Member comments from AMTF table, SAA 2013

AMENITIES

- What about a refreshment/time/place or a hospitality suite?
- Like having all the H2O in session rooms (1 additional vote)
- Caterers should be advised to watch stocking of food at reception, especially desserts. Desserts all gone before ½ people got to them; some food stations empty while others that were not were being restocked (1 additional vote)
- Bags with registration (or at least have them for sale)+1 --I'm still using my bag from DC '06 – a great design! +3—Awesome bag- I use as a portable file cabinet . Why not sell something similar!
- Identify take-out places on restaurant guide (helps with brown bags)
- Bring back the nice organized tours
- Love the magnetic tags +1
- More tours
- Wasn't feeling the frozen yogurt. Ice cream would have been better
- More coffee!
- Bring back the bags (at least every 3 years)
- Add notepads to totes—if you pass them out.
- More seating, please
- Please provide lots more coffee!
- **Love all the H2O being available +1**
- More affordable food options! And coffee!
- Great cocktail hour reception-skip the early am coffee break!
- Microphones in audience so questions don't need to be repeated by chair/commentator
- More printed program guides! Otherwise, great!
- Shouldn't run out of programs
- Take a preliminary head count for sessions. Some rooms are too small for panels. I sat on the floor
- The Poster Session presenters might need access to materials to display their posters— poster board, etc. The Poster presenters might need more time to set up given the resources there
- Better accommodations for student presenters. I.E. Allowing time to prepare prior to opening exhibit hall (10 -15 minutes prior) & Allowing us to get to see and eat at the Happy Hour.
- More desserts at reception
- Make the program booklet smaller. Or give us tote bags.

- More coffee and chocolate. [more coffee circled – a dot next to each]
- Is there coffee?
- Please provide transportation to offsite workshops and make sure the facility is sufficient. E.g not enough outlets for EAC-CPF or Internet access. Thanks.
- Please offer paper evaluations onsite (for those of us who like them & tend to subit them @ the time!) Once I get back… it tends to get forgotten! Thanks!
- Add blank notes pages to paper program.
- The reception is not the problem. It's the food/drinks after. (1 additional vote)

AWARDS

Too too many awards! Used to enjoy one awards program. Too many awards & too many venues of "awarding" diminished the honor.
Announce award winners ahead of time – most SAA members aren't here. More prominance to advocacy award.
Having awards at several different times is a great plan…
Breaking up the awards presentations if fantastic!
I love the way the awards have been grouped, especially putting all the students together.

CONTENT

- Would be nice to see anything on social media
- Great speakers and very informative!!! Cookies for the future SAA [cenfine??] [heart drawing]
- Great panels!
- Lights, camera, actions [session title?] gave an important focus to media relations & working w/ non-researcher patrons.
- This is my first meeting and as a student and a part-time Archivist I found to be very helpful particularly sessions addressing diversifying the archives. I also appreciated the snap session.
- More place in the program for in-depth edu sessions on topics that come out of the roundtables & sections. They seem to be rejected by Program Committee as "niche" – but the whole meeting shouldn't be lowest common denominator. Should be a place for specialized topics AND broadly popular BOTH.
- How to address the blurring lines of the hypbrid archivist/librarian presence?
- Having a blast. LOVED the civil rights discussion!
- This [2013] ;program is very good – lots of variety in topics.

- Loving it! Especially enjoyed the Hip Hop session. Thanks for another great conference! +1
- More diversity sessions needed
- This conference has a great mix of sessions (2 additional votes)
- I don't want to go back to work. Speakers were good, but I did get in some sessions that were above my skills and knowledge (1 additional vote)
- More in depth advanced career topics (3 additional votes)
- Make sure flash presentation presenters are on topic…like Dees in 704
- Balance of speakers so that more have experience actually giving talks. How you present info-style actually matters
- Consider thematic tracks-might not work but all the sessions on my topics conflict with each other.
- Continue Am Arch article discussions!
- More for small repositories (best practices)
- Need more advanced sessions

COST
Make it a little less expensive
Conference registration costs as much as American Bar Association and we don't make nearly their hourly! +2
Awesome as always! But can it cost less?

