



## SAA Fellow Nomination Form

**Name of Nominee:** [Name of nominee]

Institution: [Nominee's employment institution, if relevant]

Address: [Address of nominee's employment institution or home address]

Phone: [Nominee's phone contact]

E-mail: [Nominee's email contact]

**Name of Nominator:** [Name of nominator]

Institution: [Nominator's employment institution, if relevant]

Address: [Address of nominator's employment institution or home address]

Phone: [Nominator's phone contact]

Email: [Nominator's email contact]

Has nominee been informed of this nomination?   N

## Justification for Selection

Please describe how the candidate meets every one of the following criteria in a degree sufficient to be selected as an SAA Fellow. The strength of the nomination will be judged in part on how each of the criterion has been met.

Criterion 1: Appropriate academic education, and professional and technical training in any of the fields of the SAA's interest:

[Nominee] holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Humanities from the [Institution] and received [pronoun] Masters of Library and Information Studies, with a concentration in Archives Administration, from the [Institution] in [year].

Criterion 2: Professional experience in any of the fields of the Society's objectives for a minimum of seven years, which shall include evidence of professional responsibility:

[Nominee] worked briefly as [position] for the [name and location of employer], surveying and processing site-specific records, before accepting [pronoun] first professional position as [position] at [name and location of employer], in [year]. In [position reference], [Nominee] developed an interest in local history and records that has been a continuous thread throughout [pronoun] career, as evidenced by several of [pronoun] publications and presentations.

[Nominee] moved to [city] in [year] as [position] at the [name of employer]. [Pronoun] tenure there of [number] years, taking on increasing responsibility for managing aspects of special collections beyond the university archives, culminated with [pronoun] being named [position] in [year]. In that role, over the past eight years, [pronoun] has overseen all facets of an academic special collections repository, from collection development and donor relations, to arranging and describing collections, to providing reference and access services for students, faculty, and independent researchers. That [pronoun] has also been tapped to manage the [name] department and to oversee and manage the library's disaster response plan is a testament to the breadth of [Nominee]'s abilities, [pronoun] keen management skills, and the respect in which [pronoun] is held in the [employing institution]'s library system. [Nominee] was granted tenure in [year] in recognition of [pronoun] professional publications and service both within and beyond the [employing institution] community.

Criterion 3: Contributions to the profession demonstrating initiative, resourcefulness, and commitment:

The support letters for this nomination provide compelling evidence from several leaders in the profession and the Society regarding [Nominee]'s initiative, analytical abilities, skills at listening and synthesizing, and [pronoun] commitment to moving forward to timely and meaningful completion any project [pronoun] undertakes. Having served for two years on the [name of SAA group] with [Nominee] myself, I can only echo what others have said about [pronoun] preparedness, and the understated ways in which [pronoun] leads

colleagues through differing viewpoints and opinions to practical, often innovative solutions that support forward momentum. SAA has benefitted time and time again over the years from [Nominee]’s resourcefulness, energy, intelligence, pragmatism, and tact. I have had the great good fortune to work with [pronoun] on several occasions and learned, from these great strengths of [Nominee]’s, approaches I’ve used to attempt to be a better, more effective leader.

Early in [pronoun] professional career, working in a smaller, under-resourced academic environment, [Nominee] chose, as one support letter writer puts it, to make the “archival program in [employing institution] a laboratory for experimenting and applying innovative theoretical approaches to archival practice.” From MPLP to born-digital records, from tackling disability access issues to leveraging social media use for repository outreach, from teaching with primary sources to bootstrap leadership education, [Nominee] has been a compelling example to many archivists and mentees, taking what [pronoun]’s learned through professional engagement and figuring out how to apply it at scale back at home. A real strength of [Nominee]’s though, and one that I think raises [pronoun] to SAA Fellow stature, is [pronoun] dogged insistence on giving back what [pronoun]’s learned—the strategies, successes and failures in [pronoun] application attempts—through [pronoun] numerous memorable, valuable writings and presentations. [Nominee], in many ways, is the proverbial poster child for the benefits that an investment in professional organizational engagement can bring to an archival program, no matter how small its staff and resources.

