



NEWS RELEASE

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Janice Ruth Inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists

CHICAGO—Janice Ruth, assistant chief of the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress, will be inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) during a ceremony on August 26, 2011, at *ARCHIVES 360°*, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession.

For 25 years, Ruth has been leaving her mark on the archival profession. She is the first woman to hold her current position at the Library of Congress, a role in which she has improved the description of the holdings. Ruth is widely recognized for her role in the development of Encoded Archival Description (EAD). She participated in the formative meetings in Berkeley, Calif., and Ann Arbor, Mich., in the 1990s to define the technical underpinnings of the standard; served as lead editor for written documentation and the Tag Library; and because of her superb writing skills and clarity of expression, was selected by the other developers to explain EAD structure and the tagging of finding aids in what are viewed as seminal pieces of professional writing.

When she secured the adoption of EAD in the Library of Congress, she helped assure the future of online research. One of her nominators stated, "Janice was an absolutely critical piece of the process and EAD would not have achieved the success it did without her contributions."

Ruth has been advancing the work of SAA for two decades. She has served on the Committee on Archival Information Exchange, and as member and co-chair of the Program Committee, and on the C.F.W. Coker Award Committee. She has presented at annual meetings, taught EAD workshops, and published in the *American Archivist* and other leading archival publications. She also is active in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Manuscripts Society, Beta Phi Mu (library honor society), and is co-founder of the Library of Congress Women's History Discussion Group.

"Janice, simply put, inspires those with whom she associates," said another nominator. "She is viewed as a gifted leader of legendary humility and modesty, a professional everyone wants to work with, and a generous and gracious colleague."

Ruth is one of eight new Fellows named in 2011. There are currently 170 Fellows of the Society of American Archivists.

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Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America's oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA's mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 6,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. For more information, visit www.archivists.org.

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