HOTEL
- Require the hotels to keep temperature 75 degrees F minimum!
- Find hotel with more "grab and go" food options as folks have had trouble finding quick food.
- Venue needs to have walkable coffee/lunch quick/ cheap options.
- Food trucks?
- Great place but got to go miles for a quick bite.
- Turn down the A.C. !
- Please!
- Make it more bright!! Too dimly lit in every session!
- Why is it so COLD everywhere?
- This hotel set-up has been the best of the 3 meetings I've attended, Chicago 2007, DC 2010
- Rooms too crowded
- Please no more Hiltons-they are awful hotels
- Label doors front/back so peeps don't try to sneak in the front

- This hotel set-up has been the best of the 3 meetings I've attended, Chicago 2007, DC 2010
- Rooms too crowded
- COLD! Sweater/wrap/similar sale opportunities (either by SAA or invite students, other groups?) Branding/fundraising ops!
- Don't break up into smaller hotels. Better to have central hotel
- Larger rooms for sessions
- Watercoolers are awesome! +1
- Blankets for rent!

LOCATION

Please meet in the Pacific North West! [two dots]
More in NOLA! [this may also have referred to the discussion topic above it
Minneapolis [five dots]
New Orleans is awesome! But not in the summer ☹
Come to the west coast.
Can we meet somewhere not so hot?
Let's meet in Honolulu! Love the wifi
Great! Wonderful location! Please add a city neighborhood map next time.
Annual meeting in Denver! PDX! Seattle! [Sweet!]
Not in a place where its 95 degrees outside.
Excited about meetings in smaller cities!! (1 additional vote)
Atlanta meeting please! Atlanta+ 12
Seattle – 4
Nashville +2
Denver +2
Try to have meetings at mid-sized cities
I support the move to second-tier cities. Suggestions: Nashville, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Detroit +1
I like the idea of Minneapolis, MN or St. Paul +4
Joint SAA/Canada mtg in Vancouver or Toronto +2 or Niagara Falls

PLENARIES AND PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

- Plenary speakers from technology fields
- Dooley rocked the plenary + its format
- More diversity in plenary speakers – look to sociology/anthropology.   *Diversity forum speaker*
- I want a plenary that I would ask my boss to watch. [dot]
- Do not play trivia slideshows while panelists are speaking!!! (Plenary I)

- Would be great if you could show on screen the speakers as they speak – so all can see them! Thanks!
- Good idea when there are no powerpoint or anything else to look at.
- Somebody good like ALA does – a writer film person, famous person
- A person with some political/social message, not government hacks!
- Less fame, more substance!
- Plenaries could be more inspirational/motivational-less like a vote (1 additional vote)
- Plenary 1 can be shorter or merged with plenary 2. Great meeting Kudos to Local Arrangements Committee
- I like plenaries that have people who stretch us, people who come to us from another silo (D Ramsey) or as users (C. Roberts, Brian Lamb, C-SPAN, S. Simon)
- Keep plenaries SAA focused-skip big time/ big $ speakers
- A great Plenary has a dynamic opening speaker! Also explain why fellows are such a big deal. How many? When started, etc.
- I actually preferred having an exciting topical speaker like last years plenary History Pin/linked data
- Let incoming President make Presidential Address
- Make the presidential address a regular session and make it have interactive discussion

SECTIONS AND ROUNDTABLES
Roundtables need more structure
Section meetings are confusing for a first time attendee – assumes knowledge of what will happen
Shorter section meetings
Mss Section should get mss. dealers to exhibit.
Have sections and round tables get automatic session slots to fill with endorsed programs so niche and broader applications can be attended by all members. Other organizations (AHA, SAMLA) do this successfully.
Sections/RTs as mini unconferences were great! (2 additional votes)
Don't like section meetings that have become educational sessions in disguise
Often the best content is at section or RT meetings. A standout this year was the Arch Management RT.
Mix Ed sessions, Roundtables & sections in same time slots. Hard to get to RT & Sections when all are at same time
Too much business, elections, officers and personnel time. Section meetings waste
away +1 [added by another] Tell section leaders.   More time needed in schedule for content, theory and practice. [Another comment] Have a colloquium!
Round Tables/Section useful! Brown Bags, too.

