Introducing the Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment

SAA 2019: Austin, Texas

Paul Conway, University of Michigan

Jennifer Gunter King, Emory University

Welcome to Open Forum

- A tentative agenda for our 75 minutes together

  ☐ Introductions by CORDA Members

  ☐ Quick briefing on the purpose of CORDA

  ☐ Lots of discussion about needs and opportunities

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CORDA Members [all]

- Paul Conway, University of Michigan (co-chair)
- Jennifer Gunter King, Emory University (co-chair)
- * Sarah Buchanan, University of Missouri Columbia
- Courtney Dean, University of California, Los Angeles
- Amanda Hawk, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- Cristina Horak, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- Chris Marino, Environmental Design Archives, UC Berkeley
- * Dennis Meissner, Retired
- Erin Passehl Stoddart, University of Oregon
- Sarah Pratt, Simmons University
- Ricky Punzalan, University of Maryland

* Member of Task Force-CORDE

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CORDA Origin Story [Jennifer]

- 2016: Dennis Meissner SAA presidential address, "Bare Necessities"

- 2016: President Meissner Proposal for a Committee on Research and Evaluation (CORE)

- May 2017: SAA Council charged the *Task Force on Research/Data and Evaluation* (TF- CORDE)
    - comprised of Chair Michelle Light and member Sarah Buchanan, Mahnaz Ghaznavi, Dennis Meissner, Daniel Noonan, and Stacie Williams

- November 2018: SAA Council establishes **Committee on Research, Data and Assessment**

- March 2019: CORDA launched

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The CORDA Charge [Jennifer]

The Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment provides access to significant and useful data and research

- about SAA, American archives, and their users
- that evidence the value of archives for society
- and help us improve our services to SAA members and to our consumers.

The Committee will work to <u>conduct or support relevant research</u> and to create, gather, and preserve <u>data</u> by directing and engaging in several areas of activity:

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A Pitch for Evaluation/Assessment [Paul]

- <u>Principles-based</u> – requiring a framework of issues but no explicit agenda.

- <u>Bottom up</u> – finding priorities from the needs of the profession

- <u>Practice-based</u> – rigorous and systematic but not dependent on hypotheses

- <u>Open, transparent, and shared</u> – most likely through a flexible digital repository platform

- <u>Two-way collaboration with the academy</u> – modeled on the research-clinic system

  - ☐ <u>Respectful</u> of the wall/moat between formal scholarship and assessment activities

  - ☐ <u>Realistic</u> about the grand challenges of the archival community

  - ☐ <u>Pragmatic</u> about archives as a site of inquiry

  - ☐ <u>Strategic</u> about contracting for studies with the academy

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A CORDA Plan of Work [3 years +] [Jennifer]

- A repository for data on Assessment and Evaluation

- A training program to help and guide archivists in data reuse

- A strategy for building knowledge about the profession

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Data Repository [Jennifer]

1. Pilot test repository
    1. Identify/configure platform
    2. A few high-value datasets
    3. Demonstrate at SAA 2020

2. Establish priorities and policies for data collection

3. Promote data gathering

Profession wide

SAA Groups

Other
good stuff

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Training on Data Reuse [Paul]

1. Develop pre-conference workshop on data reuse methods for SAA 2020 in Chicago
    1. Identify methodological model(s)
    2. Identify relevant cast study or studies

2. Conduct methodological "gap analysis" in the profession and/or among SAA members
    1. Understand what archivists do and don't know about data analysis
    2. Target data analysis on high-priority, high-impact outcomes

3. Assess ways to sustain training on research

Strategy and Research Agenda [Jennifer]

- Develop Evaluation & Assessment Framework
  - □ Sort of a research agenda; sort of an evaluation model
  - □ Parse and reconfigure the CORDE-TF agenda and scan

- "Shake the tree" within the profession for existing datasets, data gathering instruments, and reporting in any form or format (articles, white papers, reports, etc.)
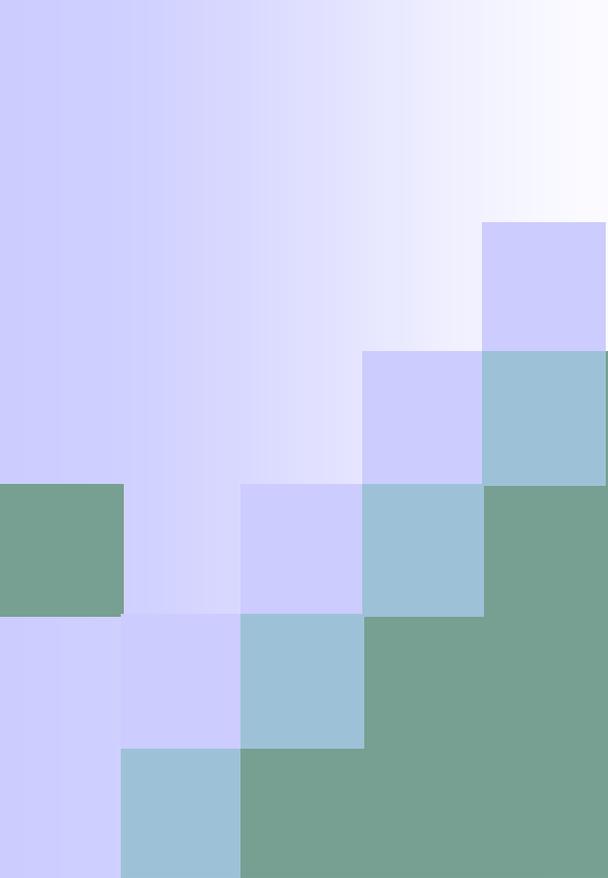 - □ Analogous to "gray literature"

- Conduct a gap analysis of data sets against the assessment framework (research agenda)

- Revise, republish, and curate "Facts & Figures"
  - □ https://www2.archivists.org/aboutarchives/resources/factsandfigures

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Possible Discussion Questions [All]

- What data in an accessible repository would you find most interesting and useful?

- What types of training would you find most valuable for learning how to gather data and reuse data about the archival profession?

- What do you want to know about the archival profession that would help you advocate for archives and archivists?

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Thank you!

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