



Committee on
Research, Data
& Assessment
(CORDA)

BUSINESS MEETING JULY 30,
2020

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN
ARCHIVISTS ANNUAL MEETING

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Committee Transitions
3. Summary of year's accomplishments
 1. Assessment and Evaluation
 2. Data Repository
 3. Education and Training
 4. Facts and Figures
4. Plan for next year (with sub-committee assignments)
 1. MOU with Dataverse
 2. Grant for data management
 3. Education and workshop
 4. Collection development policies
 5. Data management policies
5. Open Discussion
6. Adjourn

SAA CORDA microsite: <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/committee-on-research-data-and-assessment>

CORDA Membership 2019-20

Co-chair: Paul Conway (University of Michigan)

Co-chair: Jennifer Gunter King (Emory University)

Sarah Buchanan (University of Missouri Columbia)

Courtney Dean (University of California Los Angeles)

Amanda Hawk (Louisiana State University)

Cristina Horak (Federal Reserve, Dallas)

Chris Marino (University of California Berkeley)

Dennis Meissner (retired)

Sarah Pratt (Simmons GLSIS)

Erin Passehl Stoddart (University of Oregon)

SAA Council liaison: Ricky Punzalan (University of Michigan)

Ex Officio: Nance McGovern (MIT)

Ex officio: Nancy Beaumont (SAA)

CORDA Membership 2020-21

Co-chair: Jennifer Gunter King (Emory University)

Co-chair: Erin Passehl Stoddart (University of Oregon)

Sarah Buchanan (University of Missouri Columbia)

Gwendolyn Higgins (University of Alaska Anchorage)

Cristina Horak (Federal Reserve, Dallas)

Emily Lapworth (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Chris Marino (University of California Berkeley)

Dennis Meissner (retired)

Sarah Pratt (Simmons GLSIS)

Early-career archivist: Mary Biddle (Smith College)

SAA Council Liaison: Ricky Punzalan (University of Michigan)

Ex Officio: Paul Conway (University of Michigan)

Ex Officio: Nancy Beaumont (SAA)

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Business Meeting
July 30, 2020
2:00-3:30 p.m. Central Standard Time

I. Welcome and introductions

Co-hosts (Zoom): CORDA Co-chairs Paul Conway (U Michigan) and Jennifer Gunter King (Emory)
Participants and guests welcomed to pose questions at any point and CORDA members will moderate the chat in Zoom.

Membership 2019-20

Co-chair: Paul Conway

Co-chair: Jennifer Gunter King

Sarah Buchanan (University of Missouri Columbia)

Courtney Dean (UCLA)

Amanda Hawk (LSU)

Cristina Horak (Fed Reserve, Dallas)

Chris Marino (UC Berkley)

Dennis Meissner (Retired)

Sarah Pratt (Simmons SLIS)

Erin Passehl Stoddart (U Oregon)

SAA Council liaison: Ricky Punzalan (U Michigan)

Ex officio: Nancy Beaumont (SAA)

Thank you to Nancy for her participation and support of CORDA over the last year!

Two members, Courtney and Amanda, had shortened terms to help stagger incoming/outgoing membership. Both Courtney and Amanda have been instrumental in moving our work forward and setting our committee agenda. Thank you!

SAA CORDA Microsite (<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/committee-on-research-data-and-assessment/membership-and-charge>) also acknowledges **Nance McGovern** as a CORDA ex officio member. Thank you, Nance, for your expertise and guidance!

We also have a liaison to the education committee, **Julia Corrin**, who will be rotating out of her role at this annual meeting.

II. Committee Transitions

- Outgoing, effective Sept. 1, 2020
 - Courtney Dean (UCLA)
 - Amanda Hawk (LSU)

- Paul Conway (University of Michigan) rotating off at co-chair – he has agreed to stay on the committee as ex-officio
- Incoming /New Roles
 - New Roles
 - Co-chair: Erin Passehl Stoddard (University of Oregon)
 - Ex-officio: Paul Conway (University of Michigan)
 - Incoming
 - Gwendolyn Higgins (University of Alaska Anchorage)
 - Emily Lapworth (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
 - Early-career archivists: Mary Biddle (Smith College)
- *Acknowledgment of everyone's service*

III. Summary of year's accomplishments

Establishment of four subcommittees:

- Assessment and Evaluation
 - (Jennifer reports) Recognized a need to “shake the tree” to find out what data exists, what form it is in, and info gather about current research/data in the profession to help us develop a research agenda moving forward and to coordinate research agendas across the profession
 - Team: Sarah Buchanan, Chris Marino, Amanda Hawk, Dennis Meissner, Jennifer Gunter King, Nance McGovern
 - Qualtrics Survey to SAA section leadership
 - 130 leaders
 - Received 43 responses
 - Next step: categorize what we have received by investigate more deeply how to define research, data, and assessment, and then ultimately develop collection development policies for the data repository
 - This was really just a “first pass” and hope to circle back to this in order to build a robust grouping of data in our field
 - 25 responses provided some sort of tool, 12 provided datasets
 - Thank you, Amanda, for developing and managing the Qualtrics survey and data.
 - Identifying datasets also identifies the research gaps and future funding opportunities to fill in these gaps
- Data Repository
 - Thanks to members of the sub-comm: Erin Passehl Stoddard, Cristina Horak, Paul Conway
 - Environmental Scan of Data
 - repositories from similar organization – based on this they narrowed down options to Dataverse (Harvard)

- Worked close with UNC Chapel Hill/Odum Institute to collaborate and think about big picture
- Gathered information regarding Dataverse
 - Started collaboration with Odum Institute (very interested in working with SAA) and outlined the following:
 - Needs
 - Timeline
 - Short- and long-term goals
 - Entered into a no-cost plan – using the Dataverse as a “sandbox” (happened at end of calendar year)
 - Policy development
 - Collection development, use,
 - Use A*Census data as a first test case – worked on getting data out of ICPSR and into Dataverse
 - MOU with Odum Institute
- Launching Dataverse soon, currently keeping in unpublished mode (still need a MOU with the Odum Institute to finalize arrangement and terms)
 - Showed sneak peek of SAA’s instance
 - Experimenting with how to use and display information (what is require/internal metadata)
- Next steps – once MOU and policy is developed more data sets will be acquired – a transparent process with SAA membership
- Paul recognizes Erin for her work in identifying Dataverse as a repository. We have great hopes that we are creating a flexible platform that will allow us to collect data in many forms – and are very excited to get SAA into the “data business” - a new paradigm and mandate for SAA to take on this responsibility.

Discussion questions:

(1) Question from Sheridan Sayles from chat: “What would be the process of adding datasets to the Dataverse?”

Discussion: thinking about what types of data will come in, keeping in mind how people may use. CORDA plans on using the Qualtrics survey to get a better sense of the types of data the repository might potentially bring in, how to upload. The idea overall is that the repository will be open for contributions. CORDA will be working our way through – we will solicit council to see what is sustainable and how we will move things forward.

(2) Question from Ricky Punzalan: [paraphrased] “What about the Dataverse being the official repository for *The American Archivist* and data sets associated with articles?”

(Cal Lee posed question in chat simultaneously: “Would you foresee a pipeline from American Archivist authors to the repository when there are data sets associated with articles? If so, any ideas when we'd want to initiate that?”)

Paul’s response – we need to take a long view – say three years. The next year will focus on getting policies and procedures in place (what is relevant and how to submit, upload). In three years, he sees that the repository will be ready to use for American Archivist articles. There is a trend in this direction in the sciences anyway – we are not reinventing the wheel. Having this capability could transform the journal – allowing direct links embedded in the articles themselves.

Cal’s response: AA has been working with Odum Institute informally to see about a similar arrangement, a separate instance – he agrees with the three-year time frame.

Response from Meredith Evans, SAA President: Council has talked about long term plans, the SAA would take management responsibilities over the Dataverse, sustainable (with the help of SAA’s staff), especially with A*Census two forthcoming. SAA is excited and on-board.

Paul: increasing interest in SAA roundtables, task forces, etc. for the systematic gathering of data (including gray literature). Not just data but also analysis that comes from work.

Response from Meredith Evans, SAA President: Gives everyone the opportunity to learn – really an exciting and important group that will have a lot of tentacles.

Jennifer: Structural change based on sound data – mission critical. The players that have talked this into being, Dennis and Nancy advocating for years. It is exciting to be the practitioners that putting this into practice.