Criterion 4: Writings, presentations, and/or educational services such as workshops or seminars of superior quality and usefulness contributing to the realization of the Society’s objectives:

As noted by all the support letter writers for this nomination, the breadth, depth, and significance of [Nominee]’s writings and presentations is laudable. That [pronoun] [year] narrative of why [topic] was nothing short of revolutionary for a small, under-funded repository was [pronoun] first publication is remarkable. The power in this *American Archivist* article is in [Nominee]’s ability to map abstract theoretical debates within the profession to a compelling local context, providing convincing assessment data that has played an important role in what has been an ongoing professional conversation around [topic]. What’s more, in the first of several examples of a desideratum of decades of *American Archivist* editors and board members, [Nominee] had the steadfastness to see what started out as a [year] presentation in a well-attended SAA session in [SAA host city] through to an outstanding contribution to the professional literature.

[Nominee]’s collaboratively written [year] *American Archivist* article “[article title]” is another important example of the continuity of [pronoun] intellectual engagement with a topic, and willingness to do the often-tedious work of turning an SAA annual meeting session into the permanent record of a publication. This is one case, as attested to by several support letter writers, where future generations of archivists will continue to benefit from that effort. Encouraging [topic] has been a consistent thread through [Nominee]’s career, as reflected in service, presentations, and publications. [Pronoun] work in this

particular article focuses simply, but profoundly on understanding the skills that archivists and other information professionals can develop in the course of their careers that help prepare them for [topic] in a variety of settings. [Pronoun] analysis is grounded in several important benchmark points and evolving issues within the profession, and [pronoun] makes a cogent argument regarding the importance to archivists of focusing on [topic] at all career levels, especially in what [pronoun] terms “[quote from article].” In many ways, as noted by several support letter writers, this term best captures the quiet humility with which [Nominee] has made an indelible impact on our Society and profession.

[Nominee]’s other writings and presentations collectively do an important service to our profession and to individual archivists. They explore important areas—such as [first new topic], [second new topic], [third new topic]—in which our profession often needs more conversation and work. [Nominee] consistently uses [pronoun] intellectual efforts to frame topics in ways that thread national trends to local issues and implementations. [Nominee], whether in person or in print, is accessible, practical, honest, and focused on trying, on not letting big issues stop you in your tracks professionally.

Criterion 5: Contributions to the archives profession through active participation in the Society of American archivists and innovative or outstanding work on behalf of the Society:

[Nominee] has unquestionably done yeoman’s work for the Society of American Archivists over the years. [Pronoun] has served in section leadership, on committees, as SAAs representative to important [topic] initiatives, and on [three examples of high-level SAA leadership service], and [pronoun]’s currently been tapped as a member of a [topic] task force. There are many points that could be made about the significance of the work [Nominee] has done throughout SAA, and each of the support letters touches on points of importance to the writer. I will highlight places where my work and experience within SAA has intersected with [Nominee]’s, and why I think [pronoun] contributions are rise to the level of being named an SAA Fellow.

As chair of SAA’s [name of committee] in [year], [Nominee] led the committee and the organization through an assessment of the feasibility of [topic] within SAA. One support letter writer who was involved in that effort provides compelling detail on [Nominee]’s masterful, meticulous, and respectful work in leading it. From the perspective of a run-of-the-mill member of the Society, however, I was in awe of the succinct thoroughness of the group’s final report. Taking on a fraught topic that had festered for several decades within the profession, gathering data, and focusing on reaching evidence-based conclusions rather than on the abstract goodness of [topic], the work through which [Nominee] led this group was a true lesson in leadership from which all SAA groups could learn. The long-term testament to this work is that the issue of [topic] has not been raised in a significant way in the past decade.

