

Proposal: Archival Accessioning Special Issue or Section for *American Archivist*

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I propose the coordination of a special section in the upcoming Spring/Summer 2025 issue of *American Archivist* focused on archival accessioning in the field today. The issue would place particular emphasis on the development of the first National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning and also on practical experiences and perspectives from folks actively working to implement a diverse spectrum of accessioning labor throughout the archival lifecycle.

Special Section Contents

The section would include an introduction by the co-editors (authors to be determined), and up to ten articles.

The proposed articles might come from, (but will not be limited to):

1. Member(s) of the National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning Working Group (ABP)
2. Member(s) of the SAA's Accessioning, Appraisal, and Acquisitions Section
3. Practitioner(s) performing or managing archival accessioning in the field

Special Section Benefits

In early June 2023, Rosemary K. J. Davis—Chair of the Accessioning, Appraisal, and Acquisitions Section + co-founder and member of the National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning Working Group— and Amy Cooper (editor of AA) discussed the possibility of a special issue or section devoted to scholarship and perspectives on archival accessioning.

The many interdependent workflows of contemporary archival accessioning include aspects from a wide spectrum of archival practices, but often used in different combinations and contexts. A special section devoted to accessioning will illuminate the diverse labor types involved in accessioning, current practices on the frontlines, and the recent work to develop the first set of comprehensive archival accessioning best practices in the United States.

As a complement to the National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning working group's output, this issue would not only highlight SAA's dedication to the development of new standards, but it would surface real-world contemporary accessioning practices and labor in the field more broadly. Since SAA approved the formal inclusion of accessioning in the Accessioning, Acquisitions, and Appraisal, the dedication of a special section/issue would further demonstrate the organization's commitment to building professional networks and fostering scholarship amongst those in the accessioning community of practice.

Special Section Coordination and Schedule

Rosemary will serve as a guest editor, with one other guest editor to be determined. The call for papers will be a hybrid approach, reserving publication slots for members of the ABP working group, as well as a number of slots for perspectives from the field. A timeline for the CFP and for the submission deadlines are to be determined, in relation to the final determination of which issue will contain the special section.

DRAFT CALL FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS – Archival Accessioning

The issue will focus, in whole or in part, on the spectrum of contemporary archival accessioning practices in the field today, including dedicated writing about the recent development of the first set of national best practices in the United States. Articles could explore many operational facets of accessioning including pre-custodial engagement, donor relations, transportation of collection material, foundational and iterative archival description, born-digital accessioning, ethical concerns, relationship building, preservation interventions, and management of accessioning labor. Perspectives on the evolution of archival accessioning—from a single finite record to a more comprehensive suite of labor types—are also an area that could be explored.

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