

Report to SAA Committee on Education
Submitted by Lauren Burroughs, August 2023

The below report documents the DAS subcommittee's activities over the 2022-2023 committee cycle (September-August). The committee welcomed three new members. A major obstacle that the subcommittee faced was the October departure of the managers for the comprehensive exam and subsequent search to fill those positions. After a sustained lack of interested volunteers, a team of psychometricians from Dainis & Company, Inc., was hired in May to manage the exam and securely maintain the item bank.

In November, the DAS subcommittee presented a recertification proposal to SAA Council aimed at addressing the nascent problem of original and early DAS certificate holders being unable to find enough courses to fulfill recertification requirements. Namely, these certificate holders have taken so many continuing education courses that there are not enough left in the SAA catalog to satisfy our credentialing model. The proposal offers a petition process so that candidates for recertification who have run out of permissible courses offered by SAA may take a course offered by an outside institution. Council requested edits to the proposal and those were submitted in August 2023.

In April, DAS, along with the instructor, decided to postpone the release of the OAIS prerequisite course to allow for inclusion of the revised standards, which are due out at the end of 2023.

To support the goals of the Subcommittee, the following items occurred:

- Hosted an onboarding session for new members to introduce them to DAS Handbook, DAS microsite, DAS SAA connect presence, course liaison duties, the DAS documentation hub, and leadership.
- Held a virtual retreat in October to identify goals of the Subcommittee for the year and continue work to improve the DAS certificate program.
- Assessed the main needs for the year and sustained the subteams from 2021-2022: Course Development Subteam, Comprehensive Exam Subteam, and Documentation Subteam.
- Convened monthly for an hour and half in order to allow ample time for the subteams to work on goal-oriented projects.
- Held a training session with the Dainis & Co. team in June followed by an item writing sprint in July.

The DAS subteams made significant progress against the following established goals which are outlined below:

Comprehensive Exam Support Subteam

- Finalized and distributed reading list, accessed on Zotero

- Documented subteam responsibilities and procedures in DASS handbook
- Updated instructor contracts with exam items and reading list requirements
- Reduced backlog of quiz and exam items needing review
- Participated actively with recruitment and onboarding of new exam manager

Course Development Subteam

- Evaluated webcasts for relevancy to the current digital archives profession with a focus on potential decommission and created an action plan for evaluation
- Prepared and set-up workflows to do a gap analysis/assess the digital archives program to identify gaps in the course of study as well as identified tier of study and current course identifiers
- Evaluated course liaison spreadsheet for purpose and tracking functionality. Made it more multifunctional.

Documentation Subteam

- Anticipated dissolution following completion of the handbook and document inventory listed as part of the 2021-2022 goals, but before the handbook and inventory could be completed the request for revisions for the Recertification by Petition proposal came in.
- The proposal with revisions was submitted in August 2023.

DAS courses continued with synchronously available online formats, and in-person courses resumed. The subcommittee continues to evaluate courses for both continued relevance and format efficacy. Additionally, the subcommittee audited all webcasts to ensure up-to-date material and flagged those that were outdated.

Totals for DAS Certificate/Comprehensive Exam Completion. Out of 115 exam takers:

- September 2022: 42 passed, 7 failed
- January 2023: 33 passed, 4 failed
- May 2023: 27 passed, 2 failed

Thank you to Rana Salzmänn, Akila Ruffin, Jasmine Jones, and other SAA staff for their continued support of this subcommittee. Most especially, I want to thank the DAS Subcommittee members who have volunteered so much of their time this year, particularly with the extra asks of webcast audits and exam item writing this summer. Finally, I want to thank the following outgoing subcommittee members for their service to SAA:

- Sara Davis