSUS might be capturing some data on losses to the archivist workforce.
 - Eira can follow up with Audra Eagle Yun about this rumor
- There's a joint working group with NAGARA/RAAC to try to track some closures - this very preliminary/nascent
- Some questions raised about whether this is outside the scope of COPP because tracking this is so dependent on robust data gathering.
 - COPP may eventually want to consider proposing something to Council about the need for gathering such data.

New Business

- **Updates from other groups**

- National Humanities Alliance/National Coalition for History
 - New stimulus package includes \$400 million for emergency spending grants to arts and culture organizations
- SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness
 - No major update that hasn't been covered elsewhere above
- COPA
 - Vince sent an update - COPA and COPP's Advocacy Session was accepted for the Annual Meeting. Krista and Jess are involved. Logistical details are still being worked out.
 - COPA is also putting together the Finding Aid To My Soul storytelling event for the Annual Meeting
 - Several blog updates - Bryan will also be contributing something about NHA Day
- Council
 - Council meeting next Wednesday - agenda and materials are currently online. Heads up on things that might pertain to us:
 - Diversity Committee Forum - considering using it to evaluate what kind of DEI issues within SAA need to be prioritized, especially following last summer's Black Lives Matter forums
 - Potential creation of a sustainability committee
 - Still aggregating information from the Council listening sessions last year. Discussing how to continue those listening sessions.

- Discussion about archival salary and transparency in job postings. Council is re-evaluating this topic.
- Other Updates:
 - Eira mentioned the Big Ten Football planning FOIA circumvention story

Committee on Public Policy
Monthly Conference Call (on [Zoom](#))

Agenda

April 12, 2021, 2 pm EDT (1 pm CDT, 12 noon MDT, 11 am MST/PDT)

Present: Virginia, Krista, Bryan, Jess, Nancy (SAA), Stephen (Council), Vince (COPA)

Absent: Eira, Matthew, Brad, Sam

Notetaker:

Old business (See [March notes](#))

- Updates on Ahmad v. Michigan brief (Eira/Bryan)?
 - State of Mich. Sup Ct. handed down their opinion. Effectively, the MI Sup Ct. said that the case must be heard before the the Court of Claims to decide whether or not the records are subject to MI-FOIA.
 - Session on Ahmad v. Michigan has been accepted at upcoming SAA conference! Featuring Aprille McKay, Bryan, Eira, and Peter Hirtle.
- Judiciary Brief Outreach (Eira/Jess) - Anything New?
 - Eira drafted a message to authors we cited
 - We'll send this out between now and next meeting, and also share some more updates via email as we take further actions decided upon at our last meeting
 - Nancy: Suggest that we share judiciary brief with internal SAA colleagues and others when related issues arise. COPP members should feel free to share brief with others as a way to keep the brief relevant and findable.
- [Joint Working Group recommendations for presidential transition team](#)
 - Discussion of how to best mobilize to share recommendations with critical contacts. Can we activate the 'key contacts' group?
 - Can this rise to the level of the 'take action' page?
 - Nancy and Bryan will work together to publicize and share document.
- Updates re: partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - No updates.
 - Jess created a set of resources to easily share. Available in COPP workspace - "Outreach to Other Sections."
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18D5PH6BH16rt1ByzkKZ5hXPvNA7Li0Ye>
- Advocacy Toolkit Updates (Bryan)

- Presentation to CoSA as part of monthly webinar in March (March theme was Advocacy)
- Tracking archival closures
 - Anything new since March?
 - Interest in joint effort to track closures - topic of discussion for joint working group meeting (4/13).

New Business

- **SAA Annual Meeting, COPP Annual Meeting Time**
 - **Annual Meeting is August 2-6 2021**
 - Dates/Times to Avoid:
 - 7/14, 2-3:30 p CDT
 - 7/21, 1-5 p CDT
 - 7/23 1-2p CDT
 - 7/28 1-5 p CDT
 - ???
 - After figuring out all of the dates/times to avoid, we will circulate a Doodle with some possibilities.
- **Public Policy Agenda and Legislative Agenda**
 - Time to start thinking about these. What should be included? Who on the subcommittee doing this. How to solicit input from other groups?
 - Potential ideas: surveillance technology / how data is used / algorithmic bias. National broadband / internet access for all.
 - Question: How will input be solicited? Previously, section leaders were polled. Or we could do a full membership survey.
 - Potential idea: 3-4 listening sessions? Targeted outreach to section leadership to get people to sign up. Provides opportunity to follow up with contributors.
 - Goal is to complete outreach by July, so we can start annual meeting with new document.
 - May 1: Survey sent out.
 - June 1: Responses compiled.
 - July 1: Responses synthesized.
 - Volunteers: Virginia, Krista, Vince, Bryan, Jess + others.
- **Community Project Funding (Earmarks) Idea**
 - 2-week response timeline.

