

## *American Archivist* Reviews Section

### Report to the Editorial Board

Prepared by Bethany Anderson, Reviews Editor

July 23, 2021

#### Summary

Over the past year, I have continued to include reviews of archives and archives-adjacent publications, including reviews of open access publications/scholarship and reports. I have continued including reviews of international publications. In terms of recently published reviews, nine reviews were published in 83:2, the Fall/Winter 2020 issue, and ten reviews were published in 84:1, the Spring/Summer 2021 issue. Ten reviews are in process for issue 84:2, the Fall/Winter 2021 issue.

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 (Becky Briggs Becker and Samantha Cross), who have assisted with editing reviews, writing reviews themselves, and conducting outreach to prospective reviewers. In addition, Publications Board Early-Career Member Katherine Fisher has been working with me on soliciting and editing reviews of SAA case studies.

Work on the joint *American Archivist*, Publications Board, and Committee on Public Awareness' podcast *Archives in Context* has continued to progress and season 5 of the podcast has been gradually rolling out over the last few months. Five episodes have been released so far.

#### Reviews Section

Nine reviews were published in issue 83:2, Fall/Winter 2020:

- ***Shadow Archives: The Lifecycles of African American Literature*** (by Jean-Christophe Cloutier, Columbia University Press, 2019), review by Kathryn M. Neal
- ***Trusting Records in the Cloud*** (edited by Luciana Duranti and Corinne Rogers, Facet Publishing, 2019), reviewed by Mike Shallcross
- ***Teaching Undergraduates with Archives*** (edited by Nancy Bartlett, Elizabeth Gadelha, and Cinda Nofziger, Maize Books/Michigan Publishing, 2019), reviewed by Anna Trammell
- ***Advocacy and Awareness for Archivists*** (by Kathleen D. Roe, Society of American Archivists, 2019), reviewed by Jessica Bitter
- ***Participatory Archives: Theory and Practice*** (by Edward Benoit III and Alexandra Eveleigh, Facet Publishing, 2019), reviewed by Siham Alaoui

- ***Viral Networks: Connecting Digital Humanities and Medical History*** (edited by E. Thomas Ewing and Katherine Randall, Virginia Tech Publishing, 2018), reviewed by Deborah A. Garwood
- ***Working: Researching, Interviewing, Writing*** (by Robert A. Caro, Alfred A. Knopf, 2019), reviewed by Dan Harper
- ***Responsible Operations: Data Science, Machine Learning, and AI in Libraries*** (by Thomas Padilla, OCLC Research, 2019), reviewed by Rachel MacGregor
- ***Partners for Preservation: Advancing Digital Preservation through Cross-Community Collaboration*** (edited by Jeanne Kramer-Smyth, Facet Publishing, 2019), reviewed by Krista M. Oldham

Ten reviews were published in issue 84:1, Spring/Summer 2021:

- ***Documenting Rebellions: A Study of Four Lesbian and Gay Archives in Queer Times*** (by Rebecka Taves Sheffield, Litwin Press, 2020), reviewed by K.J. Rawson
- ***Transparência e opacidade do estado no Brasil: Usos e desusos da informação governamental*** (by José Maria Jardim, Editora Universidade Federal Fluminense, 1999), reviewed by Shirley Franco
- ***Archival Returns: Central Australia and Beyond*** (edited by Linda Barwick, Jennifer Green, and Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, Sydney University Press, 2020), reviewed by Diana E. Marsh
- ***Archives and Special Collections as Sites of Contestation*** (edited by Mary Kandiuk. Library Juice Press, 2020), reviewed by Carli V. Lowe
- ***“All Shook Up”: The Archival Legacy of Terry Cook*** (edited by Tom Nesmith, Greg Bak, and Joan M. Schwartz, Society of American Archivists and Association of Canadian Archivists, 2020), reviewed by Francis X. Blouin, Jr.
- ***Zwölf Wege ins Archiv. Umriss einer offenen und praktischen Archivwissenschaft*** (by Christian Keitel, Franz Steiner Verlag, 2018), reviewed by Katharina Hering
- ***A Future in Ruins: UNESCO, World Heritage, and the Dream of Peace*** (by Lynn Meskell, Oxford University Press, 2020), reviewed by Lauren Van Zandt
- ***Distant Horizons: Digital Evidence and Literary Change*** (by Ted Underwood, University of Chicago Press, 2019), reviewed by Harriett Green
- ***Producing the Archival Body*** (by Jamie A. Lee, Routledge, 2020), reviewed by Brian M. Watson
- ***Reference and Access for Archives and Manuscripts*** (by Cheryl Oestreicher, Society of American Archivists, 2020), reviewed by Kayla Scott

