

Society of American Archivists
American Archivist Editorial Board Meeting
August 17, 2020

Publishing Program Overview
(Prepared by Teresa Brinati and Abigail Christian)

I. A YEAR IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

More than 280 members contributed content in the past year to SAA publications—*American Archivist*, Reviews Portal, *Archival Outlook*, Case Studies Series, books, *ArchivesAWARE!* and *Off the Record* blogs, *Archives in Context* podcast, and Word of the Week. (The figure does not reflect section blogs/e-newsletters.) This translates into a steady flow of intellectual capital shared across the profession. SAA continues to lead the way in archival publishing, thanks to our members, many of whom were first-time authors. A shout out to the *American Archivist* Editorial Board, Reviews Portal Team, Publications Board, Dictionary Working Group, Committee on Public Awareness, and Podcast Team for providing the support needed to ensure high-quality output.

Seven new titles published during the past fiscal year contributed to the book publishing program exceeding revenue expectations for the first time in a half dozen years:

- [*Creating Family Archives*](#) by Margot Note, the first consumer publication produced by SAA and the first SAA book sold on Amazon.
- The first three volumes in the Archival Fundamentals Series III: [*Leading and Managing Archives and Manuscripts Programs*](#) edited by Peter Gottlieb & David W. Carmicheal, [*Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts*](#) by Dennis Meissner, and [*Advocacy and Awareness for Archivists*](#) by K. Roe.
- [*Archival Values: Essays in Honor of Mark A. Greene*](#) edited by Mary Caldera & Christine Weideman (2019/2020 One Book, One Profession selection)
- [*Defining a Discipline: Archival Research in the 21st Century—Essays in Honor of Richard J. Cox*](#) edited by Jeannette A. Bastian & Elizabeth Yakel
- [*A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in an Information Age*](#) by Laura A. Millar (first title in the Archival Futures Series jointly published with ALA)

Total revenue for book sales as of June 30 was \$263,265, which is higher than last year by \$105,443 (66.81%) and exceeded budget by \$45,284 (20.77%). SAA moved a whopping 1,400+ print copies of *Creating Family Archives* in FY20. E-book sales for the fiscal year exceeded the budget estimate by \$6,481 (110%) with net revenues totaling \$12,381. *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts* (68 copies) and *Archival Arrangement and Description* (66 copies) were the top e-titles.

The open access [*Dictionary of Archives Terminology*](#) (DAT) launched in spring is already one of the most trafficked areas of SAA’s website. For the term “fonds,” DAT is second only to Wikipedia, beating Dictionary.com and Merriam-Webster. For “isopleth map,” DAT is the Featured Snippet that Google uses when it thinks it knows what the user is searching for!

The Reference, Access and Outreach Section added **six open access cases to the Teaching With Primary Sources Case Studies Series**:

- [*“Seeing Through Risk in the Special Collections Classroom: A Case for Flexibility”*](#) by Marc Brodsky
- [*“Utilizing University Archives to Teach Students the Complexities of Neutrality”*](#) by Ashleigh D. Coren & Erin Durham
- [*“Constructing History: A Student-Created Public History Exhibit Using Omeka”*](#) by Colleen Hoelscher
- [*“Scaffolding Primary Source Research and Analysis in an Undergraduate History Research Methods Course”*](#) by Kara Flynn

- [“Bingo! Engaging History of Science Students with Primary Sources”](#) by Leigh Rupinski
- [“Co-curricular Innovation: Teaching about Patents as Primary Sources”](#) by Bridget Garnai & Heidi Gauder.

The [Archives in Context podcast](#) added Seasons 2, 3 and 4, which feature an intriguing variety of author and editor interviews, elevator speeches, and compelling storytelling from the 2019 event “A Finding Aid to My Soul.” The podcast is jointly sponsored by the *American Archivist* Editorial Board and the Publications Board.

II. PERIODICALS

A. Pandemic and Budget Relief

1. The temporary removal of the embargo on the six most recent issues of *American Archivist* in response to the pandemic was extended from June 30 to August 15 to span SAA’s virtual conference. They are available to all through the [site](#). (As is standard, the balance of the back issues dating from 1938 continue as open access.)
2. The [Fall/Winter 2019 issue](#) of *American Archivist* was printed in April but the mailing was delayed on recommendation of the printer/distributor due to shelter-in-place orders across the country. The majority of copies are sent to members' workplaces and institutions. SAA made a business decision in June to print a limited number of [Spring/Summer 2020](#) issues as a cost containment measure. The Fall/Winter 2019 and Spring/Summer 2020 were co-mailed in July.
3. As a cost containment measure and part of “Go Green” initiative, SAA is issuing only digital editions of the May/June, July/August, and September/October *Archival Outlook*.