- Opportunity to highlight earmarks as potential resource for archives & potential educational opportunity.
- **Updates from other groups**
 - Council
 - Council disbanded research library section due to inactivity.
 - Reviewed diversity committee report on black lives and archives forums, which includes recommendations for short- and long-term actions. Efforts to translate findings into strategic plan.
 - Interest in forming a sustainability committee that will address issues related to climate change and its impact on the discipline and practice of archives. Call for volunteers forthcoming.
 - Council is focused on DEI / cultural competency as highest priority. Workplan in development to address external resources needed to implement plan (May 31).
 - National Humanities Alliance/National Coalition for History
 - SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness
 - COPA
 - Planning advocacy mini-workshops in collaboration with COPP.
 - Scheduling July meetings.
 - ArchivesAware: 3 postings in March.
 - Planning for ArchivesAware month in October with potential partners and constituent groups contributing.
- **Other Updates:**
 - NARA facility in Seattle is NOT closing. Good news!
 - Proof of how advocacy can be activated to effect change. Meg Phillips and D. Ferriero from NARA commended the advocacy effort.

Committee on Public Policy Monthly Conference Call (on Zoom)

Notes

May 10, 2021, 1 pm EDT (12 noon CDT, 11 am MDT, 10 am MST/PDT)

Present: Bryan, Brad, Jess, Krista, Eira, Vince, Stephen

Absent: Nancy, Virginia, Sam, Matthew

Notetaker: Jess

Old business (See [April notes](#))

- Judiciary Brief Outreach (Eira/Jess) - Anything New?
 - Emails have gone out to 2 of the cited authors named in the brief's additional resources. The rest are untraceable :(
 - We also emailed the folks who had actually assisted in drafting the brief (i.e. Jess's co-panelists from the annual meeting session a few years ago)
 - Asked everyone to let us know if there are other scholars we should be talking to about this
 - Gave the brief co-researchers/authors opportunity to help with future outreach
- [Joint Working Group recommendations for presidential transition team](#)
 - Nancy and Bryan will work together to publicize and share document.
- Community Project Funding (Earmarks) Idea (Bryan)
 - Senate announced on [April 29 that they would accept earmarks](#). No real information about how and deadlines. This is quite a difficult landscape to work in.
 - Senators were supposed to put information on their websites - Bryan reviewed and could only find this on Feinstein's. This was May 4 - applications were closing May 5.
- Updates re: partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - Action: Krista still hoping to reach out to BAS
 - Issues & Advocacy - sent out Ahmad v. Michigan package
- [NHPRC Report](#) - Stephen
 - Addresses infrastructure concerns of small archives
 - Wanted to include COPA and COPP to analyze and provide feedback to Council on how to advocate for small and diverse archives organizations

- One specific goal for COPP on the strategic plan is to develop letters, editorials on key policy issues - how could we do this for this issue?
 - Vince will call a meeting for COPA to review the document and create a google doc and make comments/share.
 - Strategize around items identified in the report
 - Intersections with Build Americas Libraries Act - hope that if this legislation gets passed it goes to many of the institutions documented in the Lyrasis report
 - Must be public libraries - but archives included
 - <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/127/text?r=3&s=1>
 - Opportunities to promote additional funding and structures
 - Action: Stephen will develop a google doc to help guide us and send it to us
- Advocacy Toolkit Updates (Bryan)
 - Next steps - pull docs together - Bryan (Action)
 - Steve Murray, Alabama
 - State & local policymaking workshop
 - Others
 - Action: Jess will send an email reminder between meetings
 - Then need to send a survey (short, three-question type survey from SAA HQ) - what support do you need? (do people know what support they need?)
 - Then can draft the toolkit
- SAA Annual Meeting, COPP Annual Meeting Time - July 22 12:30-2:00 pm EDT
 - 90 minutes, last ½ hour reserved for Joint COPA/COPP get-together
 - COPA Annual meeting is July 22, 3:30-5:00 pm CDT and the last ½ hour (4:30-5) is reserved for a different Joint COPA/COPP get-together.
 - Annual Meeting is August 2-6 2021

New Business

- **Public Policy Agenda and Legislative Agenda**
 - Document with Ideas for how to handle this on [COPP Shared Workspace](#)
 - There are two subgroups, one for each Agenda
 - We should put out a call for input from membership as soon as possible
 - [who is on tap for this?]
- **Letter from Open the Government about NARA DHS Records Schedules**
 - Link [to thread from COPP listserv about this](#)
 - The deadline for signing on has passed. What, if anything, are we interested in doing related to this? Is there a place for commenting on judges declaring something to be of historical import enough to be a permanent record over the advice of an archivist?

