

# **Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL**

**Group Name: Accessioning, Acquisitions, & Appraisal Section**  
**(Prepared by: Dawne Howard Lucas)**

**Year: 2024- 2025**

**Current Rosters (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):**

For 2024-2025:

- Dawne Howard Lucas, chair, term ended 1 September 2025
- Jordan Jancosek, vice-chair/chair-elect, term ended 1 September 2025
- Alexandra deGraffenreid, immediate past chair, term ended 1 September 2025
- Bo Doub, member-at-large, term ended 1 September 2025
- Gina Rappaport, member-at-large, term ended 1 September 2025
- Yasmin Desouki, member-at large, term ends 1 September 2026
- Sara Ludewig, member-at-large, term ends 1 September 2026

For 2025-2026:

- Jordan Jancosek, chair, term ends 1 September 2026
- Mae Casey, vice-chair/chair-elect, term ends 1 September 2026
- Dawne Howard Lucas, immediate past chair, term ends 1 September 2026
- Yasmin Desouki, member-at large, term ends 1 September 2026
- Sara Ludewig, member-at-large, term ends 1 September 2026
- Kelly Kress, member-at-large, term ends 1 September 2027
- Elise Riley, member-at-large, term ends 1 September 2027

**Council Liaison:** Joyce Gabiola (term ended 2025); Angel Diaz (new liaison)

## **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES**

*(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)*

### **Completed:**

- Responsibility for the maintenance of the Accessioning Best Practices officially transferred from the National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning Working Group to the Accessioning, Acquisitions, & Appraisal Section. Section bylaws updated to reflect this responsibility.

- Appointed Alexa Goff as the section web liaison; updated section microsite with current announcements and documentation; repaired broken links caused by section name change.
- Created new Google Drive owned by the Accessioning, Acquisitions, & Appraisal Section to replace a Google Drive created and owned by a former section member's individual account.
- Triple A Talks:
  - October 30, 2024: Tools and Resources for Accessioning and Appraisal: 97 attendees
  - February 19, 2025: Donor Relations: 90 attendees
  - May 7, 2025: Archival Appraisal for Born Digital Collections: 125 attendees

### **Ongoing:**

- Triple A Talks will continue this year.
- Continued improvement of AA&A website
- Continued maintenance of Accessioning Best Practices

### **New:**

- Explore more effective use of social media
- Explore more effective use of SAA Connect for shared documentation.

## **SAA STRATEGIC PLAN**

*(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to one or more of the four main goals.)*

### **Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists**

Takeaways from the 2025 Annual Section Meeting will be used to inform future section programming and advocacy. During the meeting, participants split into breakout rooms to discuss the state of the profession as it relates to collecting pauses, hiring freezes, and loss of funding/grant funding.

### **Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth**

### **Goal 3: Advancing the Field**

The section has assumed responsibility for maintaining the new Accessioning Best Practices, authored by National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning Working Group. These best practices advance accessioning in the field by providing the first set of national best practices

specific to archival accessioning. This document also serves as an advocacy document for archival labor.

#### **Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs**

Triple-A Talks provide discussions on topics which are of high interest to Section members. This provides community and knowledge-sharing for our members.

## **SAA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Number of attendees:** 53

**Link to meeting minutes:** N/A We have internal notes to inform future section programming and advocacy. Dawne started the meeting with a section update with information reflected in this report. We did not record the session.

**Summary of meeting activities and highlights:** After a brief section update, participants split into breakout rooms to discuss the state of the profession as it relates to collecting pauses, hiring freezes, and loss of funding/grant funding. Takeaways from this session will be used to inform future section programming and advocacy.

The following is the announcement posted on the SAA website and sent to section members via SAA Connect:

*How is the current state of our profession impacting your work in accessioning, acquisitions, and appraisal? Attend the Accessioning, Acquisitions, and Appraisal (AA&A) Annual Section Meeting to create action items that the section steering committee can implement or present to SAA Council. Attendees will choose a break out room to discuss a specific area of concern, such as institutional collecting pauses, hiring freezes, or loss of grant funding.*

#### *Agenda*

- 1. Section business meeting (approx. 15 minutes)*
- 2. Discussion introduction/break out rooms (approx. 45 minutes)*
- 3. Reconvene as a large group/reporting out (approx. 30 minutes)*

*The AA&A Steering Committee understands that there are many concerns about the current state of the profession, which is why it has chosen this topic for the annual section meeting. As stated above, **the intent of this session is to create action items that can be implemented by the AA&A steering committee or presented to SAA Council.** Attendees will be encouraged to bring their insights and ideas for how we can support one another during this time. While we recognize the value of sharing frustrations with colleagues, the Steering Committee's primary goal for the break out room discussions is to facilitate constructive dialogue that leads to actionable next steps.*

## SELF-ASSESSMENT

*How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?*

Members have been very engaged with section programming, with solid attendance numbers at Triple A talks and the annual section meeting. There is also a lot of engagement around accessioning work and the new Accessioning Best Practices.

*Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?*

There have been ongoing questions about effective document sharing between steering committee members. At this time, neither SAA Connect nor Google Drive completely meet section leadership needs.

*What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?*

Continued guidance/trainings about how to effectively use SAA Connect.

*What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff?*

There is a concern and membership and conference attendance costs at a time when people are losing their jobs or having their travel funding cut.