

Report to SAA Committee on Education
Submitted by Martin Gengenbach July 2019

The DAS Subcommittee made significant progress against four established goals this year:

1. Stabilize comprehensive exam and practice exam
2. Identify and propose alternatives to comprehensive exam
3. Maintain existing DAS course catalog, develop new courses in desired areas and identify potential courses for retirement
4. Engage ARL/SAA Mosaic Fellowship participants

This report provides additional detail into ongoing and completed activities related to each of the goals above, and closes with a thank-you to departing members.

Goal 1: Stabilize comprehensive exam and practice exam

Activities:

- Update and revise comprehensive exam reading list (and individual course readings) (complete)
- Deduplicate and revise practice exam questions (in progress)
- Revise final exam (in progress)
- establish process for contested exam questions (complete)

The DAS Subcommittee recommended the hiring of two part-time resources, Sarah Shipley and Tomaro Taylor, to handle review and revision of existing exam questions across both the practice exam and comprehensive exam offerings. They have identified exam questions that should be revised or excluded from future offerings, and have provided valuable feedback on exam question development that will be of great benefit to future DAS test question writers.

The Subcommittee has also developed a process for test-takers to contest exam questions that they identify as unclear. This process allows test takers to request review of specific exam questions by a small subset of the DAS Subcommittee, who may elect to remove or revise the identified question. In some cases, test takers may also be given the opportunity to retake the exam at no cost. This process has provided clarity and transparency in response to an unanticipated impact of offering the comprehensive exam online, and has been used multiple times to identify questions that are in need of revision or review.

Goal 2: Identify and propose alternatives to comprehensive exam

Activities:

- Research alternatives in other industries (complete)
- Work with DAS Intern Pam McClanahan to conduct survey for DAS program evaluation and participant views on comprehensive exam (complete)

- Develop and submit to council a proposal on next steps related to comprehensive exam (in progress)

The DAS Subcommittee dedicated much of its on-site meeting in October 2018 to discussions around the comprehensive exam. This work continued into 2019, resulting in the [draft proposal for the comprehensive exam found here](#). We continue to develop and finalize a recommendation for the future of the comprehensive exam.

The Subcommittee also sought to understand how previous DAS course participants and certificate holders see the DAS program and comprehensive exam through a participant survey. The survey was developed and executed by the DAS Intern, Pam McClanahan, who included targeted questions on the quality of courses offered through DAS, and the benefits of the DAS Certificate for those who have earned it. This survey received over 500 responses and provided valuable feedback for the DAS Subcommittee.

Goal 3: Maintain existing DAS course catalog, develop new courses in desired areas and identify potential courses for retirement

Activities:

- Ensure timely audit, review, and revision of existing courses (in progress)
- Develop courses in email management, XML editing, and other high-interest areas
- Support development of Management track where appropriate (in progress)

Courses developed in FY2019

- Introduction to PREMIS; Lori Lindberg; in-person in Austin (DAS, A&D)
- Email Archiving; Chris Prom & Tricia Patterson; in-person in Austin (DAS)

Courses in development for FY2020

- Using ePADD for Email Archiving (Schneider & Chan, DAS)
- Introduction to XML Analysis and Manipulation (Heberlein, A&D/DAS)

105 individuals fulfilled all the requirements and were awarded the DAS certificate in FY19. In addition, 33 individuals completed the requirements to renew their DAS certificate

Goal 4: Engage ARL/SAA Mosaic Fellowship participants

Activities:

- Clarify policies regarding use of Mosaic Fellowship funding (complete)

The existing arrangement between SAA and ARL provided funding that Fellows could put toward DAS courses during the time of their Fellowship. However, analysis of course participation and feedback from Mosaic Fellows revealed that many Mosaic Scholars were unable to complete their DAS certification during the time of their scholarship, due to a combination of DAS course scheduling and the Fellows' own existing educational and occupational commitments. The new funding agreement between ARL and SAA

provides funding for all current and past Mosaic Fellows through the end of the grant period - currently 2021.

- Encourage regular communication with Mosaic scholars and ARL mentors to increase participation in program (complete)

In addition to clarifying policies related to the use of Mosaic Fellowship scholarship funds, the DAS Subcommittee has re-engaged with Mosaic program alumni to ensure that all Fellows are aware of this extended benefit, and have opened communications between ARL mentors, Mosaic Fellows, and DAS Subcommittee members. The result has been a notable uptick in Mosaic Fellow participation in DAS course offerings. We hope to build on this success through the end of dedicated funding to the program in 2021.

Farewell to departing Subcommittee members!

Finally, the DAS Subcommittee wishes to thank outgoing and departing subcommittee members, with particular gratitude to **Glen McAninch** for his eight (plus?) years on the DAS Subcommittee. His experience and wisdom will be missed!

Thanks to all of our outgoing/departed subcommittee members for all of their efforts!:

- Glen McAninch
- Jeni Spamer
- Ashley Taylor
- Pam McClanahan, Intern