- Might be hard to put that argument out there while also demanding preservation of more SCOTUS records
 - Nancy has a connection with NARA - Meg Phillips
 - There's still the issue of records management within each agency not being funded well well - and the DHS seems to be a particularly bad case. It's a longer trend at agencies around depreciating historians, records managers - and replacing with "data officers." How much historians and data officers are working together is unknown...
 - If there's anything to push or help advocate for in this space - maybe the legislative agenda - could talk to Meg and Nancy about this.
 - Action: add this to legislative agenda conversations
 - Is there required minimum staff for records management? Yes - and this was included in the report - that DHS/ICE didn't staff to recommended levels. But they are recommendations - it's an unfunded mandate.
- **COPA/COPP Pre-Conference Workshop Planning**
 - We met ~1 week ago. Are planning the different workshop topics and breakout groups, facilitators.
 -
- **Updates from other groups**
 - Council - <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/saa-council/may-14-17-19-21-2021-council-meeting-agenda>
 - Next meeting - Friday 14th & Monday 17th
 - Salary transparency vote
 - Updates on Executive Director search
 - Strategic planning discussions
 - National Humanities Alliance/National Coalition for History
 - Reclaim the Records - put forward an application to be part of the national coalition for history
 - RtR could be an ally in the judiciary records advocacy.
 - SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness
 - COPA
 - Getting more people involved outside of COPA - inviting people to help with Twitter etc
 - ArchivesAware blog post
 - Reached out to Holly Croft to schedule next working group meeting with all 4 groups

Committee on Public Policy Monthly Conference Call (on Zoom)

Notes

June 14, 2021, 1 pm EDT (12 noon CDT, 11 am MDT, 10 am MST/PDT)

Present: Brad, Bryan, Jess, Nancy (SAA Liaison), Virginia

Absent: Eira, Krista, Matthew, Sam, Stephen (Council Liaison), Vince (COPA)

Notetaker: Brad

Old business (See [May notes](#))

- **Public Policy Agenda and Legislative Agenda**
 - Document with Ideas for how to handle this on [COPP Shared Workspace](#)
 - There are two subgroups, one for each Agenda
 - **Brian planning to get drafts out by Wednesday**
 - **Next Meeting of SAA Council 8/2; send final draft to Nancy/Stephen**

- [NHPRC Report](#) re infrastructure concerns of small archives and thinking about advocacy on this front
 - Will be part of Public Policy Agenda
 - **Note from Stephen: Nancy and Courtney have discussed; 6 weeks for a statement, COPA/COPP working together**
 - **Document with questions/matters for discussion**
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GpyVsyhOuoPF2D2JllkLFYmedZ6st9kHyr1ysGo_HA/edit
 - Nancy noted a need for a statement of support for small institutions; not sure how we're defining "small", but idea is to create a template for smaller archives to fill in the blanks (\$100K annual budget or less)
 - Should we meet to discuss this? Bryan suggests that we can do this via the Public Policy Agenda, but we can meet to discuss the questions
 - Call to IMLS to allow for Archives funding?
 - Overall goal is statement: why are they important, what struggles do they see, template for "insert details here"
 - Jess is interested in working on "What decision makers should be targeted? How should the public be included?"
 - Bryan will send out a meeting date somewhere before the middle of July; will reach out to COPA members as well

- COPA/COPP Pre-Conference Workshop Planning
 - We met Friday, June 11.
 - **Discussed logistics of joint meeting; framework that SAA members can use**
 - **Panel is extremely popular per grapevine; expects a large turnout**
 - **Broken into an opening/closing for everybody, plus 2 concurrent breakout sessions**
 - **Need to modify description on the website; Nancy will let Rana know that we'll have breakout rooms**

- Judiciary Brief Outreach (Eira/Jess) - Anything New?
 - Received a couple of responses interested in working on this-- potential working group of people inside and outside of COPP
 - Should be part of the legislative agenda? (Yes Please, says the notetaker)

