

Agenda and Notes

Issues and Advocacy Roundtable

Business Meeting

August 21, 2015

- Welcome [Sarah Quigley]
- Recognition of outgoing steering committee members
- Introduction of incoming steering committee members
- Updates from Council [Lisa Mangiafico]
 - two big issues before the members:
 - a dues increase that will be discussed at the SAA business meeting and offered for referendum in late October
 - proposed changes to affinity groups:
 - sections and roundtables would all become the same type of group - the distinction between them would be removed
 - comments due by 9/1
 - no non-SAA members in the affinity groups
 - new virtual communities could include non-SAA members, wouldn't have to have bylaws, would just be discussion forums
 - SAA members could be a part of as many affinity groups as desired
 - arrangement and description certificate program approved
 - approved new terms of participation for archives and archivists listserv
 - technical subcommittees on EAD and DACS, etc. have been merged into one technical subcommittee
 - NHPRC:
 - NHPRC is working on a strategic plan - please take a look:
<http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/about/strategic-plan.html>
 - proposed NHPRC elimination legislation has been stopped for now, but it may come back and require advocacy efforts
 - established criteria for when SAA will make statements on issues: will only make statements when there is a direct connection to the archives field - because this is where we have expertise and where our limited resources will be best spent
 - please feel free to contact Lisa
- Advocacy issues from the Intellectual Property Working Group [Aprille McKay, Chair of the Intellectual Property Working Group]
 - the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement is currently being negotiated in secret
 - contains a chapter on intellectual property and copyright
 - one of the potential effects that may be included as a term of the agreement is that it may extend the term of copyright to the life of the author plus 100 years

- may lock in the agreement with the signatory nations to have a term of copyright of life of the author + 70 years, which would lengthen the term for NZ and Australia and prevent US from ever rolling back our current terms
 - a month ago, Obama got fast-track authority to push this agreement through congress
 - once he presents the text of the agreement to congress, it has to be pushed through congress quickly - congress cannot offer any amendments
 - so we can't lobby based on the text of the agreement
 - if the text is put forward and we object to the terms, we may have to ask all of our legislators to vote the agreement down
 - we're not sure if this is going to happen yet
 - they had a meeting that failed to come to terms on all pieces of the agreement that are still under negotiation
 - they'll have to reconvene to talk about it
 - may happen in october, but if not, it will run into the Canadian election season, busy season for congress, and then US elections - if it doesn't happen soon, may not happen for a good while yet
 - Intellectual Property Working Group will call on us if need be
 - for example, we could help to find out which archivists live in important districts
 - there will be various very diverse constituencies who won't like the agreement - we'll have to work together
- Updates from CAPP and Discussion of Issue Briefs [Jeremy Brett]
 - CAPP recently circulated for comment two draft issue briefs:
 - right to privacy
 - definition of federal records and strengthening the authority of NARA
 - the drafts will be reissued for further comment before the final versions are created
 - please feel free to continue to send comments:
 - to the roundtable
 - to Jeremy
 - details about the privacy brief:
 - question about wording of "Americans" and "citizen"
 - details about the federal records brief:
 - was not written with NARA and haven't yet received official comment from NARA
 - some are concerned about the practicality of doing this brief

