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Contact: Jenny Schooley
312.606.0722 or jschooley@archivists.org

Bradley Westbrook Inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists

CHICAGO—Bradley Westbrook, digital archivist/metadata librarian at the University of California, San Diego, will be inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) during a ceremony on August 26, 2011, at ARCHIVES 360°, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession.

Westbrook has more than 20 years of experience working with the breadth of cultural memory. His experience encompasses bibliographic materials and art collections, sound recordings, and photographs. In addition to his current position at UC, San Diego, he also serves as archives analyst for the ArchivesSpace planning project. He previously worked in archival and manuscript collections at Kent State and Columbia University.

For the past several years, Westbrook has worked as project manager on Archivists’ Toolkit, a product that makes it easier for archives to adopt descriptive standards and best practices, transforming good ideas into pragmatic practice. One of his nominators noted, “If for no other reason than his leadership of this project, his selection as a Fellow is overdue. The profession is richer for his work; many archives now use the Archivists’ Toolkit to help them manage and describe their collections.”

Among Westbrook’s contributions to the profession are leading workshops on Archivists’ Toolkit, Digital Preservation Management, and Digital Preservation Metadata, as well as 20 publications and numerous conference presentations. His service on SAA committees and to other archival groups further demonstrates his commitment to the profession.

“I believe that Brad is a model digital archivist,” said one of his nominators. “Even when working with traditional formats, Brad’s knowledge of technology has allowed him to make significant contributions to the profession.” Another nominator stated “I believe the archival profession has benefited enormously from the vision, intellect, enthusiasm, and dedication of Brad Westbrook.”

Westbrook is one of eight new Fellows named in 2011. There are currently 170 Fellows of the Society of American Archivists.

-30-

Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America’s oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA’s mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 6,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. For more information, visit www.archivists.org.