- Community Project Funding (Earmarks) Idea (Bryan)
 - Most Senators have had their due dates, will announce sometime at the end of this month
 - Every SAA member who volunteered will be contacted with information (end of June) on how to proceed; contacts during Archives month and December (All I want for [Holiday] is a brand new CMS) (Careful you don't put your eye out)
 - Bryan speaking with National Humanities Alliance-- House rules are that you can only apply to 5 accounts, which is difficult for many archives-- talking to make sure NEH or IMLS is a possible account
 - Senate says that NHPRC is a possible account; Bryan sees this as a positive
 - Jess asks to stay in the loop on the process
 -

- Updates re: partnerships with SAA constituent groups
 - LGRS sent out a survey with what archivists need; it seems like the stimulus funding has worked, but puts down the state of urgency
- Advocacy Toolkit Updates (Bryan)
 - Next steps - pull docs together - Bryan (Action)
 - Steve Murray, Alabama
 - State & local policymaking workshop
 - Others
 - Still have the opportunity to get the stuff ready for the next time
- SAA Annual Meeting, COPP Annual Meeting Time - July 22 12:30-2:00 pm EDT
 - 90 minutes, last ½ hour reserved for Joint COPA/COPP get-together
 - General Business meeting, introductions/farewells, reviewing legislative and public policy agendas; can we build an activity to facilitate review?
 - All appointed group meetings are open, but the Chair gives permission to speak and Nancy can deal with disruptions-- she will try to make sure someone from SAA can facilitate

- Agenda will come out ahead of meeting, goal is 2 weeks before
 - RACI charts a likelihood
- COPA Annual meeting is July 22, 3:30-5:00 pm CDT and the last ½ hour (4:30-5) is reserved for a different Joint COPA/COPP get-together.
 - We'll have different stuff to go over at each half hour, so people are encouraged to go to both
- RAAC Annual meeting also July 22.
- SAA Annual Meeting is August 2-6 2021

New Business

- **Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board**
 - The [Biden/Harris Administration nominated Gabrille Dudley](#) to be on the Board (one of four nominations... there are five seats on the Board). Her nomination was put forward by SAA.
- **Updates from other groups**
 - Council - In addition to NHPRC report, appointment of Jackie as SAA ED--
 - Jackie's First day 7/15, Nancy last day 8/13
 - Council Met 6/11 on draft budget and made virtually no changes; money in the budget for travel for advocacy needs (\$3,025) and \$1K (approx.) for advocating for archives
 - National Humanities Alliance/National Coalition for History
 - Biden/Harris did not zero out NHPRC/NEH (Huzzah!)
 - Proposal for NARA was \$20M less than the ask, but Congress is likely to restore some of that
 - Title VI and Fulbright funding went downle concerned but also
 - This budget process happens on an annual basis - usually it starts in Nov; this year it is happening later than usual.
 - SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Joint Working Group on Issues and Awareness
 - Notes from June 8 Meeting:
 - NAGARA plans on issuing a statement praising the Presidential Budget that was released recently for holding the line or modestly increasing the numbers for NARA/NHPRC, NEH, IMLS, etc. They will ask for co-signers from the other JWG members.
 - NAGARA will work on a statement about concerns re the chain of custody and provenance with public records. This stems from the people in Arizona who handed over voting records to Cyber Ninjas without due diligence re chain of custody. There is a possibility of this being a joint statement with the other JWG members.

- Cathy from RAAC talked about the logistics of joining National Coalition for History.
- CoSA is a champion of the [Educating for American Democracy](#) program.
- Archival Advocacy is on the agenda for the next meeting of the presidents of SAA/CoSA/RAAC/NAGARA with Meg Philips from NARA. This is in early July (Bryan doesn't have the exact date)
- COPA
 - Unfortunately I may not make it in time for the meeting. I've an internet outage in my area and don't want to burn up my day plan on my phone to attend. Quick update from COPA
 - Continue planning for advocacy workshop with COPP and I&A
 - Continue planning for AskAnArchivist and American Archives month this fall.
 - Continue planning for business meeting and open house for Copa on July 22 with joint meeting with COPP
 - Storytelling Workshop with Micaela Blei (Moth) has been confirmed.

