

# Society of American Archivists Publications Board Meeting May 7, 2021

## Publications Program Overview (Prepared by Teresa Brinati and Abigail Christian)

### I. DEIA

The Publications Program continues to revisit policies, procedures, and activities to ensure that they reflect SAA's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility.

- We are diversifying our vendor partners. Kiki Lechuga-Dupont, a graphic designer recommended by Publications Editor Stacie Williams, designed the cover for the forthcoming book, *Archival Accessioning* by Audra Eagle Yun. She is also designing the cover for *Archival Virtue: Relationship, Obligation, and the Just Archives* by Scott Cline.
- “[As a Matter of Fact: Convincing the World That Archives Matter](#)” virtual event in March featured a diverse panel that explored the SAA/ALA book, *A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in an Information Age*, which makes the case that records, archives, data, and other sources of documentary proof are crucial in fostering a society that is respectful, inclusive, democratic, and self-aware.
- In January, a publishing agreement was signed by new authors Krista McCracken and Skylee-Storm Hogan for the book *Decolonial Archival Futures*. The authors will highlight the benefits and challenges of shifting archival narratives away from colonial recordkeeping practices and re-center community voices within archival narratives.
- Published case studies #3 and #4 in the series [Access Policies for Native American Archival Materials](#).
- *Archival Outlook* continues to be intentional in its recruiting of content to highlight diverse voices and has recently featured articles that address reparative and inclusive metadata, recommendations for decolonizing practices and welcoming Indigenous researchers in reading rooms, capturing the oral history of a historic African American community in the Pacific Northwest, assessing power dynamics in multigenerational archives, preserving the records of citizen witnesses, and highlighting underrepresented voices in archival outreach.
- Likewise, the [Fall/Winter 2020 issue of American Archivist](#) features an article on digital humanities and archival reparations, a case study on providing decolonized archival instruction, and a review of *Shadow Archives: The Lifecycles of African American Literature* by Jean-Christophe Cloutier. Out of the 20 authors and reviewers, 16 were first-time contributors to the journal.
- Our various editors (Publications, Journal, Reviews, Journal Copyeditor) and SAA staff are continuing to consider language usage across publishing outlets and are collecting resources and guidelines to assist us in actively making changes. From using initial caps for terms such as *Black* and *Indigenous* to incorporating suggestions from the [Conscious Style Guide](#), our goal is to develop (and post online) an SAA House Style Guide to work in tandem with *The Chicago Manual of Style* as a resource for prospective authors, independent contracting partners, members, and component groups.
- *American Archivist* Editor Amy Cooper Cary will attend Helen Wong-Smith's upcoming SAA Education course, “Cultural Diversity Competency.”

## II. BOOKS

### A. Project Updates

#### *In production:*

1. *Archival Accessioning* by Audra Eagle Yun (available June 2021).
2. *Managing Business Archives* edited by Sarah Polirer (forthcoming summer 2021).
3. *Archival Virtue: Relationship, Obligation, and the Just Archives* by Scott Cline (forthcoming fall 2021).
4. *Museum Archives: Practice, Issues, Advocacy* edited by Rachel Chatalbash, Susan Hernandez, Megan Schwenke (forthcoming fall 2021).

#### *Manuscripts in process:*

1. Trends in Archives Practice Series: *Born-Digital Design Records* edited by Samantha Winn.
  - “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.
2. Archival Fundamentals Series III, Volume 6: *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts* by Margery Sly.
3. Archival Fundamentals Series III, Volume 7: *Introducing Archives and Manuscripts* by Peter Wosh.
4. *Archival and Special Collections Facilities: Guidelines for Archivists, Librarians, Architects, and Engineers* Revised Edition, Michele Pacifico.
5. *The Solo Archivist: Succeeding in a Small Repository* by Christina Zamon.
6. *Decolonial Archival Futures* by Krista McCracken and Skylee-Storm Hogan, Archival Futures Series, SAA/ALA.
7. *Teaching Primary Source Research Skills* by Julie Thomas.

## III. CASE STUDIES SERIES

### A. New Cases

- **Government Records Case Studies:** [Case 3, “A Collaborative, Proactive Approach for the Electronic Records Lifecycle: The Alabama State Electronic Records Project \(ASERP\)”](#) by Jaimie Kicklighter and Katie Ray.
- **Case Studies on Teaching with Primary Sources:** [Case 16, “Engaging History Majors in Intensive Archival Research: Assessing Scaffolded Curricula for Teaching Undergraduates Primary Source Literacy Skills”](#) by Claire Strom and Rachel Walton; and [Case 17, “Personalizing the History of Mathematics through Institution-Specific Archival Materials”](#) by Christine Latullippe.
- **Access Policies for Native American Archival Materials:** [Case 3, “Access Policies for Native American Archival Materials in the National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution”](#) by Diana A. Marsh, Robert Leopold, Katherine Crowe, and Katherine S. Madison; and [Case 4, “Our Sustained Commitment to Native Communities: Adoption of the Protocols as Ongoing Collection Management Process”](#) by Brave Heart Sanchez, Elizabeth Dunham, Renee D. James, Joyce Martin, Lorrie McAllister, Allinston Saulsberry, Alexander Soto, and Alana Varner.
- **Campus Case Studies:** [Case 20, “Rethinking Record Groups and University Archives Classification at UNLV”](#) by Tammi Kim.

## **B. Special Project**

Publications Board Early Career Member Katherine Fisher is working on a special project with Reviews Editor Bethany Anderson to raise the profile of the Case Studies Series. She is seeking reviews of the various cases from the various series for posting to the Reviews Portal.

