

## American Archivist Reviews Section

### Report to the Editorial Board

Prepared by Bethany Anderson

August 15, 2018

## Summary

Over the past year, I have maintained the number of reviews in the Reviews Section, and have encouraged more reviews of open access publications/scholarship and reports. Eleven reviews were published in 81:1, the Spring/Summer 2018 issue, and eleven reviews and one review essay are slated to be published in 81:2, the Fall/Winter 2018 issue.

Work on the joint *American Archivist* and Publications Board podcast has progressed since the last report to the board in February 2018. We have recorded two interviews thus far, and have two more interviews scheduled. SAA will be publicizing the podcast at the 2018 annual meeting and the podcast team looks forward to officially launching the podcast later this fall.

## Reviews

Eleven reviews were published in issue 81:1, Spring/Summer 2018:

- ***The Science of Managing Our Digital Stuff***, reviewed by Dorothy Waugh
- ***Life on Ice: A History of New Uses for Cold Blood***, reviewed by Anne-Flore Laloë
- ***Stirrings in the Archives: Order from Disorder***, reviewed by Matthew Kirschenbaum
- ***Diversity, Dialogue and Sharing: Online Resources for a More Resourceful World***, reviewed by J.J. Ghaddar
- ***Research in the Archival Multiverse***, reviewed by Geoffrey Yeo
- ***North of Dixie: Civil Rights Photography Beyond the South***, reviewed by Eden Orelove
- ***Appraisal and Acquisition Strategies***, reviewed by Adrien Hilton
- ***Cruising the Library: Perversities in the Organization of Knowledge***, reviewed by Pamela Pierce
- ***Participatory Heritage***, reviewed by Rory Grennan
- ***Managing Local Government Archives***, reviewed by Dennis Riley
- ***The Data Librarian's Handbook***, reviewed by Kayla Siddell

Twelve reviews (including one review essay) are in process for issue 81:2, Fall/Winter 2018:

- **Review Essay: "DIY Music Archiving"** (including reviews of *Community Custodians of Popular Music's Past: A DIY Approach to Heritage*; *Preserving Popular Music Heritage: Do-it-Yourself, Do-it-Together*; and *Music Preservation and Archiving Today*), reviewed by Adriana Cuervo
- ***Agents of Empire: How E.L. Mitchell's Photographs Shaped Australia***, reviewed by Ricky Punzalan
- ***Keepers of Our Digital Future: An Assessment of the National Digital Stewardship Residencies, 2013-2016***, reviewed by Edith Halvarsson
- ***Feminists Among Us: Resistance and Advocacy in Library Leadership***, reviewed by Stacie Williams
- ***Digital Preservation Metadata for Practitioners: Implementing PREMIS***, reviewed by Carly Dearborn
- ***Environmental Information: Research, Access, and Environmental Decisionmaking***, reviewed by Eira Tansey
- ***Displaced Archives***, reviewed by Chris Laico
- ***Engaging with Records and Archives: Histories and Theories***, reviewed by Amy Cooper Cary
- ***Well, What Came Next? Selections from ArchivesNext, 2007-2017***, reviewed by Marcella Huggard
- ***Future-Proofing the News: Preserving the First Draft of History***, reviewed by Julie Rogers
- ***The Silence of the Archive***, reviewed by Charlotte Kostelic
- ***Moving Image and Sound Collections for Archivists***, reviewed by Andy Uhrich

Several reviews are in process for issue 82:1. Anticipated reviews for this issue include: *Science in the Archives: Pasts, Presents, Futures* (University of Chicago, 2017); *Photography and Other Media in the Nineteenth Century* (Penn State University, 2018); *Oral History and Education: Theories, Dilemmas, and Practices* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017); *The Politics of Theory and the Practice of Critical Librarianship* (Library Juice Press, 2018); and *The Eugenic Rubicon: California's Sterilization Stories* (Scalar, 2017); among others.