- Could the Research Forum be on Wednesdays to be more available to those without committee meetings on Wednesday?   YES
- NOT if it means I'd have Research Forum vs. my Round Tables
- Please restore Sat. afternoon sessions.
- No!
- But we'll all be gone by then.
- Also, I think it would be good to plan/concentrate on methods for facilitating (formally facilitating) group discussions in these large rooms with circular tables, so people have more and "safe" opportunities to interact & network. Especially for section & roundtable & WG meetings.
- I love that there is no theme to the sessions & wifi!
- I agree – I think themes eliminate the possibility of good sessions.
- Don't schedule "like" panels at the same time – subjectwise. E.g. I would have loved to have gone to the human rights roundtable, the LGBT roundtable, $\pm$ the advocacy roundtable, but they were all at the same time! Etc. 2 stars added.
- Need further out deadlines for session proposals – or at least a track other than the Research Forum for subjects that come up closer to the conference date. Perhaps the professional poster deadline could be separated and moved to March or April?
- Maybe start opening at 8:30 instead of 8?
- More lightening session so more can participate +1
- 8 AM is too early for plenaries (5 additional votes)
- 8 am is too early in the morning after the reception (4 additional votes)
- Wish that there were fewer repeat panelists. Hope for more fresh, varies voices on panels- want to hear from broader swath of institutions
- Do workshops Saturday
- Maybe? Can we start later? (2 additional votes)
- Starting at 8 am makes for a very long day (1 additional vote)
- Reception was awesome! Roundtables in memory of Jean were great!
- Business meeting earlier in week? (1 additional vote)
- Really like the short 1 hour session and lightening talk formats, short, fast, focused-short sessions are great (3 additional votes)
- Longer meeting-add a day, fewer sessions in slots-too many good ones were missed
- Would be great to have slightly longer breaks (maybe one 30 minute break between sessions) (1 additional vote)
- A little more time between sessions and events during lunch periods-could be useful as a personal recharge time.
- Great idea! 8 am is a bit early! (1 additional vote)

- Like lightening rounds and 1 hour sessions
- Sad I had to miss "Archives in the Movies because it overlapped with alumni mixers
- Like the length of the community service projects-need advance notice
- Networking more opportunities
- The "newest thing at my shop" posters
- Loving it! Especially enjoyed the Hip Hop session. Thanks for another great conference! +1
- Take a user-centered approach to the development of session. Require each session to state upfront what we can expect to get from the session. +1
- More structured networking events. As an introvert it's hard to jump in and introduce myself at an unstructured social/professional reception, etc. Maybe opportunities to group according to subject area, institution type, etc
- Some sessions had too many speakers. Difficult to get into anything in depth
- Leave time for questions! +1
- I like the shorter sessions! Just enough info to get inspired, not tired +1
- More programs
- No more Noon forums!
- Section endorsements should automatically be added to the program (otherwise why should we spend time doing it?)
- More sessions like "Archives in the Movies"—very entertaining!
- EAC CPF session was great format, [Another wrote] FAB!!
- More Q & A time!
- Shorter sessions need to have fewer or shorter presentations
- Thank you for putting the student papers session in a prime slot!
- Maybe the possibility to have a near professional track where abbreviations would be banned. Of course could encourage professionalization, but many of the people I talk with feel people are talking above their heads. More lone arrangers tracks
- A session to help newbies determine what sessions they should attend. I need a little direction on what I should attend. Also at time it was hard to hear the speakers
- Brown bag session (OH Section) was great—high attendance, interaction w/presenters and real/practical info to use.
- Each section get a slot on the program
- Lightening session-great format, more please!
- Small group discussion (break out w/in session)
- Have "coffee"" groups with a facilitator to guide a discussion topic
- I like "lightening" sessions and sessions with more panelists—like the Rare Books session which had five people presenting different projects and approaches about one aspect of archives.
- I urge a "semi-lightening round" concept: (6) 10 minute presentations w/ 30 for Q & A

