

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
August 1, 2019
Austin, Texas**

***American Archivist* Editorial Board,
May 2019 – July 2019
(Prepared by Christopher “Cal” Lee)**

I. Publication of Volume 82.1 (Spring/Summer 2019)

This issue is now available through [American Archivist Online](#) and we have distributed it in print. The eight articles in this issue make important contributions toward a robust archival enterprise. In her [presidential address](#), [Tanya Zanish-Belcher](#) discusses numerous activities of SAA during her term related to advocacy, diversity, the SAA Foundation, membership, and professional development. Her article can serve not only as a cause for celebration of professional progress, but also as a catalyst for further expansion and engagement.

A vital component of any profession's viability is education. In “[One Size Does Not Fit All: Graduate Archival Education in the Twenty-First Century](#),” Edward Benoit and Donald Force analyzed archival education curricula and the courses offered in the previous three years to determine if and how the courses were applying elements of SAA’s Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies (GPAS). They also conducted a survey to elicit the perspectives of program directors on the usefulness and relevance of the GPAS. Based on the findings, the authors propose recommendations for “steering the ongoing archival education conversation in a more productive direction.”

Another contribution related to profession-level issues is “[The Archival Mystique: Women Archivists Are Professional Archivists](#)” by Alexandra Orchard, Kristen Chinery, Alison Stankrauff, and Leslie Van Veen McRoberts, who summarize what they call the “archival mystique,” which is “the duality of being a demographically female-dominated profession while women archivists still face traditional gender limitations.” The authors discuss leadership and professional development issues, the historical treatment of women within the profession, and issues of professional identity. To thrive into the future, it will be essential for the archival professional to recognize and confront the issues raised in this article.

Youngok Choi and Emily Nilson [conducted a survey to investigate the status of Catholic archives](#). The results indicate shortages of staff, financial resources, and information technology

investment. Choi and Nilson provide recommendations related to collaboration, leadership, and ongoing discussions among Catholic archivists.

Human documentary traces can take many different forms, and archival robustness requires a repertoire of skills and procedures to address the variety of materials. In [“Teachers' Tales Go Online: Digitizing Oral Histories on Cassettes,”](#) Alice Pearman provides a case study of a pilot digitization project for twenty-one oral history cassettes and associated transcripts at the Lamson Library at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The materials document “personal experiences of the development of K–12 education in New Hampshire.” Pearman discusses scoping of the project, legal and ethical considerations, the digitization process, metadata, incorporation into the institution's collection management system (CMS), digital preservation considerations, and challenges faced within the project.

In recent years, the modalities through which archivists can engage with others have dramatically increased. A variety of information and communication technologies (ICTs) not only offer new types of direct interaction but can also help to steer individuals into more traditional channels of interaction. A robust strategy is one that does not excessively privilege one modality at the expense of all others. Scott Pitol reports on an Archival Research Preparation Online (ARPO) Index <https://americanarchivist.org/doi/abs/10.17723/0360-9081-82.1.137>, which addresses website components that can enable researchers to prepare for on-site visits to archives. He describes the index's nine components and how archivists can use the index to evaluate a website. After applying the ARPO Index, institutions can use the results to justify and guide potential redesign of their websites.

Another important modality of interaction—especially for college and university archives—is research embedded within student coursework. Derek Webb describes a [sequential multicourse collaborative research project in upper-level history courses](#) at the Mississippi University for Women (MUW). Students investigated and documented the history of MUW's desegregation and racial integration, while also generating materials for the archives. This project demonstrates how sequential multicourse collaborative research projects can advance both pedagogical and collection-building goals.

Archival robustness requires not only dedicated individuals, well-run organizations, and thriving professional associations, but also attention to the larger environment in which archives are embedded. Keith Pendergrass, Walker Sampson, Tim Walsh, and Laura Alagna make a case for [“environmentally sustainable digital preservation,”](#) which “requires critically examining the motivations and assumptions that shape current practice.” They argue for a “paradigm shift in digital preservation practice in the areas of appraisal, permanence, and availability.” This article introduces an important conversation to *American Archivist*. It is my hope that it will instigate further submissions that elaborate, test, and critique the authors' questions and claims.

This issue concludes with eleven reviews of publications (books and reports) addressing a wide range of issues that should be of interest to readers of the journal. As usual, Reviews Editor Bethany Anderson provides an [informative summary of the reviews](#) in her introduction to that section.

II. Production of Volume 82.2 (Fall/Winter 2019)

I have already accepted 7 articles for this issue. There are currently 6 in the review pipeline and 15 in the revision pipeline.

