

Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL

Group Name: International Archival Affairs Section (IAAS) Annual Report

Prepared by: Karen Trivette (outgoing Senior Co-Chair) and Jennifer Dantchev
(incoming Senior Co-Chair)

Year: 2024-2025

Current Rosters: (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):

Karen Trivette, Outgoing Senior Co-Chair (term end date: 9/1/2025)

Jennifer Dantchev, Outgoing Junior Co-Chair / Incoming Senior Co-Chair (term end date: 9/1/2026)

Jenifer Monger, Incoming Junior Co-Chair (term end date: 9/1/2027 – second year as Senior Co-Chair)

Shelley Sweeney: Member-at-Large (term end date: 9/1/2026)

Rachel Poppen: Member-at-Large (term end date: 9/1/2027)

Jenifer Monger: Former Member-at-Large / Current Junior Co-Chair (POSITION CURRENTLY OPEN)

Elaine Akin: Early Career Member (term end date: 9/1/2026)

Chloe Inoue: Early Career Member (term end date: 9/1/2026)

Lydia Tang: Council Liaison (term end date: 9/1/2025)

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)

Completed:

Recurring program series:

- Archival Landscapes Seminars: (run by Senior Co-Chair) virtual seminar series began in 2020. In each seminar, an international guest speaker introduces participants to the issues and advancements in their local context, describing the history, operating environment and unique aspects of archival practice in their country. Four events a year, one continent or large geo-segment represented each season or quarter:
 - Jan 2025 Europe/UK: Henri Zuber, Président Society for the History of French Protestantism; Paris, France
 - March 2025 Africa: Steve Urgola, University Archivist, American University of Cairo /Egypt
 - May 2025 Asia/Australia: Garfield Lam, University Archivist, University of HK
 - August 2025 Americas/Peru: Dora A. Paloma Villanueva, Coordinator of the Archive of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and Laura Yturbe Mori, General Archive of the Nation of Peru, Records Management Specialist

- Archival Vistas Briefings: (run by Junior Co-Chair) virtual program series began in 2023 and discusses a topic or theme of international focus. The theme for 2024-2025 is archival standards and how we experience and use them. In each seminar, an international guest speaker(s) introduces attendees to how they have interacted with a particular standard, and shares their aspirations, implementation, and development experience with the standard. Three per year.
 - Feb 2025 Europe/UK: Anna McNally, Archivist and Collections Manager at The Cosmic House (discussed work w/ISAD(G))
 - April 2025 American/USA: Andy Potter, retired from NARA and currently contributes to ISO standardization efforts (discussed ISO standardization in Archives and Records Management)
 - July 2025 Americas and Europe/Canada and France: Florence Clavaud, General Curator and the Head of the Lab at the National Archives of France and Carina McDowell, Archivist at the Library and Archives Canada (discussed RiC)
 - This event was co-sponsored by the ICA Bureau: International Council on Archives-Section of University and Research Institution Archives

Ongoing:

- Member-at-Large Rachel Poppen is working on creating a readings bibliography on Zotero, she also created a section-dedicated email address and Google presence
- Member-at-Large Shelley Sweeney regularly takes the minutes of the section's once-a-month meetings and provides valuable suggestions
- Early Career Member Chloe Inoue has been editing subtitles on the Archival Landscapes YouTube videos and she is keeping a list of any books or resources that speakers are mentioning to give to Rachel for addition to the IAAS Zotero reading list
- Early Career Member Elaine Akin has gotten our YouTube channel and microsite up-to-date and continues to make sure that new content is added when needed

New:

- 2025-2026 Archival Vistas Briefings Theme: "AI and the Expanding Vistas of Archival Practice"
- Working on organizing a new project for an Early Career Member researching and documenting the section's history.

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to one or more of the four main goals.)

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

The IAAS advocates for archives and archivists through showcasing and engaging archivists from around the world, welcoming them to share their knowledge and experience with the SAA membership.

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

The IAAS enhances professional growth through engaging diverse experiences and perspectives of archivists from around the world. Through their sharing of information, both our

guest speakers and participants can learn from one another and make connections across nations and cultures.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

The IAAS advances the field by providing a platform for archivists to share their knowledge so that others can learn from their experiences. Through discussion on local practices and current trends, participants can see how others around the world participate in archival work.

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

The IAAS is meeting members' needs through providing a diverse and engaging showcase of archivists and their work from around the world. This gives members of SAA the opportunity to learn about the archival environment in other countries and what they are doing in the field.

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: circa 30

Link to meeting minutes: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1No7h0-GPGQ4hU9CkKX5Mxt_CLINjsUuS6jZmNR6shBM/edit?usp=sharing

Summary of meeting activities and highlights: The meeting allowed members (including the Council Liaison) to introduce themselves and discuss their work in the IAAS, special focus was given to the Early Career Members and the projects they have been working on. The total membership and makeup of the IAAS was broken down. The Senior Co-Chair and Junior Co-Chair described the seminars they organized and hosted for the section's two major programs: Archival Landscapes Seminars and Archival Vistas Briefings. An election status update was given concerning the open Junior Co-Chair position. Finally, the floor was open for questions from participants and the meeting adjourned with closing remarks.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?

- We are a small but mighty group that is enthusiastic and engaged with promoting international archives and those who are interested in it. Members are eager to participate and find ways to make content available to the wider SAA community and certainly beyond.

Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?

- There could be issues gaining access to the SAA Zoom account due to extra authentication steps for signing in. Another issue often faced by IAAS leadership is accessing international archivists who do not speak English well, or at all. This limits our pool of applicants for our programming. Unfortunately, real-time translation services are expensive and not attainable for the section right now.

What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?

- It would greatly expand out section operation if SAA could provide grants or scholarship opportunities for language or otherwise (ASL) interpretation services for the IAAS section to engage non-English speaking guests.

What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff? The IAAS leadership and membership sincerely appreciates all that the SAA Council and staff do to keep the section's operations running smoothly. Of special note is the support we regularly receive from Ms. Hannah Stryker, SAA Staff. Without her help and regular intervention, we would not be able to operate and move our mission forward as well as we do.