

## **Resisting Imperialist Tradition: Towards Equitable Archival Publication Practices**

**BETHANY ANDERSON, AMY COOPER CARY, and SARAH DEMB**

Editing archives and records journals is part of a Western tradition of privilege that reifies a forced internationality, hidden biases in editorial work, and potential inequities in requirements for both authors and editors. These editorial complexities are highlighted in a profession which often fails to acknowledge societal and institutional barriers such as differing standards for local spoken and broader written/publication (often, but not always, English) language, and the requirement for voluntary or semi-voluntary contributions of time, language, and specialist expertise. To address these inequities, editors must reflect on our own practices and ways to effect substantive change. The SAA Research Forum is a pathway to a deeper exploration of these issues.

The presenters have-worked with numerous authors and editorial colleagues, and currently serve as editors of a British journal with a global submissions pool (Records Management Journal); a journal with a primarily American audience that aims to cultivate an international constituency (American Archivist); and a truly international, multilingual journal (Comma). Our session will share the initial results of our recent survey of 27 archives and records journal editors and three follow-up focus groups discussions. The survey results represent editors working in nine countries on journals published in five languages (all of which originate in the Northern hemisphere). Thirteen global archives and records journals were represented in the focus groups membership. We expect the research forum discussion to inform the next phases of this project, which may include publications, additional conversations, and dissemination of best practices. Ultimately, we hope to foster wider discussion on how editors and journals can create more inclusive, equitable, and multicultural spaces for intellectual exchange in a global archival profession.

### **About the authors:**

**Bethany Anderson** is the Natural and Applied Sciences Archivist and Assistant Professor in the University Archives at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In her research, she draws on anthropology, history of science, archival studies, and feminist theory to explore scientific archives, women and gender in STEM, computational archival science, and oral history. She holds a BA in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, an MA in Near Eastern Art and Archaeology from the University of Chicago, and an MS in Information Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Bethany serves as joint Editor-in-Chief of *Comma*, the journal of the International Council on Archives, and as Co-Editor for the Archival Futures Series, which is co-published by the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association. She previously served as Reviews Editor for *American Archivist*. Her published

work has appeared in *Archivaria*, *American Archivist*, *Journal of Open Humanities Data*, *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society*, and *Collections: A Journal of Archives and Museum Professionals*.

**Amy Cooper Cary** is Head of Special Collections and University Archives at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is the current editor of *American Archivist* and is a Distinguished Fellow of SAA. She received her MLIS with a concentration in Archives and Records Management from the University of Michigan, and also holds an MA in Comparative Literature with a specialization in Translation from Binghamton University. She has been involved with the archival literature for the majority of her more than 20 year career, serving on editorial boards of *Archival Issues*, *Journal of Archival Organization*, and *American Archivist*. She also served as Reviews Editor for *RBM: A Journal of Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Cultural Heritage* and as editor of *Archival Issues*. She has published in *Journal of Archival Organization*, *The Records Manager*, *Collection Management*, and *American Archivist*, and has contributed a chapter to the ACRL publication *Collaborating for Impact: Special Collections and Subject Librarian Partnerships* (2016). She has also published translation, poetry, and freelance writing on small presses.

**Sarah R. Demb** has been a records professional for over 25 years. She holds an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin, and is co-author of *Records Management for Museums and Galleries: An Introduction* (Chandos Publications, 2012). Sarah is co-editor of the *Records Management Journal* (UK) and has served as a member of the SAA Publications Board since 2016. She is Senior Records Manager/Archivist at the Harvard University Archives. From 2009-2014 she was Museum Archivist and Records Manager for the Museum of London; and from 2007-09 she was Records Management Advisor for the London Museums Hub. Previously, she was Project Manager at the International Records Management Trust and also held archivist positions at the National Museum of the American Indian (SI) and the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. Most recently she authored the entry on Information Governance in *The Handbook of Archival Practice* (Routledge, 2021), published a review of *Artefacts, Archives, and Documentation in the Relational Museum* (Routledge, 2021) in *American Archivist* 85.1 Spring/Summer 2022, and was contributed a chapter to the forthcoming *Museum Archives: Practice, Issues, Advocacy* (SAA, in press).