Ten reviews are slated for publication in issue 84:2, Fall/Winter 2021:

- ***Recordkeeping Cultures*** (by Gillian Oliver and Fiorella Foscarini, Facet Publishing, 2020)
- ***The Innovation Delusion: How Our Obsession with the New Has Disrupted the Work That Matters Most*** (by Lee Vinsel and Andrew Russel, Currency/Penguin, 2020)
- ***Off the Record*** (curated by Ashley James, Guggenheim, 2021)
- ***Urgent Archives: Enacting Liberatory Memory Work*** (by Michelle Caswell, Routledge, 2021)
- ***Making Your Tools Work for You*** (by Max Eckard, Society of American Archivists, 2020)
- ***Record-Making and Record-Keeping in Early Societies*** (by Geoffrey Yeo, Routledge, 2021)
- ***Placing Papers: The American Literary Archives Market*** (by Amy Hildreth Chen, University of Massachusetts Press, 2020)
- ***Burning the Books: The History of the Deliberate Destruction of Knowledge*** (by Richard Ovenden, Belknap/Harvard, 2020)
- ***The Filing Cabinet: A Vertical History of Information*** (by Craig Robertson, University of Minnesota Press, 2021)
- ***Advancing Preservation for Archives and Manuscripts*** (by Elizabeth Joffrion and Michèle V. Cloonan, Society of American Archivists, 2020)

I am currently working on lining up reviews for the following volumes, potentially for the Spring/Summer 2022 issue, which will be co-edited with incoming Reviews Editor (please note that this list is tentative and not complete and will be finalized later this fall/new Reviews Editor is on board):

- ***Archives, Access, and Artificial Intelligence: Working with Born Digital and Digitised Archival Collections*** (edited by Lise Jaillant, Bielefeld University Press, 2021)
- ***Indigenous Languages and the Promise of Archives*** (edited by Adrianna Link, Abigail Shelton, and Patrick Spero, University of Nebraska Press, 2021)
- ***Uncertain Archives: Critical Keywords for Big Data*** (edited by Nanna Bonde Thylstrup, Daniela Agostinho, Annie Ring, Catherine D'Ignazio, Kristin Veel, the MIT Press, 2021)
- ***Knowledge Justice: Disrupting Library and Information Studies through Critical Race Theory*** (by Sofia Y. Leung and Jorge R. López-McKnight, the MIT Press, 2021)
- ***The Handbook of Archival Practice*** (edited by Patricia C. Franks, Rowman and Littlefield, 2021)
- ***Visualizing Equality: African American Rights and Visual Culture in the Nineteenth Century*** (by Aston Gonazalez, UNC Press, 2020)
- ***Archival Accessioning*** (edited by Audra Eagle Yun, Society of American Archivists, 2021)

## Reviews Portal

Since the last SAA annual meeting, fifteen reviews have been published on the Reviews Portal. Reviews have included digital collections and resources, as well as a documentary film and an exhibition. Two different calls for reviews were publicized: one of a call for reviews on tools and resources for archival instruction (originated by Becky Briggs Becker); and another for reviews of SAA case studies (originated by Katherine Fisher). For 2021 so far, the site has received 8,473 views and 5,123 unique visitors. In comparison, for 2020 the site received 5,084 views and 2,870 visitors. Since the portal was launched in WordPress in 2016, it has received a total of 42,060 views and 23,454 unique visitors. The Reviews Portal currently has 74 followers.