(3) Question from David Kay in chat: “Can you describe some of the Dataverse data sets? What are some of the gaps you’ve noticed and what steps could be taken to address gaps?”

Jennifer: We will be embarking on this in the incoming year – so we will move onto the other sub-comm report

Paul (in chat): @David Kay. I think we will get to your question.

(4) Question from Ricky Punzalan: [paraphrased] “Would it be possible to have someone go through *The American Archivist* to find articles with existing datasets and compile that information for collection in Dataverse?”

Cal Lee (in chat): We're moving toward AA authors including references to where the associated data can be found, which could help with the analysis that Ricky suggested (at least going forward).

- Education and Training
 - Team: Sarah Buchanan, Courtney Dean, Sarah Pratt, Paul Conway
 - Main purpose of the subcommittee has been to look fairly broadly at what might be needed in terms of systematic programming and opportunities for the archival profession in regards to the area of research, data, and assessment
 - Long term strategy that might be 2, 3, 4 years in the works before understanding what impact we can have
 - In the last year, there are 4 activities coming to fruition:
 - (1) Workshop (Workshop info: <https://archives2020.sched.com/event/ctio/demystifying-data-analysis>)
 - being offered Monday (August 3): Demystifying Data Analysis (limited, paid access)
 - original enrollment set at 30 but filled quickly and then changed to 50.
 - Will have 51 participants on Monday. Workshop will be led by PhD candidate Jeremy York (UMichigan)
 - Shifted to Zoom meeting with breakout rooms after originally conceptualizing this in person in Chicago; trying to take maximum advantage of all Zoom's capabilities
 - If you cannot make it to the workshop, we will make the resources and materials more widely available
 - Workshop will use A*Census (2004) dataset during workshop to understand social science research, how to reuse data, and how to manipulate data
 - Hoping to inspire participants to learn more about data analysis, not necessarily become experts
 - Jeremy has done a tremendous amount of work preparing the dataset from ICSPR
 - Workshop will use Excel (or open access equivalent) to teach participants how to do data analysis in Excel
 - We will report back out (at least in Archival Outlook) what we learned and how to revise any future workshops
 - (2) CORDA SAA Open House (Aug 4, 11 CT)
 - Were originally imagining this as an "unworkshop" but developed this with more structure for the online format
 - Three parts:

- (1) Assessment and Collection: collection development policies
 - (2) Dataverse: “show and tell” and input on policies
 - (3) Facts and Figures: Dennis to cover this in more detail in the next section
- (3) Research Forum (Aug 5, 4-5 CT – CORDA’s presentation)
 - Work to explicitly knit CORDA’s work together with the Research Forum
 - Nance McGovern will lead this 1-hour forum to focus / discuss what research and assessment means for the archival profession (Nance in chat: “looking forward to it!”)
 - We hope this to be an interactive discussion in how to advance research activities in the profession
- (4) Whitepaper
 - Hope this to come out of the preceding 3 activities
 - What is research? What is assessment?
 - This is in the works, has been discussed in CORDA and will eventually be opened up to the wider SAA community

[No questions]

- Facts and Figures
 - Team: Amanda Hawk, Chris Marino, and Dennis Meissner
 - Branch of assessment / evaluation committee
 - We have shifted gears to examining/reimagining a new Facts & Figures page on the SAA’s website
 - Currently: text-heavy, no access to data sets, too few things that are not always the right things and are not connected – do not tell a story
 - Conducted Environmental scan – how other organizations present/organize/manage their data – looked at 17 institutions and presented findings to CORDA
 - RESULTED in concept document – with categories of how data/information could be organized--> wireframe document. The homepage for the site will have 3 channels:
 - Dataverse portal
 - Resources relating to evaluation and assessment
 - Tools
 - Showed an example of the “Tools” sub-page with links to illustrate what type of content will fall under this category
 - Next steps: build out page on SAA’s website working with Matt Black from SAA

- Paul showed existing Facts and Figures page on SAA’s website for comparison (<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/saa-foundation-board-of-directors/facts-figures>)

IV. Plan for next year (with sub-committee assignments)

Jennifer to run through these quickly to allow at least 10 minutes for discussion/questions.