## Highlights

### Podcast

Since the February 2018 Editorial Board meeting in Chicago, Gloria Gonzalez and I have begun working with Publications Board members Nicole Milano and Colleen McFarland Rademaker, Ashley Levine from Artifex Press, and Teresa Brinati and Matt Black from SAA to launch the “Archives in Context” podcast. We revised the title of the podcast slightly so that it would be clear to a non-archival audience that this is a podcast about archives (revised from “<in-context>” to “Archives in Context”). We are grateful to Teresa for working with us and a designer to create a logo for the podcast, which will be used for iTunes and the podcast website (below):



We have recorded two interviews so far: Nicole Milano and Ashley Levine interviewed Kären Mason for *Perspectives on Women’s Archives* (SAA, 2013), and I interviewed Michelle Caswell for *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, and Photographic Record in Cambodia* (University of Wisconsin, 2014). An interview with Cal Lee is scheduled for September and another interview with Courtney Dean on *Acid Free* later this fall. Once we have at least three interviews recorded, we plan to officially launch the podcast this fall.

### Expansion of Reviews

The Reviews Section has been expanded in several ways, including by number, types of publications reviewed, and by including more international reviewers. At the last editorial board meeting, we discussed whether to review exhibitions; but, given some of the logistical

issues of reviewing physical exhibits in the journal which board members raised, it was decided to explore reviewing exhibits on the Reviews Portal (and we currently have one review of an exhibit tentatively scheduled). However, digital publications/exhibits will be reviewed both in the journal and on the Reviews Portal (e.g., a review of a Scalar publication is in process for the Reviews Section). I have also started to include an introduction to the Reviews Section; the first one was published in issue 81:1.

I am still hoping to include reviews of publications in languages other than English. My main goal is to continue making the Reviews Section an inclusive space that highlights and evaluates the breadth of the archival literature.

### Reviews Portal

See Gloria Gonzalez's report (pages 5-10). Gloria has launched a new series focused on archives and pop culture on the Reviews Portal. She has also continued efforts to recruit more students and new professionals as reviewers.

## Goals and Discussion for Board

- Continue to occasionally include more review essays
- Explore including reviews of older, classic publications in the archival literature that bring forward new perspectives (e.g., re-reviewing *Archives Power* during its 10-year anniversary in 2019, perhaps in coordination with interviewing him on the book for the podcast)
- Continue to include more reviews of publications published through various digital open-access platforms
- Include reviews of publications in other languages
- Consider recruiting a few more editors and/or recruit editors-at-large for the Reviews Portal

# *The American Archivist* Reviews Portal August 2018 Update

Prepared by Gloria Gonzalez

## Table of Contents

1. [Goals for 2018](#)
2. [Podcast](#)
3. [Overview of Reviews Since February Update](#)
4. [Increasing Outreach](#)
  - a. [Call for Reviewers](#)
5. [Statistics](#)
  - a. [Annual Visitors and Visits](#)
  - b. [Average Views Per Day by Month and Year](#)
  - c. [All Time Views by Month and Year](#)
  - d. [2018 Visitors by Top 20 Countries](#)

## Goals for 2018

Our goals for 2018 are to **become a multimedia platform** by launching a new podcast, **increase outreach** by creating a repeatable reviewer recruitment campaign with documentation, and use the website stats from 2017 to **outline strategies for increasing new site visitors and visits**.

## Podcast

The SAA Publications and The American Archivist editorial boards are jointly launching a podcast that highlights the archival literature and technologies, and the authors and creators behind them. So far the team has recorded interviews with Kären Mason, Curator at the Iowa Women's Archives about "One Book, One Profession" publication, *Perspectives on Women's Archives* (SAA, 2013) as well as Michelle Caswell on *Archiving the Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, and the Photographic Record in Cambodia*. We're also working with composer Adam Fligsten on the theme music. The podcast is being promoted at SAA, and scheduled to launch in September 2018. The team is also scheduling the following interviews for the first season:

- Cal Lee, incoming editor of The American Archivist, on his future plans for the journal
- Courtney Dean, Acid Free, the Los Angeles Archives Collective's Magazine
- Rand Jimerson, Archives Power (SAA, 2009)
- Anthony Cocciolo, Moving Image and Sound Collections for Archivists (SAA, 2017)

