Metadata and Digital Object Section

Council Liaison: Lydia Tang

Report Submitted by: Jessica Serrao

Newly Elected/Appointed Members for 2024-2025

Position	Name	Term End
Co-Chair	Laura Davis	9/1/2027
Immediate Past Chair	Jessica Serrao	9/1/2025
Steering Committee Member	Wendy Guerra	9/1/2025
Steering Committee Member	Nashieli Marcano	9/1/2027
Communications Liaison	Tomeka Jackson	9/1/2027

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES
Completed:
- Solicited a full slate of candidates for the 2024 MDOS section elections.
- Revised MDOS Standing Rules and conducted a special election for which the referendum passed.
- Successfully filled two vacated positions on the steering committee.
- Completed analysis of focus group data for the "Re-Envisioning MDOS" initiative and reported to membership at the annual section meeting. Determined actions for the coming year based on member responses.
- Held joint annual section meeting with Electronic Records Section featuring an interactive "Burning Questions" session, with discussions on topics of interest asked by membership.

Ongoing:
- Continued to explore ways to update and revamp the resources on the MDOS microsite. Our Educational Coordinator checked for broken links on the Educational Resources page and posted a form for members to submit new resources to include. We plan to update the page with this new information in the coming year. We continued to discuss options for the MDOS Newsletter, including feasibility, format, content, and timeline for posts.

New:
- Began drafting a new Section Leadership Handbook that will guide steering committee members in their work. The previous version dated from 2012 when the section was still a roundtable, and it requires extensive updates. To inform this work, we reached out to SAA Governance and other sections to determine if there are formatting or content guidelines or templates to use.
- As part of the revamp to resources on the microsite, we explored options for updating the Sample Metadata page with new samples submitted by members to replace the existing outdated samples. Our Junior Co-Chair created a new submission form using Google Forms, which we plan to deploy in the near future.

STRATEGIC PLAN
Please review the current Strategic Plan and indicate below how your section has contributed to each of the 4 main goals.

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

MDOS has provided advocacy for archives and archivists in general by supporting those who work with digital objects and metadata, which are increasingly significant aspects of our professions.

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth
The MDOS Steering Committee delivered information and education via the annual section meeting, which featured opportunities to ask and discuss questions members have about digital records. We also provided periodic posts to the listserv that included resources and learning opportunities in the profession related to metadata and digital objects.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field
The Steering Committee will consider sharing anonymized data gathered by the "Re-Envisioning MDOS" focus group initiative to the SAA Dataverse established by the Committee on Research, Data, and Assessment (CORDA).

Goal 4: Meeting Members Needs
The MDOS Steering Committee continues to facilitate communication via our SAA Connect listserv and microsite. The data analysis for the "Re-Envisioning MDOS" focus group initiative was also a significant task to understand how MDOS can better engage with its members and provide programming and resources that best meet their needs. We will also use the Burning Questions from this year's annual meeting to determine hot topics that we will further address next year through programming or discussions.

ANNUAL MEETING

Number of Attendees: 110

Summary of Meeting Activities: MDOS held a joint annual meeting with the Electronic Records Section. We conducted a business meeting followed by updates from the SAA Council. We solicited burning questions about digital records from our joint memberships and encouraged members to answer those questions before and during the annual meeting discussion using the "[Burning Questions" Padlet](.).

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of your section? How engaged are your members?

As in previous years, involvement and engagement among membership has been less than ideal. While this reflects an ongoing impact of the pandemic, and Zoom and service fatigue, we also believe that section members may not have a clear understanding of the section's mission or focus, especially given potential overlap with other sections (e.g., the Electronic Records Section in relation to topics on digital objects or the Description Section in relation to topics on metadata). We believe that the results of our Re-Envisioning MDOS focus group initiative has allowed us to understand this lack of engagement and will inform strategies to better engage with and meet the needs of members. We did see healthy engagement during the joint annual meeting with ERS. With the combined membership of the sections, it doubled the number of attendees. There was a lively discussion with participants who partook via chat, audio, and on the "Burning Questions" Padlet.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS FOR COUNCIL
- We're interested to learn what the next steps for SAA's section health assessment are and how we

can help facilitate conversations and potential exploration of a merger with other sections. If our membership wants this, which we'd like to assess more fully, we want to ensure it's done in a transparent and engaging way.

- We would like to access information regarding usage statistics for our microsite. This will help us determine which resources are being used and worth updating and which should be retired or better marketed. Is it possible to access this data?