Barbara Mathé has been Head of Library Special Collections at the American Museum of Natural History since 1998. In 2002, she was also named Museum Archivist, charged with coordinating with the scientific collection managers who oversee the archives held in the Museum’s science departments.

She is supervising a five-year project, funded by the Council of Library and Information Resources (CLIR) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), which includes the development of an infrastructure to manage both minimal and full level EAD and EAC-CPF records with the long-term goal of integrating access to scientific and archival collections. The AMNH has recently been chosen as a host institution for a National Digital Stewardship Resident to survey the digital assets of its science departments as a baseline for developing a digital curation plan for these complex and important collections of research data.

With an M.S.L.S from Columbia University emphasizing archival studies and four years as Assistant Museum Librarian at the Goldwater Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (1994-1998), Mathé is familiar with the culture of museums and archives. She publishes and lectures on ethnographic photography, and on metadata issues, including a forthcoming presentation at the International Council of Archives in October. She was a member of an international collaborative working group of natural history museums and botanical gardens that developed NCD, Natural Collection Descriptions, a data standard for integrating access to science archives and specimen collections, currently under review by TDWG, the Taxonomic Data Working Group.

Museum Archives has grown to become one of the largest sections in SAA. I see this reflecting a need in archives in other cultural institutions, like historical societies and universities, for information about managing art, memorabilia, objects, specimens, etc., traditionally considered museum collections. A similar situation is mirrored in museum archives, where integrated access to archival and museum collections is increasingly a goal. Technically, the growing implementation of EAC-CPF for local authority development to be shared within the larger context of linked data, and the proliferation of content management systems that manage archives and museum collections is a topic I’d like to explore, possibly in collaboration with other SAA sections/roundtables, if elected. But more than that, I would like the section to examine how this new 21st century environment affects archivists addressing these issues within their own institutions; how new standards and tools can make the work of archivists useful not only for access to collections but access to the *history* of the institution. The results of the research and organizational work done by archivists can be repurposed for marketing and communication through conventional and social media, allowing the institutions to expand their public presence and base of support, proving the value of dynamic archives, and archivists, to parent institutions in ways particularly meaningful to the work of their administrators.