

# *American Archivist* Reviews Section

## Report to the Editorial Board

Prepared by Bethany Anderson, Reviews Editor  
August 17, 2020

### 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 also begun including reviews of publications in languages in addition to English. In terms of recently published reviews, eight reviews were published in 82:2, the Fall/Winter 2019 issue, and nine reviews and one review essay were published in 83:1, the Spring/Summer 2020 issue. Nine reviews are in process for issue 83:2, the Fall/Winter 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. Guidelines for writing pop culture reviews were recently added to the portal's review guidelines to help facilitate these reviews. Gloria Gonzalez's second term as Reviews Portal Coordinator ends August 2020 and she will be rotating off as coordinator.

Work on the joint *American Archivist*, Publications Board, and Committee on Public Awareness' podcast *Archives in Context* has progressed, and season 4 of the podcast was released in August 2020. The podcast team is currently working on season 5 slated for release early 2021.

### Reviews Section

Nine reviews and one review essay were published in issue 83:1, Spring/Summer 2020:

- **Review Essay: *What We Talk about When We Talk about Archiving the Web***, by Ed Summers (reviewed two volumes: *The Web as History: Using Web Archives to Understand the Past and the Present*, UCL Press, 2017, edited by Niels Bruegger and Ralph Schroeder; and *History in the Age of Abundance?: How the Web Is Transforming Historical Research*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019, by Ian Milligan)
- ***Teoria i praktyka archiwistyki USA*** (by Bartosz Nowozycki, Naczelna Dyrekcja Archiwów Państwowych, 2017), reviewed by Teresa Sromek
- ***The Monumental Challenge of Preservation: The Past in a Volatile World*** (by Michèle Valerie Cloonan, the MIT Press, 2018), reviewed by Sam van Schaik
- ***Reappraisal and Deaccessioning in Archives and Special Collections*** (edited by Laura Uglean Jackson, Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), reviewed by Veronica Martzahl

- *Archives* (by Andrew Lison, Marcell Mars, Tomislav Medak, and Rick Prelinger, University of Minnesota Press and meson press, 2019), reviewed by Brian M. Watson
- *Leading and Managing Archives and Manuscripts Programs* (edited by Peter Gottlieb and David W. Carmicheal, SAA, 2019), reviewed by Helen Wong Smith
- *Archive für Literatur. Der Nachlass und seine Ordnungen* (edited by Petra-Maria Dallinger, Georg Hofer, and Bernhard Judex, De Gruyter, 2018), reviewed by Julius Gerbracht
- *Flood in Florence, 1966: A Fifty-Year Retrospective* (edited by Paul Conway and Martha O'Hara Conway, University of Michigan Press/Maize Books, 2018), reviewed by Miriam Centeno
- *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts* (by Dennis Meissner, SAA, 2019), reviewed by Amanda Wick
- *The Digital Archives Handbook: A Guide to Creation, Management, and Preservation* (by Aaron D. Purcell, Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), reviewed by Ashley Howdeshell

Nine reviews are slated for publication in issue 83:2, Fall/Winter 2020:

- *Shadow Archives: The Lifecycles of African American Literature* (by Jean-Christophe Cloutier, Columbia University Press, 2019)
- *Responsible Operations: Data Science, Machine Learning, and AI in Libraries* (by Thomas Padilla, OCLC, 2019)
- *Trusting Records in the Cloud* (edited by Luciana Duranti and Corinne Rogers, Facet Publishing, 2019)
- *Teaching Undergraduates with Archives* (edited by Nancy Bartlett, Elizabeth Gadelha, and Cinda Nofziger, University of Michigan Press/Maize Books, 2019)
- *Participatory Archives* (edited by Edward Benoit, III and Alexandra Eveleigh, Facet Publishing, 2019)
- *Advocacy and Awareness for Archivists* (by Kathleen Roe, SAA, 2019)
- *Partners for Preservation: Advancing Digital Preservation through Cross-Community Collaboration* (by Jeanne Kramer-Smyth, Facet Publishing, 2019)
- *Working* (by Robert Caro, Penguin, 2020)
- *Viral Networks: Connecting Digital Humanities and Medical History* (Edited by E. Thomas Ewing and Katherine Randall, Virginia Tech Press, 2018)

I am either currently anticipating or working on lining up the following reviews for issue 84:1, Spring/Summer 2021 (please note that this list is not complete/final yet and will be finalized later this fall):