Recent reviews published on the Reviews Portal include:

- *Off the Record*, reviewed by James Lowry:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/07/19/off-the-record/>
- LibWizard Tutorials, reviewed by Kayla Harris:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/05/25/libwizard-tutorials/>
- Women and the Temperance Movement Primary Source Set, reviewed by John Henry Adams: <https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/05/20/women-and-the-temperance-movement-primary-source-set/>
- The Teaching with Primary Sources (TPS) Collective, reviewed by Beth South:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/05/06/tps-collective/>
- Zoom for Oral History Projects, reviewed by Lauren Kata:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/03/19/zoom-for-oral-history-projects/>
- *Who Will Write Our History*, reviewed by Sister Grace Marie Del Priore:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/03/16/who-will-write-our-history/>
- Collective Responsibility Labor Advocacy Toolkit, reviewed by Erin Passehl-Stoddart:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/02/15/collective-responsibility-labor-advocacy-toolkit/>
- Syrian Archive, reviewed by Laila Hussein Moustafa:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2021/02/03/syrian-archive/>
- Memory Lab Network Resources, reviewed by Annie Tummino, Tomasz Gubernat, and Jeanie Pai: <https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/12/15/memory-lab-network-resources/>
- The Magnus Archives, reviewed by Samantha Cross:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/12/01/the-magnus-archives/>
- Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America, reviewed by Carli V. Lowe:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/10/28/mapping-inequality-redlining-in-new-deal-america/>

- Airtable, reviewed by Meaghan O’Riordan:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/10/27/airtable/>
- Asana, reviewed by Becky Briggs Becker:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/09/30/asana/>
- Arizal, Recordkeeping, and the World of Maktaba, reviewed by Burkely Hermann:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/09/30/arizal-recordkeeping-and-the-world-of-maktaba/>
- Canva, reviewed by Colleen Hoelscher:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/09/15/canva/>

There are several reviews currently in process for SAA case studies (mentioned above), including for "Exploring Ephemerality, Biases, and Silences in Archives," "Utilizing University Archives to Teach Students the Complexities of Neutrality," "A Collaborative, Proactive Approach for the Electronic Records Lifecycle," and "Teaching with Primary Sources Remotely."

### *Archives in Context* Podcast

The *Archives in Context* Podcast team (consisting of representatives from the *American Archivist* Editorial Board, Publications Board, and the Committee on Public Awareness: Bethany Anderson, Chris Burns, Mary Caldera, Nicole Milano, Lolita Rowe, Anna Trammell, and JoyEllen Williams) recently released most of season 5:

- **Anna Clutterbuck-Cook and Lydia Tang** on the Archival Workers Emergency Fund:  
<https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/2020/11/25/season-5-episode-1-archival-workers-emergency-fund/>
- **Dorothy Berry** on self-care for archivists:  
<https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/2020/12/16/season-5-episode-2-dorothy-berry/>
- **Archivists “Call In”** - archivists sharing advice on navigating the challenging time of 2020 and 2021: <https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/2021/02/09/season-5-episode-3-archivists-call-in/>
- **Petrina Jackson and Veronica Reyes-Escudero** on their call to RBMS to destroy systemic/structural racism: <https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/2021/03/09/season-5-episode-4-petrina-jackson-and-veronica-reyes-escudero/>
- **Archives for Black Lives in Philadelphia’s Anti-Racist Description Working Group** on the creation of the *Anti-Racist Description Resources*:  
<https://archivesincontext.archivists.org/2021/07/13/season-5-episode-5-archives-for-black-lives-in-philadelphias-anti-racist-description-working-group/>

One more episode for season 5 is in progress (Danna Bell and Guha Shankar from the Library of Congress) and should be released soon.

### **Discussion for Board**

- Suggestions for podcast interviews from the editorial board;
- Suggestions for reviews or reviewers