[Nominee]’s work as a member of the [high-level SAA group] was, to my mind, the most exemplary of contributions. Others have spoken about the personal and organizational

qualities [pronoun] brought to [name of group] meetings. [Pronoun] is consummately prepared when [pronoun] walks into the room – in my three years on [name of group] I never saw anyone other than the [name of officer] (and SAA staff of course) who was as engaged with the [topic] process. [Vignette of personal experience], I found that [pronoun] example energized me for serving in that capacity. There should always be a person to serve as a touchstone for how to be a [name of group] member, how to take [type] activities seriously and do service to SAA’s [type] groups, and how to come to the [name of group] table prepared to listen, collaborate, and not pontificate. For me, [Nominee] was that person, even though I served with several other laudable members of [name of group] during my term. As is made clear in the support letters for this nomination, anyone who has had the good fortune to work with [Nominee] within SAA comes away having learned important lessons in leadership and making the organization work for its members.

One example stands out for me. An ongoing issue in discussion during our overlapping two years on [name of group] was how SAA should relate to [category of external groups]. [Nominee] had solid leadership experience in the [reference to external groups]. [Pronoun] provided cogent insights into some of the challenges of having a meaningful engagement that would benefit [category of external group] and leverage SAA’s organizational capacity in ways that could be productive and not taxing. [Nominee] was instrumental in organizing, guiding, and listening at [type of meeting] held to discuss these issues at the [year] and [year] annual meetings. [Pronoun] diligently reported back to the [name of group] about progress, and laid important groundwork that ultimately led to the establishment of the [name of group]. Figuring out how to accommodate [group acronym], [description of group], was a challenging organizational hurdle in [year], but one that I think paved the way for a more nimble, responsive SAA. [Nominee]’s patient, level-headed, collaborative work in steering SAA towards [group acronym] played a pivotal role in making that happen.

[Brief description of a specific effort in which the Nominee was engaged while serving on a high-level SAA group]. [Nominee] was a key participant in diffusing tension, insisting on hearing people out, articulating issues, seeking consensus, and drawing [pronoun] [name of group] colleagues back to key goals and outcomes around which agreement could be reached.

[Nominee]’s writings come back full circle for me in considering why I think [pronoun] should be honored as a Fellow of SAA. Focusing on leadership within the Society, we need to cultivate more members willing and able to [pithy phrase previously quoted from Nominee’s article]. [Nominee] is the exemplar of that quality within our profession, and the importance and success of that skill should be acknowledged, applauded, and celebrated by SAA.

**Additional considerations in support of the nomination (for example, honors, awards, and recognition by SAA or other bodies):**

**Names of individuals who will submit letters of support (minimum of three; no more than five):**

- [Support letter writer #1]
- [Support letter writer #2]
- [Support letter writer #3]
- [Support letter writer #4]

**Resume/Vita (attached)**

- [filename].pdf

**Email from Nancy Beaumont confirming that [Nominee] has been an individual member of SAA in good standing for the requisite 7 years.**

February 21, 2018

[Nominator]:

I can confirm that [Nominee] has been an active member (continuously) since [year].

Best -- Nancy

[Date]

To the Committee on the Selection of SAA Fellows;

I am happy to contribute to the package of letters nominating [Nominee] as a distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists. [Nominee] has been an inspiring professional colleague for nearly two decades, serving impressively and effectively in that liminal space where the archival profession intersects with a wide variety of allied professions. [Pronoun] understanding and appreciation for both the key role that archivists do and should play in the current information environment, and the important impacts that input from allied professionals can and will have on the archival endeavor has served our profession and our professional association very well. [Pronoun] unique role and clear voice within SAA and the archival profession, and the creative, articulate, and dedicated ways in which [pronoun] has leveraged them more than merits the designation of distinguished Fellow.

While working in the [name of employer] in [year]-[year], I had heard quite a bit about [Nominee], especially the work [pronoun] was doing using [specific technology] to produce [technology initiative] finding aids and working with [another technology initiative] markup at the [name of employer]. I actually met [Nominee] for the first time at the SAA annual meeting in [name of host city] in [year], at a meeting of a [name of group] Task Force on which I was serving, chaired by [name of chair]. [Pronoun] wasn't a member of the task force, but characteristically for [Nominee] [pronoun] saw something interesting on the program and decided to sit in on it. [Pronoun] made more extensive contributions to the discussion that afternoon than many appointed members of the group, and from that day to the present my admiration and appreciation for [pronoun] talent, energy, and perspective have continued to increase.