Game plan for what is next:

- MOU with Dataverse
 - To launch repository and understand our obligations as a profession
- Grant for data management
 - Learning we could do more with data management
 - Paul: the more we get into the development of a set of policies/procedures for data acquisition into Dataverse, we realize there is a big piece of work between finding a dataset and putting it into Dataverse; data is messy, dirty and not well documented even from the collector’s perspective, so we need to systematize the data ingested into the Dataverse. Perhaps this work could be funded by a modest size operational grant (a year or so) to do this work in the Dataverse as a “Data Curator”
- Education and workshop
 - Workshop hosting next week – excited to build upon this and make it a regular fixture as part of the SAA AGMs.
- Collection development policies
 - Next steps for our data are to determine collection development policies which will require a lot of work around definitions and framing the research we do as a profession
- Data management policies
 - Similar to collection development policies, we need these, too.

A*Census II: Liaison work (anticipate opportunities)

V. Open Discussion

Cheryl Stadel-Bevans from chat: “How can those not on the committee get involved in the work you are doing? Thanks.”

Jennifer/Paul: Please join at the open house – more room for discussion – focusing on assessment and evaluation, data repository, and facts & figures. Jennifer: Emails can be sent to CORDA@archivists.org

Cheryl: Huge kudos to the group on the work you have done so far.

Incoming members:

- Gwen Higgins: Shared excitement in joining the committee as a new member

- Emily Lapworth: introduced herself
- Mary Biddle: early (in her 3rd career) member, introduced herself

Nancy Beaumont: Update on A*Census II Grant

- Start date is Sept. 1
- Ithaca S&R and fabulous volunteers
- Plans to reach out to archivists and members to serve on an advisory group
- Meredith: 2 surveys to come out of this to match old surveys and also collect new data (e.g., salaries), tapping into regional associations to help with dissemination as we have before
- Jennifer: IMLS had ~250 applications and only awarded about 30, and not many were “archival”

VI. Adjourn

15:21:30 From Jennifer King : <https://www2.archivists.org/groups/committee-on-research-data-and-assessment/membership-and-charge>

15:38:23 From Sheridan Sayles : What would be the process of adding data sets to the dataverse?

15:42:42 From Sheridan Sayles : Thanks, good luck!

15:43:45 From Cal Lee : Would you foresee a pipeline from American Archivist authors to the repository when there are data sets associated with articles? If so, any ideas when we'd want to initiate that?

15:43:58 From Cal Lee : Oops. Ricky just asked.

15:46:43 From Jennifer King to Paul Conway(Privately) : Meredith needs a moment, I'll introduce her comment next

15:50:19 From David Kay : Can you describe some of the dataverse data sets? What are some of the gaps you've noticed and what steps could be taken to address gaps?

15:53:18 From Paul Conway : @David Kay. I think we will get to your question.

15:54:42 From Cal Lee : We're moving toward AA authors including references to where the associated data can be found, which could help with the analysis that Ricky suggested (at least going forward).

15:56:57 From Courtney Dean : Workshop info: <https://archives2020.sched.com/event/ctio/demystifying-data-analysis>

15:59:30 From Ricky Punzalan : Paul is in the Data *is* camp.

16:00:54 From Jess Farrell : oooo I had no idea about this political position I could take. I think me too.

16:04:18 From Nance McGovern : looking forward to it!

16:19:22 From Cheryl Stadel-Bevans : How can those not on the committee get involved in the work you are doing? Thanks.

16:21:05 From Jennifer King : Emails can be sent to CORDA@archivists.org

16:21:43 From Cheryl Stadel-Bevans : Huge kudos to the group on the work you have done so far.

16:22:01 From Jay-Marie Bravent : This is fantastic work everyone, thank you!

16:22:31 From Laura Starratt : I'm not lurking! I'm actively listening. Jennifer can vouch that I would say something if I had something to add

16:22:49 From Jennifer King : I can vouch for Laura!

16:23:49 From Jess Farrell : Thanks for this critical work, everyone! I am definitely lurking. I'm going to try to attend the workshop too, though, and will perhaps meet some of you there.

16:24:44 From Jennifer King : Thank you, Jess. So appreciate the thoughtful participation in the meeting, and support for this work.

16:25:25 From Nance McGovern : yay, Jennifer and Paul! well done :)

16:25:26 From Nancy Beaumont : It's been our pleasure, Paul and Jennifer and all!