## Overview of Reviews Since February Update

Since *The American Archivist* Editorial Board met in Chicago in February 2018, three reviews were posted to the portal. Two reviews are currently in process and we are also seeking reviewers for four specific resources, which described in the section on increasing outreach below. Typically, the reviews on the portal focus on technology in archives, digital projects, and tools that support archives access and description. To this end, Nora Dolliver, Archives Assistant at the Special Collections Research Center at the University of Michigan Library, published a review of [The Prague Spring Archive](#), "a collaborative effort among librarian for European Studies Ian Goodale, the LBJ Presidential Library, and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at UT-Austin" that launched in 2017. Additionally, the Jefferson Quotes and Family Letters Project at Monticello is being reviewed by Rivi Feinsilber, a graduate student at Simmons College. Rivi's review is scheduled to be published on Tuesday, August 22, 2018.

To supplement these reviews and increase readership, we added to this scope by partnering with Samantha Cross, the Assistant Archivist for CallisonRTKL in Seattle, to launch a new series to examine how archives and archivists are depicted in pop culture. So far in the *Pop Culture and Archives Series*, Samantha focuses on archives and Star Wars in [Page Turners, They Are Not: the Last Jedi and the Archives](#) and archives and RPGs in [Roll Initiative: RPGs and the Archives](#). The series received positive feedback from readers and both posts hit a record number of views for the portal with 1,229 and 856 unique visits respectively.

## Increasing Outreach

We are currently seeking reviewers for the following resources:

- [The HistoryMakers Digital Archive](#)
- [Chicana Por Mi Raza](#)
- [Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive](#)
- [The Syrian Archive](#)

Using feedback from the Editorial Board meeting in February 2018, we updated the call for reviewers (new version below). We sent the new call out to the Archival Educators List, UNC Lists, UT Austin Insider List, UT Austin SAA-UT List, the iSchool at Illinois, the UCLA Student Listserv, the Pitt Student Listservs, and the Michigan Student Listservs. Gloria also worked with Bethany and Abigail to publish a call for reviewers in [the March / April 2018 issue of Archival Outlook](#). We also plan to publish the call for reviewers again in *Archival Outlook* later this year and send the announcement to student listservs again as the fall quarter begins. Bethany and Gloria are looking into new outreach models to increase the number of submissions, and one consideration is adapting a multi-editor approach, inspired by the team that maintains ALA Association of College and Research Libraries' [DH+Lib blog](#).

# Call for Reviewers

## Reviewers Wanted

Are you interested in writing a review for *The American Archivist* Reviews Portal? We need reviewers to assess digital collections and exhibits, as well as digital tools, platforms, and other resources that archivists use. We strongly encourage reviews from new professionals and students. Our editors are available to help writers throughout the entire review process.

Reviews of software, websites, or other digital tools and resources should be 500 to 750 words. Microreviews of monographs, journal articles, blogs or apps should be 100 to 200 words. Guidelines for writing reviews are available on the Reviews Portal. Reviewers can select a resource or work with the reviews coordinator to choose a resource.

If you are interested in authoring a review, or have any questions, please contact the Reviews Portal Coordinator, Gloria Gonzalez ([gloria@zepheira.com](mailto:gloria@zepheira.com)).

## Check out *The American Archivist* Reviews Portal

The American Archivist Reviews Portal complements the journal's reviews as a space for evaluations of software, tools, digital projects, services, websites, and resources that archivists create and use. Visit the Reviews Portal to learn how these resources are used for the preservation and stewardship of digital archival material, as well as generating greater engagement with users.

Visit the portal at <https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/>.

# Statistics

- So far in 2018, the number of unique visitors to the site increased 14.30% and number of visits increased 0.43% compared to 2017.
- So far in 2018, people visited the site from 80 countries and we've seen an increase in readership in the US, Canada, Brazil, Germany, Japan, Spain, France, South Korea, Poland, Italy, Egypt, New Zealand, and Costa Rica.
- So far in 2018, there has been a slight decline in readers located in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia.
- In 2017, people visited the site from 79 countries.