III. Theodore Calvin Pease Award

The Theodore Calvin Pease Award Committee, of which I serve as the chair, received three submissions this year. The award recognizes superior writing achievements by students of archival studies, and entries are judged on innovation, scholarship, pertinence, and clarity of writing. We selected [“Big Brother, Big Data: Digital Preservation of Big Data in Government” by Emily Larson](#), a dual Master of Archival Studies and Library and Information Studies student at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. As part of the prize, Larsen’s essay will be published in *American Archivist* (Fall/Winter 2019).

IV. Planned Annual Meeting Activities

A variety of activities are planned for the *ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2019* in Austin. These include the Editorial Board meeting on August 2; a Brown Bag Lunch discussion of a forthcoming article in *American Archivist* ([“To Every Thing there is a Season”](#) by Frank Boles) on August 4, the “Lemonade Toast to Authors” saluting contributors to the journal, reviews portal and other SAA publications in the past year on August 4; and the annual Write-Away Breakfast on August 5 to acquaint and encourage new contributors to SAA publications.

V. Journal Metrics

A. Online Traffic

CrossRef Report on the number of Digital Object Identifier resolutions for the preceding twelve months (as of July 4, 2019). These statistics give an indication of the traffic generated by users clicking DOIs for articles in the journal. This month they accounted for 108,138,879 resolutions.

Months	2019-06	2019-05	2019-04	2019-03	2019-02	2019-01	2018-12	2018-11	2018-10	2018-09	2018-08	2018-07	2018-06
Resolution Attempts	5,324	2,906	3,636	5,512	3,655	3,892	3,201	3,264	3,090	4,449	5,392	6,813	3,259
Resolution Successes	5,233	2,875	3,597	5,500	3,628	3,827	3,177	3,247	3,065	4,422	5,345	6,783	2,957
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Total Attempts for all members	331,577,082	395,623,227	369,900,409	436,382,337	299,293,001	298,166,923	319,180,558	352,053,795	447,061,465	343,575,811	355,450,288	291,322,494	247,013,737

Top 10 DOIs	Resolutions to DOI
10.17723/AARC.68.2.C741823776K65863 : “More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing” Mark Greene, Dennis Meissner (Fall/Winter 2005)	74
10.17723/AARC.70.2.U327764V1036756Q : “Concepts of Record (1): Evidence, Information, and Persistent Representations” Geoffrey Yeo (Fall/Winter 2007)	63
10.17723/0360-9081.79.1.56 : “‘To Suddenly Discover Yourself Existing’: Uncovering the Impact of Community Archives” Michelle Caswell, Marika Cifor, Mario Ramirez (Spring/Summer 2016)	51
10.17723/0360-9081-81.2.460 : “Cultural Competency: A Framework for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Archival Profession in the United States” Ellen Engseth (Fall/Winter 2018)	50
10.17723/AARC.63.1.H554377531233L05 : “We Are What We Collect, We Collect What We Are: Archives and the Construction of Identity” Elisabeth Kaplan (Spring/Summer 2000)	37
10.17723/AARC.69.1.R0P75N2084055418 : Presidential Address “Embracing the Power of Archives” Randall Jimerson (Spring Summer 2006)	33
10.17723/AARC.77.1.M49R46526847G587 : “Data Curation and the University Archives” Daniel Noonan and Tamar Chute	31
10.17723/AARC.66.1.L375UJ047224737N : ” Where Is the List with All the Names? Information-Seeking Behavior of Genealogists” Wendy Duff, Catherine Johnson (Spring/Summer 2003)	30
10.17723/AARC.74.1.4233NV6NV6428521 : “Opening Archives: Respectful Repatriation” Kimberly Christen (Spring/Summer 2011)	26
10.17723/AARC.71.1.Y70837374478T146 : “Archivists' Views of User-based Evaluation: Benefits, Barriers, and Requirements” Wendy Duff, Jean Dryden, Carrie Limkilde, Joan Cherry, Ellie Bogomazova (Spring/Summer 2008)	25
Publication Title	Total Resolutions
The American Archivist	5,233

These numbers give an indication of the use of *American Archivist* DOIs and the traffic coming to americanarchivist.org site from users clicking DOIs. The DOI links are largely from links in other publishers' journal references to our articles, but they are also from DOI links in secondary databases, links from libraries using DOIs, and even DOIs in used in print versions. When a researcher clicks on a DOI link for an article, which counts as one DOI resolution. A DOI resolution is when a DOI is "clicked."

