

## Metadata and Digital Object Section

Council Liaison: Meg Tuomala

Report Submitted by: Elizabeth Wilkinson

### 2020-2021 Steering Committee Roster

Position	Name	Term Start	Term End
Co-Chair	Michael Shallcross	8/14/2020	9/1/2022
Co-Chair	Elizabeth Wilkinson	10/1/2019	9/1/2021
Steering Committee Member	Randi Johnson	8/14/2020	9/1/2023
Steering Committee Member	Clayton Ruminski	8/14/2020	9/1/2023
Steering Committee Member	Rachel Searcy	10/1/2019	9/1/2022
Steering Committee Member	Angela White	8/18/2018	9/1/2021
Education Coordinator	Natalia Gutierrez-Jones	10/1/2019	9/1/2022
Social Media Coordinator	Christy Bailey-Tomecek	8/14/2020	9/1/2023
Web Liaison	Jessica Serrao	10/1/2019	9/1/2022
Council Liaison	Meg Tuomala	7/24/2019	9/1/2022

### ACTIVITIES

**Completed:** • Revision of the MDOS by-laws that were passed during the 2021 election. • Survey of the section membership in the fall of 2020. Some results included: \* Interest in skill sharing webinars, topical discussions, and a news round up. \* Desire to engage in a joint section meeting • Organized a joint section meeting with the Visual Materials section.

**Ongoing:** • Re-launch of the section newsletter. Guidelines to ensure consistency and timelines will need to be created. • Soliciting suggestions from members for programming and education needs. • Continued updating and addition to our Educational Resources page.

**New:** • In May 2021, the Steering Committee decided to participate in SAA's Early-Career Member initiative by hosting an early-career archivist/student seeking mentorship in professional service. MDOS will welcome Bailey Adolph to the Steering Committee in September. In order to advance this effort, the committee will need to offer a carefully scoped project which is supervised by an experienced member of the group. • We will be working to determine how we can best advocate for archives and archivists.

### STRATEGIC PLAN

#### Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

We will be working to determine how we can best advocate for archives and archivists in the coming year.

### **Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth**

- The MDOS Steering Committee delivered information and education via the joint annual section meeting with the Visual Materials Section. The joint annual meeting featured robust break-out room discussion with both sets of section members on such topics as challenges of remote visual metadata work during a pandemic, metadata creation collaboration with colleagues in adjacent fields, and equitable and inclusive metadata description.
- Placing a call and selecting an early career/student member to join the Steering Committee in the fall of 2021.

### **Goal 3: Advancing the Field**

- Relaunching the section newsletter in order to further engage with the membership by encouraging sharing of new initiatives and resources.

### **Goal 4: Meeting Members Needs**

The MDOS section solicited member suggestions for programming/issues to address in our fall 2020. We continue to facilitate communication via our e-list, e-newsletter, microsite, and Twitter account. The Steering Committee ensures that leaders are accessible and that their work is transparent by creating timely web content, including steering committee meeting minutes, announcements, and annual meeting details. The MDOS steering committee also created opportunities for members to participate fully in the association by offering an Early-Career Member the opportunity to volunteer to serve as a member of the Steering Committee for one year without seeking election, thereby lowering the barrier to participation in the Association.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Number of Attendees:** 78

**Summary of Meeting Activities:** MDOS and VMS each held a brief business meeting, followed by Council updates, and then held a moderated discussion of five topics, with the use of Jamboards, rotating break rooms every ten minutes, and then wrapped up the event.

**Link to Meeting Minutes:**

## **SELF-ASSESSMENT**

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

The pandemic seems to have decreased the capacity of the section at large and, occasionally, with the steering committee. We have been trying to come up with new ways to engage members, but it is sometimes hard to get responses from the section membership (even via simple surveys). We had decent attendance for the section meeting, but it was a joint meeting. In our call for presentation for the joint meeting we received zero responses which is why we went with the moderated discussion format. It may be that the pandemic has caused Zoom fatigue—effecting how much people are willing to participate remotely. We have struggled the

past few years with soliciting nominees for our elected positions. However, for the first time we did receive multiple applications for our early career/student position.

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

The email listserv and in-person meetings have been very effective in the past. I wonder how robust in-person meeting attendance will be in the future now that virtual synchronous broadcasts will be a more frequent option. We hope to engage in remote learning in the next year.

**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?**

MDOS most closely aligns with the Description section. However, metadata creation/topics closely relate as well to the following sections: Collection Management Section, Visual Materials Section, Oral History Section, Manuscript Section, Audio and Moving Image Section, Electronic Records section, Encoded Archival Standards section, Web Archiving section, and the Reference, Access, & Outreach section.

**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?**

At the core of MDOS is metadata creation that enables access, management, and preservation of digital objects. If MDOS were part of an umbrella affiliation the overarching theme would need to be description.

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

We would be open to an affiliation as long as the mission of the section was not diluted.

**QUESTIONS FOR COUNCIL**

Not at this time.