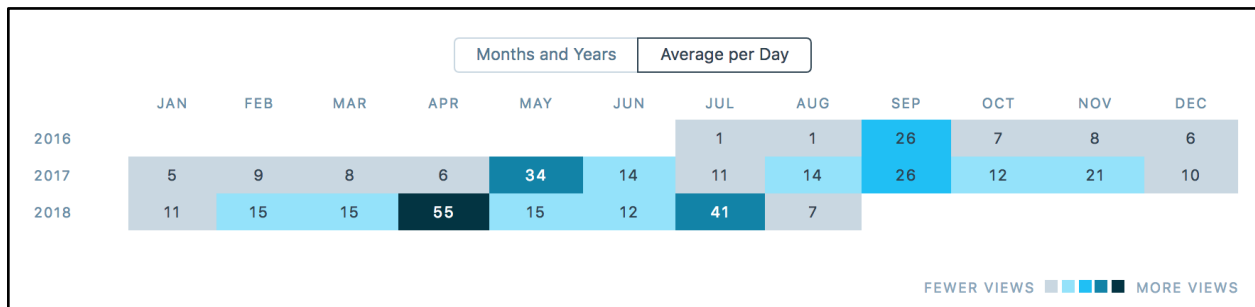
- So far in 2018, the SAA Blogs resource was viewed 68 times compared to 363 times in 2017.
- The top 3 most popular content in 2018:
  - *Page Turners, They Are Not: The Last Jedi and the Archives* - 1,229 unique visits
  - *Roll Initiative: RPGs and the Archives* - 865 unique visits
  - *Omeka* - 174 unique visits
- The top 3 most popular content in 2017:
  - *The Activists' Guide to Archiving Video* - 424 unique visits
  - Blogs page that lists all SAA blogs in one place - 363 unique visits
  - *Digitizing Orphan Works* - 299 visits
- The most popular time on average for readers is on Wednesday afternoons at 4 pm Pacific Time / 6 pm Central Time / 7 pm Eastern Time so we are going to schedule new posts to be published on Tuesdays.

### Annual Visitors and Visits

Date	Annual Unique Visitors	Visits
August 7, 2018	2,941	5,182
February 7, 2018	218	448
August 7, 2017	2,573	5,160

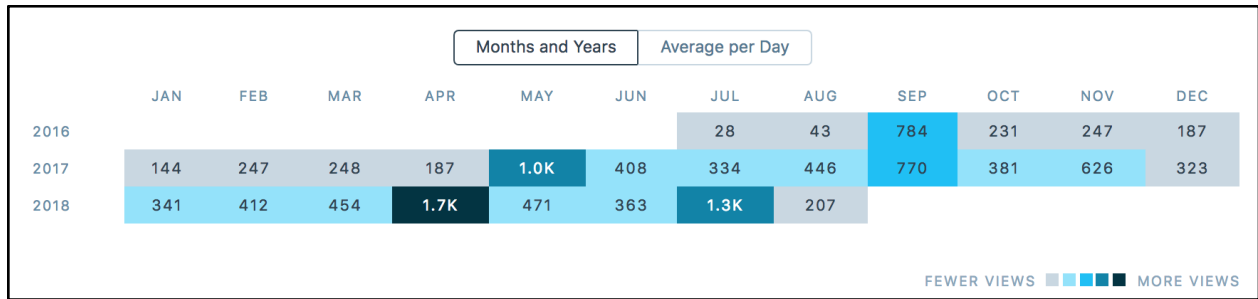
Data Captured on August 7, 2018

### Average Views Per Day by Month and Year



Data Captured on August 7, 2018

## All Time Views by Month and Year



Data Captured on August 7, 2018

## 2018 Visitors by Top 20 Countries

Rank	Country	Visitors	Rank	Country	Visitors
1	United States	4,025	11	Italy	36
2	Canada	189	12	Brazil	30
3	United Kingdom	70	13	Russia	28
4	Germany	59	14	Portugal	26
5	Japan	58	15	Poland	25
6	South Korea	57	16	China	24
7	Australia	50	17	New Zealand	22
8	Spain	45	18	South Africa	22
9	France	45	19	Ireland	20
10	Costa Rica	39	20	Egypt	18

Data Captured on August 7, 2018