

SAA Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment
Minutes of Full Committee Meeting
March 23, 2020, 1:00-2:00 p.m. (via BlueJeans)

Present:

Dennis Meissner, Jennifer King, Erin Stoddart, Cristina Horak, Chris Marino, Amanda Hawk, Julia Corrin, Paul Conway, Sarah Pratt, Nance McGovern, Ricky Punzalan, Nancy Beaumont

Facts & Figures Page Update

Dennis presented a critique of the existing page, and shared a vision of how the page might be transformed into an expanded resource for SAA members and a curated launch point for content created or managed by CORDA in years to come.

Dennis characterized the existing page as being long on weighty textual reports that lack accessible dashboards (key messages) and also lack access to underlying data sets. He walked through a document (<https://umich.box.com/s/1tzcbz7pmv19b3y4yxlqdmn36qt1alwq>) that showed how future content might be broken into multiple channels—Statistics & Analytics, Project Reports & Tools, and Data Sets—so as to provide a richer, easier to navigate body of research and assessment resources. He also called attention to a second document (<https://emory.app.box.com/file/640321552687>) containing links showing how other organizations have approached this same objective.

Paul called the group's attention to the NEA's Research and Analysis web page as a very attractive model that CORDA might aspire to down the road: <https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/research-analysis>.

Paul and Jennifer asked Dennis to prioritize work on creating a rough wireframe to represent and expanded F&F page that could be built in the months ahead. Chris Marino and Amanda Hawk volunteered to form a Facts & Figures team with Dennis.

Research Tools

Nance McGovern is working on several problems relating to the preservation and accessibility of professional research data. These include the assembly of resources in the data repository, data clearinghouse, and developing a research agenda.

She is also interested in preserving useful legacy software for archivists. She asked how SAA might help with obtaining licenses that would allow archivists to use such software. She noted the Software Preservation Network's research and innovation subcommittee (SPIN is hosted by Educopia) which is funded by membership fees, for a two-year period. Two staff are coordinating this volunteer effort.

She also emphasized that CORDA should be helping SAA improve its ability to do data analysis, and mentioned that Aeon (Atlas) has a data visualization tool for its user data.

Nance noted a few other organizations we should be keeping an eye on:

- Educopia
- Digital Preservation Coalition - growing international network (technology watch reports)
- Ithaka S&R
- Center for the Future of Museums (Elizabeth Merritt is excellent resource and speaker)
- Canadian Heritage Information Network
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SAA Dataverse repository

Erin (provided an update on progress to date. A written report is available at:

<https://umich.box.com/s/6ceanryxryrx33cmwrrxulnol8a4635e>

Memo of Understanding with ODUM. At this juncture there is still some uneasiness within Council. Concerns are:

- Will we incur fees in the future?
- ICPSR (Inter-institutional Consortium for Political and Social Research) vs. Dataverse

CORDA should plan a webinar for SAA leaders.

There will be SAA staff commitment and financial commitment.

Jennifer, Paul, Ricky, and Nancy Beaumont will schedule a strategy session.