

Society of American Archivists Council Meeting Chicago, IL

Science, Technology, and Health Care Annual Report

(Prepared by: Allison Fischbach, Stephen Logsdon, and J. E. Molly Seegers)

Year: 2024-2025

Current Rosters (Include full name, position title, and term end date for each):

Brittany Contrato, Steering Committee Member, 2025-09-01
Edith Escobedo, Steering Committee Member, 2025-09-01
Allison Fischbach, Co-Chair, 2026-09-01
Jennifer Langford, Archival Elements Blog Committee, 2027-09-01
Stephen Logsdon, Co-Chair, 2026-09-01
Meghan Turney, Archival Elements Blog Committee, 2026-09-01
Chiyong (Tali) Han, Steering Committee Member, 2027-09-01
Brandon Pieczko, Steering Committee Member, 2027-09-01
Julia Pope, Steering Committee Member, 2026-09-01
Sheridan Sayles, Steering Committee Member, 2027-09-01

Council Liaison: Eira Tansey

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

(Please indicate all projects and activities that your component group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the following fiscal year.)

Completed:

The co-chairs moderated a well-attended 60-minute virtual discussion with section members on “challenges and solutions to generating student interest in STHC collections”. In the spring of 2025, the steering committee coordinated with Trevor Owens of the American Institute of Physics to talk with our members about “centering belonging in work with STEM collections”. And for the 2025 annual meeting, we partnered with Museum Archives Section to offer two 30-minute presentations to our members on ways to display archival collection material in exhibits.

Ongoing:

The STHC section blog “Archival Elements” had 14 posts uploaded throughout the past year including announcements, repository spotlights, collection highlights, and more:

<https://archelements.wordpress.com/>

New:

In the fall of 2024, a STHC member survey was created by the steering committee to help us determine what topics our members wanted to see in our annual programming. Some ideas from that survey led to some of the events mentioned under “completed” above, and some ideas remain under consideration for future events. New ways to solicit ideas from STHC members are being considered now for upcoming 2025/2026 events.

SAA STRATEGIC PLAN

(Please review the current [Strategic Plan](#) and indicate below how the component group has or plans to contribute to one or more of the four main goals.)

STHC section activities in the past year most closely aligned with Goal 2 (enhancing professional growth) of the SAA strategic plan, specifically with the aim to foster communities for professional interaction. We had great participation with our section members in our Fall 2024 moderated discussion on generating student interest in STHC collections. Additionally, our joint annual meeting with the Museum Archives Section allowed our section members to hear from an outside group.

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: 85

Link to meeting minutes:

<https://www2.archivists.org/groups/science-technology-and-health-care-section/2025-sthc-mas-joint-annual-meeting>

Summary of meeting activities and highlights:

This was a joint meeting with the Museum Archives Section that included brief business meetings of each section followed by two presentations on the topic of incorporating archives into exhibits.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you describe the health or energy of the group, and how engaged are the members?

The STHC steering committee convened five times in the past year, and the two co-chairs met an additional four times. The STHC steering committee's engagement is very good. STHC member attendance at our 3 events was relatively good, with outstanding attendance at our joint annual meeting with the Museum Archives Section. Our section listserv was less active than in recent years, but our blog was more active than in recent years. Overall, the section health is good, with solid engagement for our events, and reasonable engagement throughout the year.

Did the component group's leadership encounter any challenges in achieving its goals for the year?

As with our sections, it's difficult to find interested volunteers to run for steering committee and co-chair positions, and it can be challenging to find speakers willing to participate in our events.

What suggestions do you have for the SAA Council and staff that might help address these challenges in the coming term?

It would be beneficial if SAA would create and maintain a signup sheet for SAA members who are willing to give presentations at SAA section meetings throughout the year, along with what topics they are willing to speak about. This "list of presenters" would be particularly helpful as a starting point for section leaders to quickly see what's possible for section events in the coming year, and it would be so much easier on section leaders to ask willing volunteers to speak to our

groups rather than resorting to cold calling and arm-twisting *potential* speakers. Also, it's quite possible SAA would be helping out these volunteer speakers by maintaining this list as well, as there could be a fair number of SAA members who may need or want this sort of speaking opportunity for tenure and/or professional development reasons.

What questions or concerns do you have for the SAA Council and staff?