Professionally, my interactions with [Nominee] have been most extensive in terms of the development of [professional practice initiative] within the [name of organization]. As one of the earliest [names of two encoding initiatives] implementers in the [name of institution], [pronoun] technical understanding of the systems used to index and deliver structured data to end users played a critical role in the articulation of the first and most widely influential set of [professional practice initiative]. The data encoding consistency made possible by [professional practice initiative] allowed the [name of organization] to leverage structured archival data to produce portals into digitized data geared to specific topical ([example]) and professional ([example]) without re-encoding source data. [Nominee] was one of the few people involved in these efforts whose ability to serve as translator between technologists and archivists made the innovations possible.

Not content to rest on [pronoun] laurels within the [state] environment, when [Nominee] began work for [name of employer], [pronoun] almost immediately sought to apply what [pronoun]'d learned about [professional practice initiative] to a national and international context. [Pronoun] spearheaded an effort, in collaboration with members of several SAA component groups, to articulate [professional practice initiative] that could be adopted more broadly than within [state]. As [pronoun] has done so often in [pronoun] career, this is a great example of [pronoun] ability to use [pronoun] knowledge and position as a catalyst to positive action on a much broader scope than had previously seemed possible. One could argue, I think pretty successfully, that the *[title of publication]* that was [Nominee]'s

brainchild, and the *[title of publication]* developed by [another author] are the two primary reasons why [technology initiative] has been so widely adopted by the U.S. archival community, a development from which SAA has benefitted immensely.

[Nominee] is an inveterate organizer, something from which the archival profession and SAA have both been beneficiaries. Although [pronoun] was off at [event] during the actual pre-SAA annual meeting conference, [Nominee] was the inspiration and brains behind the influential “[title]” symposium, a day-long event held at the [repository], sponsored by SAA, [organization], and [organization], and attended by over 200 archivists. [Pronoun] organized the speakers and hosted and participated in their pre-symposium conference calls. The influential and oft-cited *[title of publication]* publication that resulted from this symposium does not have [Nominee]’s name on its cover, but [pronoun] inspiration and spirit pervades it. [Nominee]’s skills and creativity in conceptualizing, shaping, and actually pulling off stimulating opportunities for archivists and their allies to gather have had a major impact on the profession. I had the opportunity to work with [pronoun] last year in planning the [organization]-hosted conference *[name of conference]*, which drew several hundred archivists, librarians, and technologists from around the world to [city]. It was a challenging two-and-a-half day event that broadened professional horizons and placed archives and the archival profession in a central position. It was an event that would never have successfully happened without the energy and vision that [Nominee] brings to all of the organizing work that [pronoun] does.

I could continue to offer vignettes from my experience of [Nominee]’s contributions that I think richly warrant [pronoun] designation as a distinguished SAA Fellow, but they are too numerous and I know that the committee will see several other letters packed with them. The fact is that we rely heavily on [Nominee] to do the excellent work [pronoun] has done and will continue to do, and we benefit immeasurably from it. [Pronoun] leads us into the world of [topic], as an accomplished and dedicated participant in [social media platform] and one of the most articulate framers of the benefits of [social media platform] participation by archivists. [Pronoun] has not only championed the benefits of [topic] to archives programs, [pronoun] has used [pronoun] position to gather professionals at numerous conferences to talk about the nuts and bolts of doing it. A long-time proponent of [topic], [pronoun] has published and spoken with great frequency, including to SAA audiences, about their importance for developing truly useful archival information systems. If this profession has a “better angel,” [Nominee] is IT! I’m not sure if [pronoun]’s ever physically processed an archival collection, but [pronoun] is an archivist to the core and one of our most articulate and effervescent champions. I wholeheartedly endorse this nomination of [Nominee] as a distinguished fellow of SAA.

Sincerely,

[signature file of support letter writer]