

American Archivist Reviews Section

Report to the Editorial Board

Prepared by Bethany Anderson, Reviews Editor

August 2, 2019

Summary

Over the past year, I have maintained the number of reviews in the Reviews Section and have continued to encourage more reviews of open access publications/scholarship and reports. Eleven reviews and one review essay were published in 81:2, the Fall/Winter 2018 issue, and eleven reviews were published in 82:1, the Spring/Summer 2019 issue.

Work on the joint *American Archivist* and Publications Board podcast *Archives in Context* has progressed, and season 1 of the podcast was released in January 2019. Season 2 is currently in progress and is slated to be released September 2019. The podcast team has also grown: two members from the Committee on Public Awareness (COPA) joined the podcast team as co-hosts.

The Reviews Portal has continued to publish reviews of archival resources and technologies and reviews of archives and archivists in pop culture. The Reviews Portal added two editors-at-large in May 2019, who will write reviews for the portal and help recruit reviewers.

Recent Reviews

Twelve reviews (including one review essay) were published in 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

Eleven reviews were published in issue 82:1, Spring/Summer 2019:

- ***Photography and Other Media in the Nineteenth Century***, review by Clayton Lewis
- ***The Future of Email Archives: A Report from the Task Force on Technical Approaches for Email Archives***, reviewed by Kelsey O'Connell
- ***The Politics of Theory and the Practice of Critical Librarianship***, review by Anna Trammell
- ***Records, Information and Data: Exploring the Role of Record-Keeping in an Information Culture***, reviewed by Juan Ilerbaig
- ***The Eugenic Rubicon: California's Sterilization Stories***, reviewed by Maija Anderson
- ***Recordkeeping Informatics for a Networked Age***, reviewed by Sarah R. Demb
- ***Albrecht Dürer: Documentary Biography***, reviewed by Jeffrey Mifflin
- ***Science in the Archives: Pasts, Presents, Futures***, reviewed by Trevor Owens
- ***Archives and Information in the Early Modern World***, reviewed by Eric C. Stoykovich
- ***Ethics for Records and Information Management***, reviewed by Ryan Speer
- ***The No-Nonsense Guide to Born-Digital Content***, reviewed by Blake Graham

Several reviews are in process for issue 82:2. Anticipated reviews for this issue include: *Archival Futures*, edited by Caroline Brown (Facet Publishing, 2018); *The Theory and Craft of Digital Preservation*, by Trevor Owens (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018); *Bodies of Information: Intersectional Feminism and Digital Humanities*, edited by Elizabeth Losh and Jacqueline Wernimont (University of Minnesota Press, 2019); *Archival Afterlives: Life, Death, and Knowledge-Making in Early Modern British Scientific and Medical Archives*, edited by Vera Keller, Anna Marie Roos, and Elizabeth Yale (Brill, 2018); among others.

Highlights and Updates

Podcast

The *Archives in Context* podcast team released season 1 in January 2019, available here: <https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/>. The podcast episodes are also available through iTunes, Spotify, and Google Play. Much gratitude goes to Teresa Brinati and Abigail Christian for launching the site and publicizing season 1.

Chris Burns and Anna Trammell from the Committee on Public Awareness (COPA) joined the podcast team as co-hosts. The team is working on season 2, which includes interviews with Teresa Brinati, Laura Millar, Margot Note, and Kathleen Roe, among others.

Reviews of Publications in Languages other than English

I am still hoping to include reviews of publications in languages other than English. I have reached out to a colleague in Germany to inquire about having a book reviewed on literary archives. However, I would like to recruit reviewers outside of North American and Western Europe. 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

Gloria Gonzalez has continued to publish reviews on archives and pop culture on the Reviews Portal, along with reviews of archival resources and technologies. We recruited two editors-at-large for the Reviews Portal in May 2019: Becky Briggs Becker, University Archives Assistant at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and Samantha Cross, Archivist for CallisonRTKL, Inc. We are grateful to Karen Trivette for collaborating with us on the interviews and selection of the editors-at-large.

Since the last SAA annual meeting, seven reviews have been published on the Reviews Portal. For 2019 so far, we have received 4,680 views and 2,765 visitors; in comparison, in 2018 the portal had 7,391 views and 4,159 visitors. See Gloria's report (pages 4-10) for more details.

Goals and Discussion for Board

- Include more suggestions for podcast interviews from the editorial board
- Continue to include more reviews of publications published through various digital open-access platforms
- Include reviews of publications in other languages

***American Archivist* Reviews Portal**

August 2019 Update

Gloria Gonzalez, Reviews Portal Coordinator

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Goal for 2019

Our goal for 2019 is to **grow the portal by recruiting two editors-at-large**. To this end, we interviewed a series of candidates and brought on Becky Briggs Becker and Samantha Cross to help recruit reviewers and create content for the Reviews Portal. We're looking forward to working with Samantha and Becky to expand readership and increase the number and quality of website visits.

Overview of 2019 Reviews

Published

- [Trello](#), reviewed by Becky Briggs Becker, Editor-at-Large
- [Homosaurus and the Digital Transgender Archive](#), reviewed by Brian Watson, Archivist-Historian, and Researcher at the Kinsey Institute Library
- [Still So Much To Learn: Star Trek and the Archives](#), reviewed by Samantha Cross, Editor-at-Large

In-Progress











- Syrian Archive by Laila Hussein Moustafa
- Tropy by Julie Botnick

Statistics

- The most popular day for visitors is Wednesday (23% of views)
- The most popular time of day is 3 PM ET (10% of views)
- This is only 6 hours earlier than our most popular time last year, so we will continue to post on Tuesdays.
- So far in 2019, the number of unique visitors to the site decreased by 155 unique visitors compared to 2018.