B. AMERICAN ARCHIVIST

1. The Journal Editor Search Committee chaired by Heather Soyka (Editorial Board representative) and including President Meredith Evans, Council liaison Mario Ramirez, Publications Editor Stacie Williams, early career archivist/2017 Theodore Calvin Pease Award recipient Anna Robinson-Sweet, and SAA staff Nancy Beaumont and Teresa Brinati made its recommendation to the Council in July. The Editorial Board contributed feedback to the chair and Council liaison and this feedback was shared with the Council.
2. [Amy Cooper Cary is the next Editor of American Archivist.](#)
3. The Editorial Board prepared a “Proposal for a Strategy to Address Professional Mediation, Facilitation, and Conflict Management” and submitted it to the Council for consideration at its August 2020 meeting.
4. [Top 10 Journal Articles for July 2019 – July 2020](#)
5. Top 5 journal articles for the *most recent month*:
 - Geoffrey Yeo, [“Concepts of Record \(1\): Evidence, Information, and Persistent Representations”](#) (Fall/Winter 2007)
 - Scott P. Pitol, [“Evaluating How Well an Archival Website Allows a Researcher to Prepare for an On-Site Visit”](#) (Spring/Summer 2019)
 - Veronica Ehrenreich-Risner, [“Reading Geographical Names as Text: Refiguring the “Living Archive” in Postcolonial South Africa”](#) (Spring/Summer 2020)
 - Elisabeth Kaplan, [“We Are What We Collect, We Collect What We Are: Archives and the Construction of Identity”](#) (Spring/Summer 2000)
 - Emily Larson, [Theodore Calvin Pease Award: “Big Questions: Digital Preservation of Big Data in Government”](#) (Spring/Summer 2020)

C. **ARCHIVAL OUTLOOK** – Top 10 articles for the past 12 months

1. [“Writing Our Comeback Stories: Overcoming Impostor Syndrome in the Archives”](#) by April K. Anderson-Zorn, Drew Davis, Rebekah McFarland, Beth Myers, Danielle Nowack, Alison Stankrauff (May/June 2020), 4,515 page views
2. [“The Challenges of Preserving Glass Negatives”](#) Matthew Noonjin (May/June 2020), 4,114 page views
3. [“Teaching Research Strategies through Social Media”](#) by Kathryn Slover (May/June 2020), 4,106 page views
4. [“Creating Innovative Programming for Nontraditional Audiences,”](#) by Michael Barera, Marta Crilly, Norie Guthrie, Andrew Hinton, Marc Levitt, Brittany Newberry, and Sheon Montgomery (January/February 2020), 1,568 page views
5. [“A Hugo of Our Own: A Community Archives Wins Prestigious Literary Award”](#) by Kate McManus, Julia Bullard, Mia Steinberg, and Ted Lee (January/February 2020), 1,517 page views
6. [“Open the Government: Closing FOIA Loopholes in 2020 Will Improve Government Transparency and Accountability”](#) by Lisa Rosenberg (Jan/Feb 2020), 1,413 page views
7. [“From Disastrous to Discoverable: A Low-Budget, Low-Tech, Low-Key Journey to Accessibility”](#) by Jennifer Hunt, Ellen Greene, and Alexandria Mada (Jan/Feb 2020), 1,413 page views
8. [“An Archival Makeover: CMS Design for The Estee Lauder Companies Archives”](#) by Adrianna Slaughter (March/April 2020), 1,386 page views
9. [“Provenance Need Not Apply: When to Question the Profession’s Fundamental Principle”](#) by Clayton Ruminski (Sept/Oct 2019), 1,350 page views
10. [“Original Disorder: A Rookie’s Experience in the Archives”](#) by J. Hunter Moore (Nov/Dec 2019), 1,299 page views

III. BOOKS

A. **Seven New Titles This Summer**

A series of separate book launches are planned for these titles beginning in September.