Committee on Public Policy Annual Meeting (on Zoom)

July 22, 2021, 12:30 pm EDT (11:30 am CDT, 10:30 am MDT, 9:30 am MST/PDT)

Meeting Registration - <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEuf-iupzkrGdM9MwWOmd57KSC9YRTKKluH>

Members Present: Brad, Bryan, Eira, Gina, Jack, Krista, Lori, Marilyn, Rachel Seale (ex-officio, COPA vice-chair), Sam, Stephen (ex-officio, Council liaison), Vince (ex-officio, COPA chair), Virginia

Members Absent: Jess, Matthew, Nancy (ex-officio, staff liaison),

Guests: Lauren McDaniels (I&A), Dennis Riley, Katherine Barbera (COPA), Cathy Miller

Notetaker: Sam Winn

- **Welcome and introductions**

- **Update from Council**
 - Bryan's recap - noted strong DEIA focus in strategic plan, council passed a deficit budget (limited money for sponsored travel, though there is an allotment for legislative visits in Washington DC and WIPO representative). SAA's new Executive Director (Jacqueline Price Osafo) has begun her term.
 - Stephen - welcomed new cohort and congratulated Krista for vice-chair appointment. A*Census 2 (survey instrument) is slated for a September release. Council is working to mainstream DEIA and cultural competency across SAA, with guidance from the Diversity Committee and [the most recent iteration of the strategic plan](#). Council approved a salary transparency initiative, affecting the SAA job board and communication initiatives (employers will be required to include salary ranges and specifics). Council is working to develop topical meetings throughout the coming year. Also approved a deficit budget for FY22. No component group funding requests were included in the budget. [SAA's 2021 annual meeting](#) is coming up in August.

- **Welcome to new members and appreciation for the members rotating off**
 - Welcome especially to Gina, Lori, Jack, Marilyn, and Rachel (ex-officio rep from COPA)
 - Appreciation for the work of Eira, Virginia, Sam and outgoing ex-officios /SAA representatives Nancy, and Vince

- **Brief overview of work with any other sections during the SAA Annual Meetings**
 - **Local Government Records Section**
 - Ongoing work on “Archives, Advocacy, and You” document with addendum for local government advocacy and SAA Education workshops developed by COPP
 - Expected to continue well into the future
 - **Congressional Papers Section**
 - General discussion of collaborations between COPP and the section, highlighting particular challenges of acquiring/transitioning Congressional records. Colleagues on the hill are seeing more deposit agreements (in lieu of deeds of gift), so we may anticipate future concerns with controlled access, sanitization of Congressional records, etc. Campaign finance law mitigates any sanitizing influence on campaign materials, and there may be useful precedent there for preserving additional records.
 - **Intellectual Property Working Group**
 - No specific legislative concerns, though Bryan raised the CASE Act (Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement Act of 2019) ([H.R. 2426](#)) and anticipates that SAA and its allied organizations may want to monitor implementation.
 - **Additional meetings**
 - COPP representatives will be present at the COPA meeting and the Military Records Section. Future updates will be shared on the listserv and in the August minutes.

- **Go through draft revisions of the [Public Policy Agenda](#)**
 - Opened for initial review and comments.
 - See call for additional comments on listserv.
 - Goal will be to finalize this and move it to council for formal approval

- **Go through the draft revisions of the [Legislative Agenda](#) and use [RACI chart](#) to divvy up the tasks**
 - Opened for initial review and comments
 - See call for additional comments on listserv.
 - Committee members highlight (and celebrate) the addition of worker-related concerns, a new direction for COPP. For future initiatives, outgoing members recommend amplifying the concerns of municipal/state/national government workers.
 - Bryan led assignment of tasks for fall 2021 (see chart for task details).

- **Brief discussion of support for small archives (based on Lyrasis/NHRPC report)**
 - Working group put together for RACI
 - Please review ahead of next meeting - COPP and COPA have been asked to provide feedback.
 - Vince (COPA) asked to schedule a future planning meeting.

- **COPP-member input about other things we wish to accomplish in 2021-22.**
 - Continuing member recommended that COPP consider guidelines for how SAA might comment public on workforce/labor policy.
 - Also, potential updates to statements regarding transparency and availability of public records at the state/local level

- **SAA 2021 Educational Sessions to Highlight**
 - 3A (Thu Aug 5) - “Should Collections Closed under a Donor Agreement Be ‘Public Records’ under FOIA? Archivists Disagree.” [View details here](#)
 - S10 (On-demand, Q&A on Mon July 26) - “Foundations for Culturally Competent, Racially Conscious Metadata.” [View details here](#)
 - “Build a Bridge to Stand: Making the Ask Even in Uncertain Times” (Mini-workshop, Tue Aug 3) [View details here](#)

- **At 1:00 hour mark, welcome COPA colleagues for Joint Meeting (30 min).**
 - COPA will discuss planning for #AskAnArchivist Day and the planning and promotion of American Archives Month. Ongoing opportunities for collaboration on the COPA blog, Off the Record, and in the production of webinars for SAA members.