- Lunch on Friday too rushed w/ brunch, sections, posters overlapping
- Maybe not have student poster time during really cool seminar times. I feel like I missed some good ones.
- Friday under-scheduled, Saturday over-scheduled
- 30 min breaks are an awkward length – some shorter and maybe some longer would be more convenient. +1
- 7am Exhibit Hall is too early!
- 8 am is too early unless you provide coffee +1
- Could we have move open spaces in the schedule? I hate feeling like I am missing things if I want to have an extended conversation or check in with things at home
- Enjoyed the lightening sessions!
- Please schedule "Office Hours" closer to and during the vendor brunch on Friday +1
- Great speakers, too many concurrent sessions, some sparsely attended. Great organization of the logistics and staffing!!!
- The 60 and 75 minute sessions have worked well this year. Don't go ALL that way but do keep them
- The lightening sessions are fun but they tend to have several people giving the exact some message in different packaging.
- Longer session. 60 minutes is too short to cover anything in depth. Even @ 90 minutes is short—nearly all presenters go over their time limits and even then presentations seem kind of superficial—a real presentation of depth normally takes 30 minutes-roughly a 10-15 page paper?
- Love the lightening rounds+1
- Posters—more high tech presentation and/or QR codes so you can see more YES! Digital preservation and curation tools
- Try lightening sessions with fewer people (say 8 not 10-12) so there's time for Q &A
- The Ethics session on Thursday was a great example of interactive format
- Shorter lecture times like lightening sessions!! +1
- Larger size for the conference workshops
- Shorter time slots for sections 90 mins not 120
- Structure is great this year
- Make proposals due later (Jan.?) too early!

RESEARCH FORUM

LOVE the research forum!
Research Forum on Wednesday +1

- Shorter meeting – good idea
- Shorter meeting HOW?
- <u>Not</u> shorter – I can't get to all the sessions I want as it is!
- Shorter meeting – good idea
- Not really-Not going to fly half way across the country for a short meeting. 2 I agree
- Heck no-full week!
- I like the length of the meeting! Makes it worthwhile. I would like to see more diverse locations, though..(smaller cities, West Coast, PNW, the West, etc)
- Don't shorten the meeting!
- One way to shorten the meeting is to have sections/roundtables get a program slot, then their 1 ½ hour meeting time can be shortened and more sessions offered +1
- Do not shorten or I can't justify coming

TIMING

Scheduled earlier in August to avoid beginning of academic year
Earlier in the summer
Would prefer to end before Saturday. Need the whole 2-day weekend to recover!
I'm glad it's no longer over Labor Day
Love the meeting but it conflicts with my kids' 1st days of school
Move to September. 1st session @ 8:30 am
Too many meetings are in hot places and worse is the constant conflict with the start of C&U classes. We are supposedly #1 or 2 (C&U members) in size so why the continual date conflicts?
Can't we meet and be done by 8/15 or earlier? How about July?

VENDORS / EXHIBIT HALL
Vendors were completely ignored by the AMTF
More exhibit time!
We love our vendors!
Brunch/vendor layout =well designed & good lunch food + good vendor accessibility
The exhibitors hall, etc seems really far from the rest of the meeting rooms—in general very spread out

WIFI AND ONLINE ACCESS
- Wireless access has been great! :o)
- Love the app!!
- Wireless :o) check :o)

- I [heart] App Do it again next year! [extra check]
- The scheduling app needs to tell us the floor.
- I like the scheduling app!
- Charging stations. I would pay extra for this. [Ditto! X2] If my devices have no power, I can't engage w/ conference. Failing that, making sure that mtg rooms at least have outlets. [three dots]
- Wish I'd downloaded app!
- Enjoying the meeting and the "app" is a great idea. Very good [nence?]
- I really like the mobile app. But some things need better formatting for smaller devices. It's impossible to read the restaurant guide on a phone!
- Great app!
- Love the scheduling app. Professional posters need more room b/w each poster! Could we try for a snappier opening plenary as a rule?
- Required to upload session materials (and recordings) to SAA website. For real time tweeting participation purposes.
- Thank you so much for the online access – both in meetings and in the hotel rooms!!
- Wifi made it possible for ATART to live stream – lots of potential for future meetings for component groups!
- Thank you for the wifi!
- Great wireless access!
- I think it is great that the schedule is online, there's apparently an app for doing evals, etc. but please don't forget people who still use paper.
- Next year presenters have ppts done in advance (w QR codes or links) so we can take notes / follow along on pdf on iphone / ipads.
- Please compile a searchable list of attendees that works on the mobile app. (and keep having a mobile app!) Thanks!
- The App does this
- --user-friendly mobile app; great mix of sessions; very expensive +2
- Love the app, just wish the link to my schedule was at the top of the list (3 additional votes)
- Podcasts of all sessions, sections/RTs (3 additional vote)
- Provider stronger/available wifi in session rooms. I can't tweet great #saa13 quotes without a connection (2 additional votes)
- Mobile app was a great job, esp. for N.O. Next year just add more ability to friend speakers as well as attendees. +2
- Keep the Mobile App! +1
- Thank you for working out wifi access for the conference.
- Would be "AWESOME" to incorporate what's happening on Twitter w/the physical meeting. Maybe a Twitter stream projected somewhere? It would help participants feel

more connected with the meeting & each other. It would also facilitate broader conversations. It's important for everyone to be aware of what's being said (negatively and positively) and how we should pursue solutions +1