- CAPP will probably be working with the IP Working Group and declassification of records
 - CAPP welcomes input from both Council and the membership to inform their priorities
- Updates from the Standards Committee Technical Subcommittee on Guidelines for Reappraisal and Deaccessioning [Caitlin Christian-Lamb]
 - please submit comments about the guidelines:
 - what should be corrected
 - what is missing
 - methods for providing comments:
 - comment on the draft: tinyurl.com/nd4ut68
 - email comments to the chair, Laura Uglean Jackson
- Accomplishments, 2014-2015
 - Toolkit updates
 - analyzed the content we gathered, looking for gaps, and way to improve the content
 - please send in suggestions if you see something that is missing
 - did reformatting to improve readability
 - eliminated acronyms
 - fixed or replaced broken links
 - improved metadata by adding date created and date updated to resources
 - Sarah recommends that the steering committee appoint 1 steering committee member to do that, who isn't the webmaster
 - could be an elected position or could be a volunteer within the steering committee
 - we need to experiment with it for a bit longer to see how it works
 - Collaboration with Regional Archives Associations Consortium
 - this collaboration came out of discussion between Sarah and Rachel Chatalbash about the lack of a clear and recognizable and easy to find protocol for the regional associations to communicate with SAA in the event of advocacy issues and vice versa
 - wrote an agenda proposal that they submitted to Council in the summer about establishing a formal mechanism for communication
 - Council was able to discuss the proposal and suggested that:
 - SAA and RAAC will write a memo of understanding that codifies the role of each group
 - if RAAC or SAA need to communicate issues, they can follow the communication pathways outlined in the memo of understanding
 - we hope this will broaden the scope of advocacy

- there is an advocacy protocol on the RAAC microsite - we should add something on our site that reflects back to it
 - Blog series, "Archivists on the Issues" [Christine George]
 - blog series came up among steering committee discussion - wanted to have a forum where archivists could come forward to discuss a wide variety of issues
 - was designed to be a more formal series:
 - posts would be sent to steering committee
 - authors could remain anonymous so they would remain comfortable to come forward and discuss issues
 - currently we have 2 blog posts
 - if there's an issue you'd like to write about - about the news, about SAA, etc. - the goal is that we could have back and forth blog posts and facilitate discussion - or if you'd like to recommend someone to write a post, please let Christine or the steering committee know
 - Adoption of Statement of Mission, Vision and Core Values:
 - Council raised some questions about our use of the term "independence" - we are not an independent entity from SAA
 - Council was concerned that that wording was confusing and perhaps inaccurate
 - term was ultimately replaced with the word "dialogue"
 - blog series could be an important part of that dialogue - please take advantage of this platform to facilitate discussion and dialogue
 - By-laws revision adopted
 - Sarah hopes these changes will support new voices getting involved in steering committee while also providing continuity from year to year
 - were submitted to Council for approval and were approved
 - Pop-Up Session:
 - partnered with other SAA groups to plan a pop-up session:
 - <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/issues-and-advocacy-roundtable/pop-up-session-at-saa15>
 - was a great opportunity to put our mission to work
- Plans for the coming year, 2015-2016 [Wendy Hagenmaier]
 - Continue the discussion Sarah started with SAA leadership, including Council via Lisa, to clarify the role of our Roundtable in light of SAA's advocacy agenda, and to identify the concrete ways in which we can best "support the continued growth of the archival profession and nurture archivists and archives." (to quote from our recently approved Statement of Mission, Vision, and Core Values). This is a crucial first step in figuring out how this roundtable wants to direct its efforts over the next year, and into the future.

- As part of this effort, Wendy would like to continue and expand I&A's efforts to document issues and advocacy situations as they unfold, by:
 - Gathering links to coverage (as we did with the University of Oregon situation) and possibly working with the Internet Archive to preserve and curate these links
 - Continuing the blog post series and creating incentives for archivists to write posts
 - Continuing our social media efforts (thank you, Christine!!)
 - Wendy would like to get as many members as possible involved in this documentation and information-sharing effort
 - Continue partnering with the Regional Archives Association Consortium to establish and define a simple and formal line of communication for advocacy issues that need to be communicated either to or from Council, I&A, or RAAC
 - from May Council meeting: "The Council agreed to suggest to RAAC leaders that a simple communication line be established, and Beaumont noted that the staff will be vigilant in ensuring that RAAC leaders receive information immediately upon release of SAA statements so that they can forward the information to their members."
 - In partnership with the steering committee and membership, consider and respond to the Proposed Changes in Member Affinity Groups as this plan evolves; members, please look at this and provide comments by 9/1:
 - As the proposed draft plan stands now, I&A would not face many changes besides transitioning to a new label as "Affinity Group" when the difference between roundtables and sections is dissolved
 - <http://www2.archivists.org/news/2015/council-seeks-comment-on-proposed-changes-in-member-affinity-groups>
 - <http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/0515-VI-B-WG-MAG-revised.pdf>
 - Focus on exploring the issues and advocacy perspective on the many digital archives and records issues unfolding and partner with the electronic records section, metadata and digital object roundtable, and other component group leaders and members on discussions, information-sharing, resource creation, and solution-building
 - To strategize about accomplishing these goals, Wendy will be scheduling monthly standing virtual meetings with the steering committee, to touch base and stay up to date on activities. Summaries of these meetings will be shared with the membership so as to encourage dialogue among the steering committee and the membership.
 - Please, if you have additional ideas or questions about what you think this roundtable should be tackling, do get in touch with Wendy, and thanks for your participation over the next year!
- Reports from the field
 - Johnson Publishing [Aisha Haykal, incoming chair of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable]