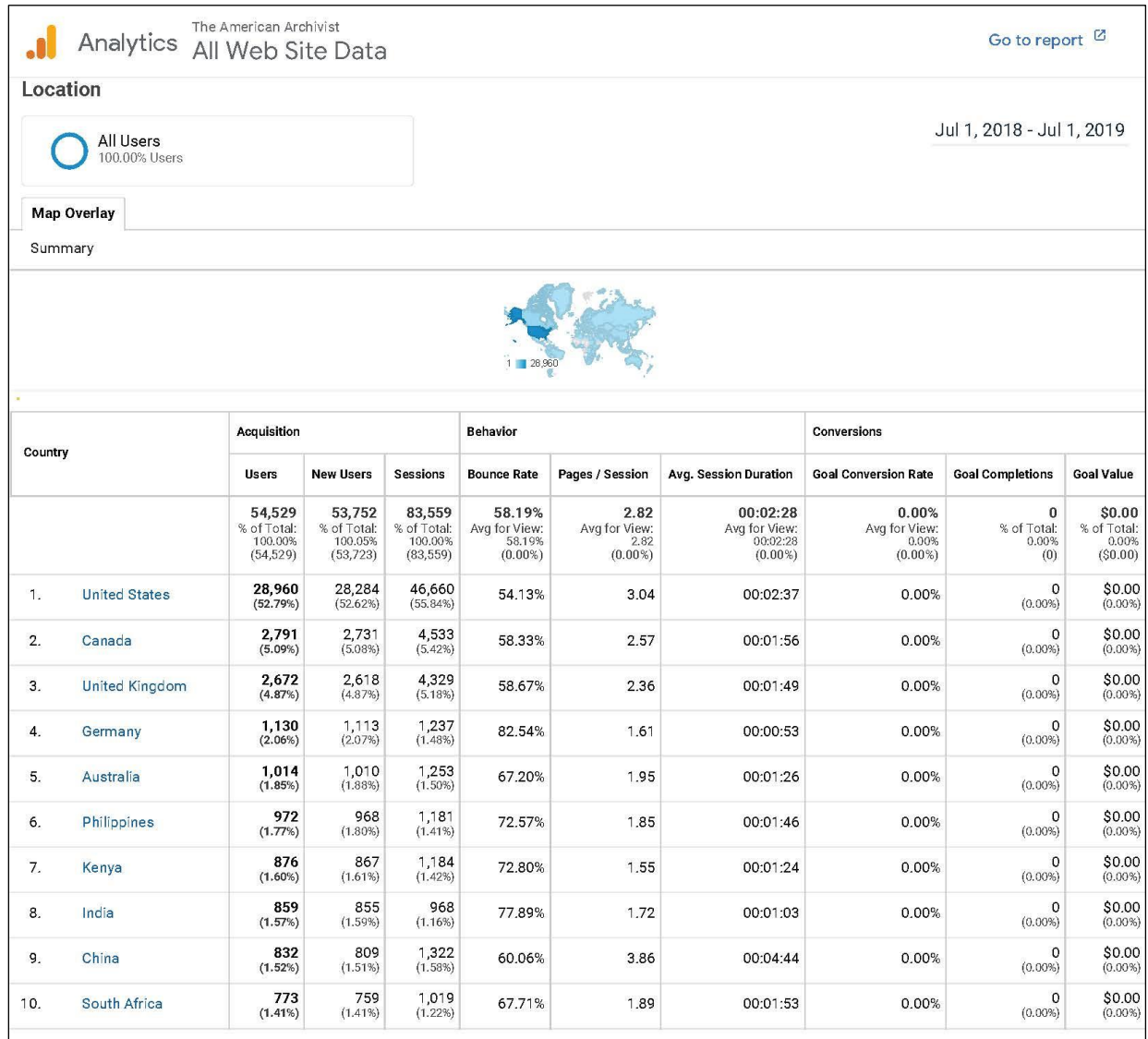
B. Audience Overview

Web traffic over time is consistent with traffic experienced on other parts of SAA’s website. High points in September/October and January/February point to the start of the school semesters. March was the release of the Spring/Summer 2019 issue.



C. Where Users Come From

Traffic from other countries is perhaps greater than anticipated with the U.S. accounting for 52.79% of users. The journal is read on 5 continents!



D. Page Data

Not surprisingly, more recent issues garner the most views: see lines 4-5 (volume 81, 2018) and lines 8-9 (volume 80, 2017). Line 17 is the latest issue (volume 82, number 1, spring/summer 2019) and is just gaining traction.