- I love the daily email of my schedule summary so I had it easily at my hands to find where I need to go!
- Love the free wifi!   The App!
- Include twitter handles for speakers (who are on Twitter and wish to be listed) in conference program under session description +1   [Comment: These are on the App]
- Have the app allow us to add our own schedule items and 1st names must be bigger
- Program include twitter handles of presenters
- Include a venue/hotel map on the IOS app
- Love the wireless
- Really liked the use of   ? for adding/viewing events
- I love wifi
- Virtual attendance, Please!
- Don't call mobile sit a "Downloadable app [Comment: Where did SAA do that?]
- I received my daily schedules from the app all on one day Tues, Wed & Thurs all showed up on Thursday.
- Love having an app, but I wish there was social features, i.e., being able to connect w/others, an app, see what events they signed up for, etc. [Comment: It does this, actually some features only on web version, though, not mobile]
- Power outlets +1
- I like the app
- The App is Awesome +1
- Networking: sharing ideas very different   Maybe have a few options for online so presenters/idea curators can share knowledge even if the conference is not feasible
- Loved the online features! Kudos, nb
- Web streams 4 sessions for those who can't attend
- Love the App… a small local map would be good on app as the program. Very nice to be able to do "my schedule"
- Love the app—make it enlargeable for bad eyes
- Please make "Go to Meeting" or "Webinar" available for Sections or Roundtables to have face time more than once a year. Thanks! +1
- Great sessions! I'd like to be able to add additional items in the app and to be able to add "friends" (the feature won't work on my iPad
- Require speakers to provide SAA with a digital copy of their presentation (word processed doc, PowerPoint etc) to be posted on SAA website after the meeting +2 Good idea!

- Open up the discussion to smaller institutions. How can they connect with larger organizations and not be as 'isolated'
- The meetings are fine the challenge is too much choice
- Registration was easy!
- Twitter ribbons would be nice
- Overall very well organized and super program!!
- I'm having a wonderful time! Thank you!
- How much conference is funded by sponsors vs. attendees/ members?
- Thank you for the candy ;o)
- Secretive and overly complex; I'm in archivist heaven!
- [Cracudo solmon remerci]
- It rocked!!
- They are fabulous!
- This is fabulous!!!
- It's great for a first-timer! Perfect size!
- YES
- Super!
- First time – so far so good!
- Great!
- Rows instead of tables [two stars added]
- Good so far!!
- Great opportunity to Network. Love SAA meetings!
- Fun days – Joyce Thompson VN 1969/1970
- Wonderful conference!
- Siesta time!
- ☺
- Fun times
- I <heart> the annual meeting
- Fashion show!
- This is a great idea for soliciting feedback (3 additional votes)
- Old style President's Reception was great! +1
- Love the candy!
- Wonderful for my 1st time. Very informative!
- I like the changing nature of the meeting. Keep experimenting!
- OMG! Look for Archive's CAT dome to you – Fall 2013 (Look for information about different repositories, Haiku and EATS!)

- Great location I love the wi-fi in the conference rooms and extra water. But the exhibition hall is a tad small
- I haven't attended SAA for several years and think less sessions is a really great idea.
- Dedication of profession is clear
- Keep trying formats—and evaluating
- Pre-signup for sessions?   Roundtable dialogue?
- Love the meeting. I do like the preconference plus shorter format
- Thank you!
- Great meeting!!
- [From a vendor] I LOVE the Passion! +1
- All the sessions were great. Thanks for the opportunities!
- Chart for help the community of archivists
- Great Experience! Great People! Great Profession!
- Wonderful time to connect with others!!
- Local interest is a good thing
- SNAP is great! So is the career center
- Fabulous!
- I came to learn, success!!
- Great programs wine & Rare Books
- Lots of exciting and engaging conversation!!