Our biggest initiative during the last quarter has been to begin a process for revising the Archival Fundamentals Series. In early March, we convened a subgroup of the Publications Board consisting of Thomas Frusciano (Council liaison), Deborah Wythe, Joan Krizack, Teresa Brinati, and me. The group met for two days at Rutgers University and drafted the outline of an NHPRC grant proposal addressing four critical areas in the series that require attention: rapidly changing archival content, the need to engage new and more diverse audiences, dramatic changes in the print and online publishing environment, and the need for a more transparent and innovative process in selecting authors.

The proposal addresses these needs through a dynamic 18-month planning process, during which time we will solicit input from a broad segment of the profession, conduct in-depth interviews with 60 representatives of key constituencies, develop a publications plan and accompanying business plan for the association, and solicit commentary and input on our plan through the creation of a “Fundamental Change” collaborative wiki. We plan to convene a Working Group with six members who represent diverse segments of the profession and who have proven their commitment to the profession with innovative thinking, collaborative style, and hard work. This Working Group will be responsible for analyzing data and developing the product. We are requesting $70,655 from NHPRC to fund and support the planning process. A preliminary draft of the proposal was submitted to NHPRC for comment, and we are on target to submit the complete proposal by the June 3, 2010, deadline.

Other projects are progressing: books on archival ethics, the labor movement, and appraisal are now at the copyediting phase and should be available either at or shortly after DC 2010. Several other manuscripts are either out for review or in the process of author revision. We have continued working with authors and reviewing chapters in various other publications.