1. [“All Shook Up”: The Archival Legacy of Terry Cook](#) edited by Tom Nesmith, Greg Bak, Joan Schwartz (Jointly published by SAA & Association of Canadian Archivists co-publisher, June 2020). First SAA ebook launched on Amazon Kindle in July.
2. Archival Fundamentals Series III, Volume 5: *Advancing Preservation for Archives and Manuscripts* by Elizabeth Joffrion and Michèle V. Cloonan (August 2020).
3. Trends in Archives Practice Series: *Engagement in the Digital Era* co-edited by Nicole Milano & Chris Prom (August 2020)
 - “Module 21: Lights, Camera, Archives! Making Your Archives Camera-Ready” by Daniel J Linke and Travis Williams
 - “Module 22: Creative Public Programming: A Guide and Manual for Developing Cultural and Community Engagement” by Michele Casto, Jessica Lacher-Feldman and Nicole Milano
 - “Module 23: Outreach and Inreach: Or, Sharing to Stimulate Caring” by Dina Kellams and Jennie Thomas
4. Archival Fundamentals Series III, Volume 4: *Reference and Access for Archives and Manuscripts* by Cheryl Oestreicher (September 2020).
5. *Making Your Tools Work for You: An Introduction to Systems Integration for the Archival Enterprise* by Max Eckard (September 2020).
6. *Archival Description of Notated Music, A Supplement to “Describing Archives: A Content Standard.”* prepared by MLA’s Working Group for Archival Description of Music Materials. (Jointly published by SAA & Music Library Association, September 2020). Digital edition only.
7. *DACS 2019* (September 2020). Digital edition only.

B. Manuscripts in Process

1. *Archival Accessioning* by Audra Eagle Yun.
2. *Archival Virtue* by Scott Cline.
3. *Managing Business Archives* edited by Sarah Polirer.
4. *Museum Archives: Practice, Issues, Advocacy* edited by Rachel Chatalbash, Susan Hernandez, Megan Schwenke.
5. Trends in Archives Practice Series: *Born-Digital Design Records* edited by Samantha Winn. Manuscript.
 - “Module 24: Navigating the Technical Landscape of Born-Digital Design Records” by Kristine Fallon (lead author), Aliza Leventhal, Zach Vowell;
 - “Module 25: Emerging Best-Practices for Born-Digital Design Records” by Jody Thompson (lead author), Euan Cochrane, Aliza Levanthal, Laura Schroffel, Emily Vigor;
 - “Module 26: Case Studies in Born-Digital Design Records” by Aliza Leventhal (lead author), Zach Vowell, Mireille Nappert, Stefana Breitwieser, Alex Jokinen.
6. Archival Fundamentals Series III, Volume 6: *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts* by Margery Sly. In progress.
7. Archival Fundamentals Series III, Volume 7: *Introducing Archives and Manuscripts* by Peter J. Wosh. In progress.
8. *Archival and Special Collections Facilities: Guidelines for Archivists, Librarians, Architects, and Engineers* Revised Edition, Michele Pacifico. In progress.
9. [Archival Future Series](#) –Bethany Anderson and Amy Cooper Cary, Co-editors (ALA co-publisher). Several proposals under consideration.

IV. ARCHIVES*RECORDS 2020 Virtual Conference Activities

- A. [Storytelling Workshop](#) on August 3, had 44 paid registrants. It was led by two-time Moth GrandSLAM winner (and former Moth director of education) Micaela Blei, PhD, and sponsored by SAA’s Committee on Public Awareness.

NOTE: SAA members are invited to [pitch your story idea](#) for a chance to share it during a special online storytelling event—“A Finding Aid to My Soul” —on October 1!

- B. [“Write Away” Forum on SAA Publishing Opportunities](#) was held August 6 and had a high of 360 attendees (roughly 6 times what the in-person gathering typically garners)! It continues to be an effective way to provide an overview of SAA’s publishing program and featured *American Archivist* Editor Cal Lee, Journal Reviews Editor Bethany Anderson, Publications and Case Studies Editor Stacie Williams, Archival Futures Series Co-editor Amy Cooper Cary, Dictionary Working Group Chair Rosemary Pleva Flynn, and SAA staff Abigail Christian (*Archival Outlook* Editor and Production Coordinator) Teresa Brinati (Director of Publishing). The event was recorded and will be available online shortly along with other virtual annual meeting activities.

NOTE: Stay tuned for details on a series of Zoom forums planned for this fall that are focused on each of our publication outlets.

- C. [“Creating Our Futures” Conference Book Sale!](#) Select titles 20% to 50% off (while supplies last) through August 15.
- D. **Get Published!** invitation sent to all conference presenters about opportunities to transform their presentations for publication consideration in *American Archivist*, *Archival Outlook*, or as a book proposal.