

Society of American Archivists

Women Archivists Section: Annual Report

Prepared by Jennie Rankin and Carrie Mastley

Year: 2024- 2025

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

Co-chairs

Jennie Rankin (2024 – 2026)

Carrie Mastley (2024 – 2027)

Steering Committee (3-year terms)

Jennifer Johnson (2022-2025)

Mary Katherine Kearns (2024-2027)

Rebecca Fenning Marschall (2022-2025)

Candace Pine (2023-2026)

Morgan Wilson (2023-2026)

Council Liaison: Michelle Ganz (2023-2026)

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: We sent out a survey to our members to assess if WArS was still needed. We received 20 responses, and the overall response was yes, this section is still needed, especially in the current climate. The top responses we received were adding programming, such as the topics of management roles, work life balance, professional development, and working caregivers. Whether that be the form of webinars or topical discussions.

We also hosted a section conversation on supporting colleagues who recently lost their jobs, but no one attended.

Ongoing: As of writing this report, there are no ongoing projects that were carried over from last year to this year.

New: At the first meeting of the 2025-2026 cycle, we plan on discussing our goals for the upcoming year. However, one potential project may be updating the WArS microsite.

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.)

Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

The co-chairs of the section are also ad-hoc members of the SAA Diversity Committee and have collaborated on a few projects to advocate on behalf of archives. This includes supporting a statement on the nationwide attacks against DEIA programs and initiatives and supporting the annual Diversity Forum.

Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

One way in which WARs enhanced the professional growth of its members was through the programming at the annual meeting. Members who attended the program indicated how helpful a panel on women's leadership was to them personally.

Goal 3: Advancing the Field

Again, our women's leadership program supported the development of executive leadership skills. Our panelists offered excellent advice on how to hone one's own leadership skills and encouraged the participants to engage in leadership opportunities.

Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

The primary way in which WARs met members' needs was through the survey it distributed to its membership to gauge the individual priorities to set section priorities. It was evident that the members wanted more programming, especially on topics such as leadership, which is why the section leaders decided to host a panel on women's leadership during the annual meeting.

Women Archivists Section ANNUAL MEETING

Number of attendees: 30

Link to meeting minutes: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/11aOZ-MXCt85g9E5LfZqg3xGQgYpLyrSdErBYY4HCTfM/edit?tab=t.0>

Summary of meeting activities and highlights: We gave an update of how this was a reset this year for WARs, meaning getting the steering committee back on track and determining if this section was still needed.

Our presentation was a panel discussion about women in positions of leadership. We had Aliza Leventhal - Director of the Fleet Library at the Rhode Island School of Design; Teresa Mora - Head of Special Collections & Archives at the University of California, Santa Cruz; and Krista Oldham - Director of University Archives at Texas A&M speak on their experience in leadership.

SELF-ASSESSMENT

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

Overall, the energy of the Women Archivists Section is low. We have 545 members that are part of WArS, but we only received 20 survey responses and had 30 attendees at the WArS Annual meeting. I'm glad we had participation but wish it was more.

From the survey responses, our members want to be more engaged with the section and have additional programming. That will be this year's goal to create at least one program to offer our members.

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

No, leadership didn't encounter any challenges this year to complete our goals for the year. Again, this year was a reset for WArS with getting leadership back on track and we feel that we accomplished that. We wanted to get a feel from the WArS membership if WArS was still needed and the answer was yes.

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

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