

The State of Reappraisal and Deaccessioning in Archives

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Abstract:

In the spring of 2017, Marcella Huggard and Laura Uglean Jackson conducted a survey about reappraisal and deaccessioning practices in archival institutions in the U.S. and Canada. While the archives literature is full of case studies about the benefits, ethical quandaries, and challenges of reappraising and deaccessioning, it lacks comprehensive data about the prevalence of these practices and how they are conducted. The survey aimed to gather information on the types and sizes of repositories engaged in these practices, why institutions reappraise and deaccession (and why they don't), what happens to deaccessioned collections, and if the SAA Guidelines on Reappraisal and Deaccessioning, endorsed by Council and published in 2012, have had an impact on institutional practices. This poster will provide highlights and preliminary results from this survey.

About the Authors:

Marcella Huggard is archives and manuscripts coordinator at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, part of the University of Kansas' library system. Prior to her current position, she spent several years at the Kansas Historical Society in the State Archives as a project archivist, government records archivist, and public records program supervisor. She has BA and MA degrees in History from Knox College and Colorado State University-Fort Collins.

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