

SAA Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment
Minutes of Full Committee Meeting
November 22, 2019, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (via BlueJeans)

Several pieces of background material reflecting work accomplished by the subcommittees over the past two months were shared prior to the meeting:

- Notes from the November 5 Data Repository Subgroup meeting: <https://umich.box.com/s/jpibb8gifsqvx7obj40cgo0etleln0kz>
- Notes from the October 8 Education and Training Subcommittee committee meeting: <https://emory.app.box.com/file/559034375175>
- Assessment and Evaluation Subcommittee Survey Draft: <https://umich.box.com/s/wpabh3n3t72yamdri3ytbahan8i6wylz>

Review Assessment and Evaluation Survey Draft

We can use Qualtrics as the survey platform. Erin Stoddart has access through University of Oregon, and Amanda Hawk has the same level of access. Would SAA need to set up a cooperative agreement? We will look for language around a memo of understanding. The data can be stored in the data repository. As an interim step, Sarah Buchanan can offer Qualtrics through Simmons

One barrier/issue is providing access to and setting up the survey; the other is the time that it takes to build and test a good Qualtrics survey. How do we get the job done? Sarah, Erin, and Amanda can test out the survey.

Data Repository Update

Erin, Christina, and Paul spoke with Thu Mai Christian, Associate Director of Odum. Odum's mission is to support social science data so we could be a good fit. We can brand our repository within it as SAA. We create our own collection development policies. Acceptable format of data is numbers or words, ascii or PDF. Two years from now if the scale of what we upload would exceed our storage allotment, we might need to buy storage space.

A second issue is that if we want to do a Dataverse with Odum we need a formal memo of understanding. Jennifer and Paul could create a first draft for Nancy to review. Costs would be related to the service model for the Odum Institute (for curated and mitigated data, rather than self-managed data).

Immediate next steps: MOU. Later on we will need documentation for how to submit data (Christine will get). The name will be *SAA Dataverse*.

Education and Training Update (Sarah Pratt, Paul and Courtney)

Preconference workshops. There will be a full-day preconference workshop at SAA2020 featuring a “Dataverse Un-tutorial” in the morning (should Odum conference in?) focusing on data stewardship, and a formal workshop—“Data analysis 101”—in the afternoon. The hired instructor may be someone deeply connected with datasets, building on the free workshop on research methods 2008 taught by Nancy McGovern, Beth Yakel, and Helen Tibbo in 2008. It will cover:

- how do you define research questions
- statistical analysis
- lightweight statistics using A-Census data

The Untutorial will be free and the afternoon workshop will be fee-based. Registration will be limited to 35-45 people.

Research Forum: Reframe the discussion of the research evaluation question and use actual research to help get people's heads around the difference between pure research and assessment and evaluation (one-hour). Regarding timing, it would have to be Sunday or Monday to be ahead of the Research Forum. They will send details to Nancy Beaumont directly; it probably doesn't have to go through the Education Committee

Report to Council

What does CORDA think that the Council wants to know at its December 3-5 meeting? Paul and Jennifer will send a draft report to CORDA committee, and then send the final report through liaison Ricky Punzalan to Nancy Beaumont. We will most likely not make the meeting materials deadline for council.

Review of Subcommittee Progress

Education and Training. They are following through on developing preconference workshop and Research Forum content.

SAA Facts & Figures Page. Where does this fit in with our other work? How do other professions manage and serve out this sort of information? Dennis volunteered to start taking a look at that, since it is work that he started as a member on the task force. The existing page is here: <https://www2.archivists.org/aboutarchives/resources/factsandfigures>.

Future Meeting Topics:

- Eira Tansey and Ben Goldman project to locate existing US archival repositories, which is a target for the SAA Dataverse: <https://repositorydata.wordpress.com/>

Meeting Schedule

We will resume monthly meetings, Fridays at 1:00 Eastern time zone.

