

**Society of American Archivists**  
**American Archivist Editorial Board**  
**Virtual Meeting | January 20, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Amy Cooper Cary (American Archivist Editor and Editorial Board Chair), Rose Buchanan and Stephanie Luke (Reviews Editors), Sumayya Ahmed, Shirley Franco, Rebecca Hankins, Katharina Hering, Eric Hung, Jessica Lacher-Feldman, María Matienzo, Marlee Newman, and Sylvia Welsh; Bree'ya Brown (early-career member), and Amanda Greenwood (early-career member); ex officio member Stacie Williams; and SAA staff Abigail Christian, and Hannah Stryker.

**Unable to attend:** Joyce Gabiola (Council Liaison); Jacqualine Price Osafo.

**I. WELCOME**

- A. Amy Cooper Cary welcomed new SAA staff member Hannah Stryker. As the Editorial and Program Coordinator, she has helped with the publication of Jan/Feb 2023 issue of *Archival Outlook*, and she is now working on *American Archivist* 86.1.

**II. CONTENT UPDATE**

**A. Issue 85.2 came out on December 28!**

- People seem to be responding well to the diversity of content in this issue.

**B. Issue 86.1**

- Cooper Cary briefly described the different pieces to be included in 86.1: "there is something for everyone here." She is still accepting content for this issue.

**C. A\*CENSUS II**

- A\*CENSUS II has been out in [PDF form](#), so that members already have access to it. The first 70 pages of the general All Archivists Survey will be published in 86.1. The Archives Administrators Survey will be released in 86.2. The goal of including A\*CENSUS II in *American Archivist* is to establish AA as a "journal of records."
- As we progress through our dedicated section for this, Cooper Cary hopes to encourage people to do a deep dive of DEI by comparing the status of the archives profession in 2005 to today. "With A\*CENSUS II, we wanted to see how far we have come or haven't come as a profession."
- Branching off A\*CENSUS II, the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) is having a panel titled "Why Do I Stay?-- The DEI Perspective" on Mon, Feb 20, 2023, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM CST. The panel will discuss why librarians might stay in their field, including what they feel has changed in the profession over the years in terms of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and what proactive steps are needed for the future. [Register here.](#)
- [New England Archivists Respond to A\\*Census II](#)

**To Do #1 (Cooper Cary):** Develop a call for submissions about A\*CENSUS II.

**D. Reviews Editors – Rose Buchanan and Stephanie Luke**

- Since January 2022, the Reviews Portal has published 14 reviews. 8 reviews were published in *American Archivist*: 3 in 85.1 and 5 in 85.2. Many reviews focused on digital projects and pop culture. The Reviews Editors have 7 reviews in the pipeline for 86.1, with topics including the use of primary sources in classroom, decolonization, etc.
- [The Intergenerational Conversations series](#) was launched on the Reviews Portal on January 26. The inaugural year of the series looks at the work of former SAA President John Fleckner whose writings have shaped archival practice. The Reviews Editors hope to release content once a month. Please share this with all your communities!
- *Archives in Context* launched Season 7 with two new episodes, [Archivists Connect at ARCHIVES\\*RECORDS 2022](#) and [a discussion with Cheryl Oestreicher](#), author of [Reference and Access for Archives and Manuscripts](#), are available to listen to on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and WordPress.

**E. Middle Eastern and North African Archives Special Section – Sumayya Ahmed and Rebecca Hankins**

- The February 1 deadline for submissions is coming up. Cooper Cary will assign submissions to Ahmed and Hankins through Allen Press. The editors may extend deadline to February 15, with the end of February at the latest. Ahmed is set to circle back with those interested to make sure they meet the deadline.
- The Special Section will be open access so that those internationally can read it.

**To Do #2 (Cooper Cary, Christian, Ahmed, Hankins, and Stryker):** The group will meet to discuss next steps and become familiarized with Editorial Manager as they begin Special Section of 86.2.

**III. READERSHIP SURVEY FEEDBACK – COOPER CARY**

**A. The purpose of the *American Archivist* Readership Survey is to understand how people are interacting with the journal in its digital-only format.**

- The Board is cognizant of the fact that most people might not read a 400-page PDF in full as most Board members expressed that they normally partake in discovery reading when it comes to the digital format.
- The Board found Question 1 of the survey to be sufficient.
- The Board concluded that an “other” option should be added to Question 2. Question 2 and 3 are both distinct and should remain on the survey.
- Question 4 can be broadened by removing the word “section” from the question. “How do you read reviews?” is sufficient.
- “I bookmark articles to read later” is a choice that can be added to Question 5.
- Questions 6 and 7 will need to be revised as readers may not think about *American Archivist* in sections, but rather as a body of work. It was suggested that the question be changed to: “what content do you read the most?” or: “what brings you to *American Archivist* the most?” If readers come from an aggregated search, they may not know which section the article belongs to.
- Question 8 was created to know readers’ thoughts on continuous publishing. One volume of AA would be published each year under a rolling publishing model.

- Add any remaining questions to the Editorial Board listserv about the readership survey!

**To Do #3 (Cooper Cary, Christian, Greenwood, Matienzo, and Stryker):** The group will meet February 2 to revise the readership survey. Questions 5, 6, and 7 will be looked at with particular care. They hope to put out a second draft ASAP.

#### **IV. Reports to Council**

- A. [American Archivist Editor](#)
- B. [Publications Program](#)

#### **V. PREVIOUS TO-DO'S**

**TO DO #4 (Amy Cooper Cary):** Finalize language for opt-in on reviewer identity in Editorial Manager to share with the Board; send to SAA staff for implementation.

**TO DO #5 (Cooper Cary, Hering, Hung, Lacher-Feldman, and Matienzo):** Cooper Cary will connect with members to create a bibliography about what's been written about the journal's and SAA's history. [Goal for 86:2]

**TO DO #6 (Cooper Cary):** Review formatting of the rubric so that visual clues encourage explanation rather than brief comments and write an introduction for the rubric which stresses the purpose and value of the responses, especially for reviewers not on the Board. Board members can send examples of other good rubrics or suggestions for additional/revised questions to Cooper Cary.