- So far in 2019, people visited the site from 85 countries and we've seen an increase in readership in the United States, up over 30% compared to 2018. In 2018, visitors came from 81 countries.
- The top 3 most popular content in 2019:
 - *They're Digging in the Wrong Place: The Influence of Indiana Jones on the Archives* - 766 unique visits
 - *Still So Much to Learn: Star Trek and the Archives* - 512 unique visits
 - *Homosaurus and the Digital Transgender Archive* - 254 unique visits
- 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:
 - *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

Readership by Country

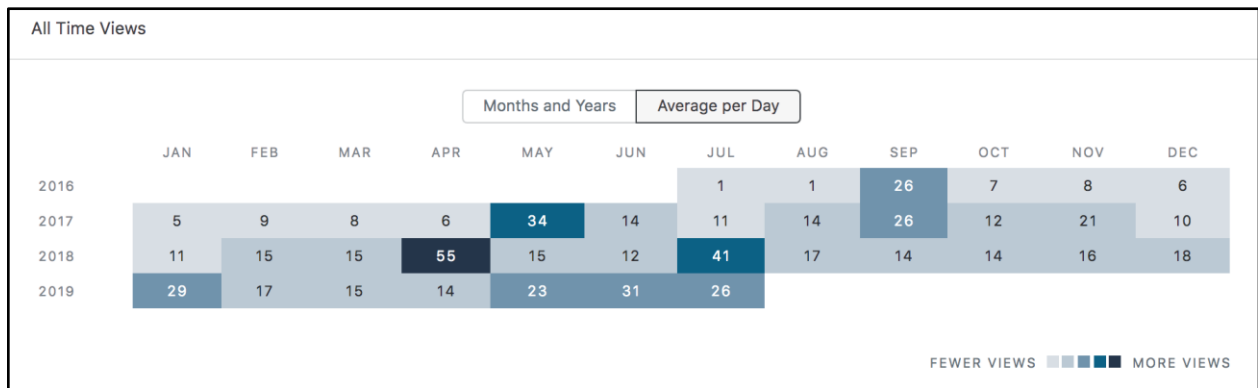
Country	Views
 United States	3,619
 Canada	158
 United Kingdom	73
 Spain	56
 China	52
 Australia	46
 India	36
 Brazil	35
 Germany	33
 Netherlands	31

Annual Visitors and Visits

Date	Annual Unique Visitors	Visits
July 30, 2019	2,786	4,683
August 7, 2018	2,941	5,182
August 7, 2017	2,573	5,160

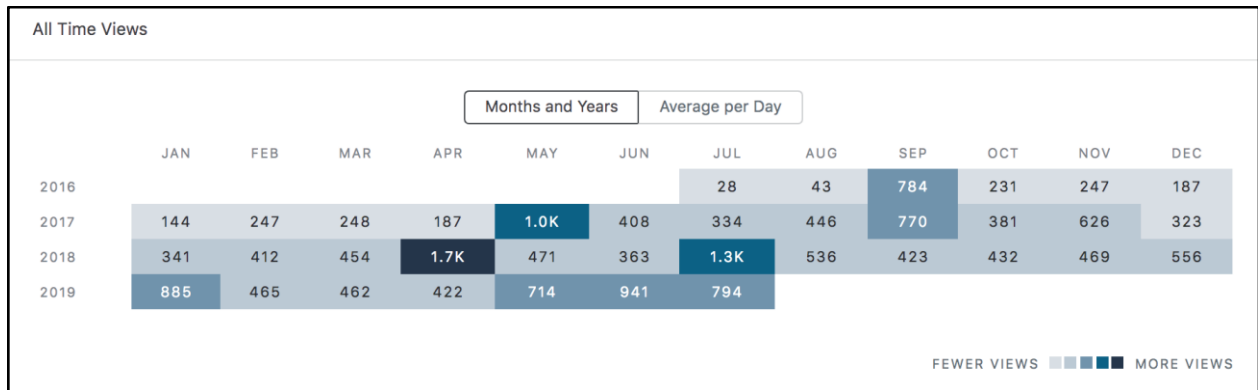
Data Captured on July 30, 2019

Average Views Per Day by Month and Year



Data Captured on July 30, 2019

All-Time Views by Month and Year



Data Captured on July 30, 2019

Top Searches Leading to the Reviews Portal

they're digging in the wrong place	7
gallica digital library	5
https://demo.thehistorymakers.org	4
avcc reviews	2
archivesspace rating	2
https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/category/pop-culture-and-archives/	2
gallica bibliotheque nationale	2
oral history metadata synchronizer	2
reviews of "the historymakers database"	2
omeka s price	2

square root 123procurement.umich.edu/travel-expense	2
review "the history makers."	1
archivematica pdf	1
archivist blog	1
open library review	1
https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2019/05/23/still-so-much-to-learn-star-trek-and-the-archives/	1
o'toole on the idea of permanence review	1
review for openlibrary.org	1
http://dirt.projectbamboo.org/	1
tos era ships	1
"they're digging in the wrong place book"	1
the historymakers digital archive	1
digging in the wrong place	1
indiana jones they are digging in the wrong place	1
rivi feinsilber	1
rivi feinsilber simmons college	1
ex[;prer chicago collection	1
writing under a portal	1

they are digging in the wrong place	1
saa archivist reviews portal	1
https://demothehistorymakers.org	1
explore chicago collections	1
omekas review	1
archivesspace	1
how to write a review on recruiting portal	1
	1