## **IV. AMERICAN ARCHIVIST**

### **A. Digital-Only Journal**

Since the FY2021 budget was adopted last June, SAA has been prepping members and subscribers for the pivot to a digital-only journal beginning with the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, which is currently in production. Last fall, in partnership with Allen Press, a [new platform for \*American Archivist\*](#) was launched, which offers many enhancements that will aid your reading experience of the digital edition: mobile-responsive web design, optional split-screen reading experience, suggested articles based on browser history, saved searches, alerts, and notifications, and metrics for article downloads, shares, citations, and usage.

### **B. Hidden Content Project**

In September, we began working with three early-career members (Grace Moran, Asa Espanto, Bridgette Hammond) and Editorial Board rep Katja Hering to make accessible online journal content bundled under files labeled “front matter” and “additional matter” in issues from 1938 thru 2018. The group is developing a process for determining which items should rise to the article level, downloading the PDFs, deconstructing the PDFs, then reconstructing them accordingly so that the web host—Allen Press/Meridian—can upload the replacements.

## **V. ARCHIVAL OUTLOOK**

### **A. Reader Survey**

In mid-April we issued a four-question survey asking SAA members how and why they read *Archival Outlook*. Of the 391 respondents, 52.19% prefer the print edition with another 26.22% indicating they prefer both print *and* digital editions. In addition, 84.50% would be on board if *Archival Outlook* transitioned from a bimonthly magazine to a quarterly magazine, so long as there is the same amount of high-quality content. Among the reasons respondents cited for reading *Archival Outlook*, the top three were learning from articles on archival projects relevant to work (87.79%), learning about archival colleagues’ experiences in their workplaces (79.74%), and staying up-to-date on SAA news in general (71.17%).

### **B. Special Section in March/April 2021 Issue**

Based on a recommendation by the SAA Council to support education and programming about the case of *Ahmad v. University of Michigan*—about whether archival papers that are closed under a donor agreement are still subject to FOIA—the March/April issue of *Archival Outlook* featured a [Special Section](#) about the case. Archivists Aprille McKay, Eira Tansey, Peter Hirtle, and Bryan Whitledge share the context of the case, its implications for archives and donors, and how archivists can advocate for clarity in future situations. The print issue was distributed to more than 5,000 members and the digital issue received nearly 3,000 page views.

## **VI. [DICTIONARY OF ARCHIVES TERMINOLOGY](#)**

It’s been one year since the new dictionary website was launched and analytics show that it draws 10% of SAA’s overall web traffic, which is phenomenal. The landing page was recently tweaked based on user feedback. In addition, SAA’s vendor partner Naylor Association Solutions is now selling ad space on the dictionary website.

## VII. OUTREACH & PROMOTION

### A. One Book, One Profession

The SAA Publications Board selected *A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in an Information Age* by Laura Millar (and the first volume in the Archival Futures Series jointly published by SAA and ALA) for the reading initiative in 2020/2021. A team of representatives from the Archival Futures Series, Publications Board, *American Archivist* Editorial Board, and Committee on Public Awareness along with the author and SAA staff organized a virtual event on March 25. The author talked with Valencia L. Johnson (archivist for Student Life at Princeton University), Geoffrey Yeo (Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Information Studies at University College London), SAA Fellow Louis Jones (field archivist, Walter P. Reuther Library) and SAA Publications Editor Stacie Williams) about changes in the nature of archives and in the role of archival professionals and how archivists can—and must—convince the world of the value of archives. There were more than 480 registrants for the free event. View it at [www.pathlms.com/saa/events/2430](http://www.pathlms.com/saa/events/2430).

### B. Archives in Context Podcast

Season 5 debuted in December and addresses how the events of 2020 have affected archivists. The hosts talked with archivists about their remote work experiences, radical self-care, the launch of the Archival Workers Emergency Fund, and systemic racism in the workplace and the profession. The podcast is jointly sponsored by the *American Archivist* Editorial Board, the Publications Board, and the Committee on Public Awareness. Downloads for the podcast range between 700 and 1,000 downloads per episode.

A shout-out to Publications Board Member Colleen McFarland Rademaker, a founding member of the podcast team who recently relinquished her production duties. And a welcome to Mary Caldera, a former Publications Board member who joined the podcast production team.

### C. **Reviews of SAA Books**

- *A Matter of Facts* in the German periodical *Archivar* (Spring 2021)
- “*All Shook Up*”: *The Archival Legacy of Terry Cook* in *Catholic Library World* (Spring 2021)
- *Advocacy and Awareness for Archivists* in *American Archivist* 83.2 (Fall/Winter 2020)
- *Defining a Discipline: Archival Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century—Essays in Honor of Richard J. Cox* in *Catholic Library World* (Fall 2020) and in *Journal of Western Archives* 11.1 (2020).
- *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts* in *Journal of Western Archives* 11.1 (2020) and in *American Archivist* 83.1 (2020).
- *Leading and Managing Archives and Manuscripts Programs* in *American Archivist* 83.1 (2020).
- *Archival Values: Essays in Honor of Mark A. Greene* in *Archifacts* (2019).

### D. **National Genealogical Society**

We are staffing a virtual booth at the annual conference of the National Genealogical Society in mid-May where some 2,200 genealogists are expected. This is a primary audience for *Creating Family Archives* by Margot Note (SAA, Dec. 2019), SAA’s first foray with a title aimed at the public. We’ve done some considerable marketing to this audience. The conference was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemics. Our fingers are crossed that this virtual opportunity will yield a fair amount of sales.

### E. **Kindle**

SAA is now offering expanded access to [nine SAA books](#) via Amazon Kindle with reduced prices. These books are already available digitally in PDF and epub formats in the SAA Bookstore. The addition of Kindle gives readers more flexibility to select the format they prefer.