- Johnson Publishing (publisher of Ebony and Jet) proposed to sell its photo archives
 - this all happened kind of quickly and by surprise to most people:
 - asking price was about five million dollars
 - Aisha, Gabrielle Dudley, and outreach committee wrote a letter about the issue and offering their help with strategies, stressing the historical importance of the archive, urged them to work with archives to find a good home
 - Council approved of the letter and were very supportive
 - I&A circulated the letter on our listserv
 - sent to Johnson Publishing in February
 - haven't yet heard back from Johnson Publishing
 - Johnson Publishing's website says that they're selling photos piecemeal, but we don't know if it's the originals or reproductions
 - Johnson Publishing is also trying to sell clothes from Fashion Fair magazine
 - they will keep us up to date if they hear anything else
- Emma Goldman Papers Project [Alison Stankrauff]
 - project is at UC Berkeley
 - Berkeley is considering cutting their funding
 - Editor/Director of the Emma Goldman Papers is Candace Falk; she contacted I&A to see if we could help
 - report from Candace:
 - they are continuing work on the fourth volume
 - fundraising mostly through longtime supporters
 - they are in discussion with archives and in search of a permanent home
 - project has become an important resource for researchers
 - recent redesign of site has improved access
 - she has ideas for partnering with researchers, historians, documentary editors
- ProjectARCC [Casey Davis]
 - Casey is Project Manager for the American Archive of Public Broadcasting and Founder of ProjectARCC
 - ProjectARCC started recently:
 - Archivists responding to Climate Change
 - last October, WGBH in Boston had an event where public media producers came together with scientists to consider how public broadcasting could be producing media related to climate change
 - Casey grew very concerned
 - the job of archivists is the preservation of history for future generations, and climate change is a threat to the future,

and even the present, so it should be a core issue for activism among archivists

- we could see 3 meters of sea level rise and super storms by the end of the century
- archivists need to start thinking about:
 - how and where we are building our facilities
 - collecting material related to climate change
- Project ARCC is looking at 4 areas:
 - how our regions will be affected by climate change
 - how we can collectively reduce our professional carbon footprint
 - pushing that out beyond our profession and telling people about why we are working towards sustainability
 - elevating our relevant collections that are related to climate change so people know they exist and so we can improve public awareness
 - trying to embed ourselves within climate change organizations, partnering with organizations and scientists
 - current activists are not necessarily considering documentation of their efforts
- Casey's ideas about how ProjectARCC could work with I&A members:
 - three ideas:
 - collaborate to ask CAPP or Council to take a formal stand that climate change is going to be a global problem that will affect archival repositories
 - partner to create a template letter that archivists could send to their legislators about why archives and climate change matter
 - work on a carbon incentive program for a future conference: how we as individuals and institutions can reduce our carbon footprint
 - could use an app to track our carbon footprint
 - at the end of the conference, someone could win an award
 - having a session or meeting about what you learned by reducing your carbon footprint and how you take that back to your organization