- *Archives and Special Collections as Sites of Contestation* (edited by Mary Kandiuk, Library Juice Press, 2020)

- ***“All Shook Up”: The Archival Legacy of Terry Cook*** (edited by Tom Nesmith, Greg Bak, and Joan M. Schwartz, SAA/ACA, 2020)
- ***Documenting Rebellions: A Study of Four Lesbian and Gay Archives in Queer Times*** (by Rebecka Taves Sheffield, Library Juice Press, 2020)
- ***A Future in Ruins: UNESCO, World Heritage, and the Dream of Peace*** (by Lynn Meskell, Oxford, 2020)
- ***Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries: A Call to Action and Strategies for Success*** (edited by Shannon D. Jones and Beverly Murphy, Rowman & Littlefield, 2020)
- ***Placing Papers: The American Literary Archives Market*** (by Amy Hildreth Chen, UMass Press, 2020)
- ***Archives, Recordkeeping, and Social Justice*** (edited by David A. Wallace, Wendy M. Duff, Renée Saucier, and Andrew Flinn, Routledge, 2020)
- ***Transparência e opacidade do estado no Brasil: usos e desusos da informação governamental*** (by José Maria Jardim, EdUFF, 1999)
- ***Archival Returns: Central Australia and Beyond*** (edited by Linda Barwick, Jennifer Green, and Petronella Vaarzon-Morel, Sydney University Press, 2019)
- ***Producing the Archival Body*** (by Jamie A. Lee, Routledge, 2020)
- ***Des paléographes aux archivistes. L’Association des archivistes français au coeur des réseaux professionnels (1970-2010)*** (by Damien Hamard, Presses Universitaires de Rennes, 2020)

## Reviews Portal

Since the last SAA annual meeting, six reviews have been published on the Reviews Portal. For 2020 so far, the site has received 5,084 views and 2,870 unique visitors. In comparison, for 2019 the site received 4,680 views and 2,765 visitors. Since the portal was launched in WordPress in 2016, it has received a total of 27,953 views and 14,834 unique visitors. The portal currently has 69 followers.

Recent reviews published on the Reviews Portal include:

- Homosaurus and the Digital Transgender Archive, reviewed by Brian M. Watson: <https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2019/06/18/homosaurus-and-digital-transgender-archive/>
- Trello, reviewed by Becky Briggs Becker: <https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2019/07/19/trello/>
- Musical Passage, reviewed by Christina Taylor Gibson: <https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2019/09/30/musical-passage/>
- DSpace, reviewed by Diana Dulek: <https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2019/10/04/dspace/>

- Microsoft Planner, reviewed by Becky Briggs Becker:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2019/11/14/microsoft-planner/>
- “An Archivist’s Exploration of Tom Clancy’s The Division 2,” by Becky Briggs Becker:  
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2020/07/21/tom-clancys-the-division-2/>

There are several reviews in process, including for Canva, Airtable, *Who Will Write Our History?* (documentary), Mapping Inequality, Syrian Archive, Basecamp, and other archives and pop culture reviews.

### ***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, Ashley Levine, Colleen McFarland Rademaker, Nicole Milano, and Anna Trammell) recently released season 4:

- [\*\*Lae'l Hughes-Watkins and Tamar Chute\*\*](#) on the impetus behind and growth of Project STAND (Student Activism Now Documented);
- [\*\*Lydia Tang\*\*](#) on her collaborative work to revise the *Guidelines for Accessible Archives for People with Disabilities*;
- [\*\*Ashley Farmer\*\*](#) on her viral essay "Archiving While Black" in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*;
- [\*\*Trevor Owens\*\*](#) on his recent publication *The Theory and Craft of Digital Preservation*;
- [\*\*Liza Posas\*\*](#) on the workbook she is developing for the *Protocols for Native American Archival Materials*;
- [\*\*Jennifer Johnson\*\*](#) on her contribution to *Leading and Managing Archives and Manuscripts Programs*, volume 1 in SAA's Archival Fundamentals Series III, and outreach in corporate archives; and
- [\*\*Courtney Dean and Grace Danico\*\*](#) on *Acid Free*, the online magazine of the Los Angeles Archivists Collective.

Season 5 is currently under development and tentatively due to be released early 2021.

### ***Discussion for Board***

- Suggestions for podcast interviews from the editorial board;
- Suggestions for next steps for Reviews Portal; and
- Suggestions for reviews or reviewers