

The Records Manager

The Newsletter for the Society of American Archivists

Fall
2015

Changes to come

[Work Halting on Records Management Functions Thesaurus](#)
January 23, 2015

Upcoming Events

Our leader, Beth Cron, discusses what will be happening in [the New Year for the RMRT](#)

Fascinating Facts

[WordPress.com prepared a 2014 annual report on our blog. The Schedule.](#)

What to Expect in

- [Records Management](#)
- [Archival appraisal](#)
- [Web archiving with records management](#)

Scandal and Intrigue in Records Management

I came across an incident that I thought was interesting from both a historical and a records management perspective: the 1826 scandal over recordkeeping that precipitated the institution's [George Washington



Luther Rice, 1830

University's] first major financial crisis, and nearly caused its early demise. Luther Rice is generally remembered today as a founder of the college that became GW, as well as a tireless fundraiser for both the college and the international missionary work of the Baptist church. Beginning in 1820, the year before the congressional charter for the college was passed, Rice served as the fledgling institution's agent and treasurer.

[Christie Peterson's discussion on Scandal in the University.](#)

How do you use ideas from other data repositories in the 21st Century?

Today, data repositories have been divided into at least three institutions. They are museums, archives, and libraries. J. Trant has defined these as "Museums most often have unique collections. Rarity and preciousness remain key to the attraction of their objects; it gives them their aura... Museum collections protect and reserve. Contrast this with public lending libraries, grounded in access and in public literacy. Their goal is to make materials available; their collections are predominantly books, printed in many copies, inexpensively produced, often weeded regularly. Archives consist of items that are not generally intrinsically valuable but essential as evidence, especially in context"...Some of the most famous libraries have been formed as parts of museums. [Read on further for a discussion on data repositories in the 21st century.](#)

Don't be caught in an archival haze, fearlessly appraise!

This year's annual meeting kindled my interest in diving deep into appraisal. Coming up on my 2 year anniversary of being in the records management trenches, I have a new appreciation for appraisal when I am developing retention schedules, which tend to take a blunt instrument to questions of appraisal when it comes to disposition. I went a bit wild at the SAA meeting bookstore this year, and got some good recommendations on Twitter. I'll be reading many of these over the next year and sharing some of my records management thoughts here on The Schedule. I'm working on overhauling a huge . Here is my tentative reading list — what am I missing? [Any appraisal topics you'd love to hear a records management perspective on?](#)

Records Management Roundtable Summary from SAA 2015

For those who couldn't attend the Records Management Roundtable meeting at SAA 2015, I wanted to provide a summary. We had about 60 people turn out for the meeting on August 21, 2015. I started the meeting by describing some of our activities from the past year, such as our revised bylaws, the contributions of the steering committee to this blog, and changes to the newsletter. We only had one Google Hangout over the last year and we would like to hold more. This is a good opportunity for members to choose a topic and have a discussion.

For the rest of the meeting we had eight presenters give lightning talks. Each presenter had about five minutes and then we had a few minutes for questions. This was the first time I had organized an event like this and it was a good experience to find people in a variety of positions, including faculty, university archivists, corporate archivists, consultants, and records managers. While the talks were brief, the presenters did a great job of summarizing their topics, sharing best practices, and asking critical questions. Thank you to all of the presenters for their contributions! [Read on for the summary.](#)



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

Website:

<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/records-management-roundtable>

RMRT Blog:

<http://saarmrt.wordpress.com/>

Google Hangout:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/118358692462079747504/posts>

Records Management Roundtable Steering Committee Members

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Past Chair: Brad Houston

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Matt McClelland
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