

Steering Committee

Chair

Arlene Schmuland
University of Alaska Anchorage Consortium
Library
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Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Amy Schindler
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Newsletter Editor

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Web Liaison

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Steering Committee Members:

Shannon Bowen
University of Wyoming
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Kathy Marquis
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Immediate Past Chair

Lynn Eaton
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lynn.eaton@notes.duke.edu

Council Liaison

Nancy Lenoil
California State Archives
nlenoil@sos.ca.gov

From the Chair

The whole change thing:

This has been a pretty active steering committee and section this year, no particular thanks to your Chair. The activity on National History Day alone is something for all of us to show our pride in. If you haven't looked at the RAO website lately to see what's going on with NHD, please do. And take a look at all the people who volunteered to run for Steering Committee! It's truly amazing the dedication and time all of you have put in.

I've got one more day of the week-long Archives Leadership Institute as I write this. And it's been a pretty rough week. Listening to colleagues talk about cost-cutting measures at their institutions, seeing headlines about the disassembling of the Michigan Dept. of History, Arts, and Libraries, hearing about other archival institutions in danger of shutting down completely. Not to mention the work—and don't let anybody tell you it isn't—involved in really dedicating yourself to learning about leadership. It's scary to think about taking a leadership role in times like these once you start to understand what it really takes to lead in these situations.

One of the things that has come up over and over again this week is understanding—and having a vision for and a commitment to—our mission. With RAO, that's a pretty broad mission. But in some respects, it's RAO's mission that is most needed at this time. We're not going to be able to protect the future of archives, to sell the importance of what we do, without performing the Outreach part of our name. To our constituencies, to our resource allocators, and maybe even to the people who could eventually become our constituencies.

Like I said, it's been a rough week. But despite all our worries, despite all the work we know is

ahead of us and our leaders in SAA and everybody else who is stepping up to leadership roles within the profession—even if only within their institutions—there’s something else that’s been really visible this week at ALI. And that’s hope. Hope based on knowledge that what we’re doing is important, yes, but hope based on something a little more ethereal than that. Hope based on our own potential and the potential of all the archivists we know. Their potential to lead, to find that vision, and to sell that vision. That’s part of the reason I’m so thrilled with our large group of candidates who are running for Steering Committee: it’s a well-timed reminder that so many of you are willing to do what you can to support our mission. Thank you. And for those of you who haven’t quite convinced yourself to take that step yet, hold on to my email address. I’m chair of the nominating committee for RAO steering committee next year. I’ll need you.

Arlene

American Heritage Center Conducts User Survey

Shannon Bowen Maier

Between January and May 2008, the University of Wyoming- American Heritage Center deployed a survey to measure the extent to which archival users support the principles of basic processing often referred to as “MPLP.” Copies of the survey were distributed to thirteen repositories currently employing basic processing techniques, and an online version of it was submitted to twenty-two discussion networks. Six hundred responses were received.

The respondent pool was quite diverse, with university faculty figuring prominently. The survey was

featured in blogs associated with the American Historical Association and the Chronicle of Higher Education, which accounts in part for the strong representation of users working in academe. 83% of respondents reported having used ten or more repositories over the course of their careers. Not surprisingly, the most commonly reported research product was “thesis/dissertation,” with “scholarly publication” coming in second.

Survey participants showed a high level of sophistication with regard to their comprehension of finding aids. From a variety of choices, they ranked online catalog records as the most useful access tool at their disposal. Collection inventories were ranked as the next most useful. Reference archivists were rated to be the third most useful “access tool,” ahead of digitized collection material and web searches. 63% of respondents reported having conducted research in an unprocessed collection, and 73% admitted that they had had difficulty interpreting a finding aid on at least one occasion. Many conveyed that the utility of a particular type of access tool was predicated on the nature of the collection it described and the character of the research being conducted.

Regarding issues related to basic processing, survey participants appeared to be of two minds. They expressed a desire for the availability of more collections, but their responses revealed ambivalence about the trade-offs involved in making that possible. Overall though, respondents seemed relatively comfortable with the tradeoffs involved associated with MPLP implementation

Preliminary results of this survey will be presented at the 2009 RBMS preconference in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the full findings of the survey should be available in 2010.

Steering Committee Candidates

For Vice Chair/Chair Elect

James Gerencser

Education

MLS, Archives – University of Pittsburgh
MA, History – Shippensburg University

Professional Experience

College Archivist, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA – 1998-present

SAA

1994 - present

Other Activities

- Active in MARAC since 1998, and currently serving as Treasurer.
- Recent publications on teaching with archival materials in ACRL's "Library Instruction Cookbook" and in Journal for the Society of North Carolina Archivists.
- Presentations made at SAA, MARAC, Educause, Palinet, DRH, among others.
- Taught workshops on digital project management for MARAC.
- Reviewed grants for NEH, NHPRC, and PHMC.
- Received \$200,000 in grants from PHMC and PA Dept. of Education.
- Managed several digitization projects exclusively at Dickinson College, and teamed with Millersville University on additional project.
- Provided consulting and support services for several local colleges and universities, and other central PA area organizations and institutions.

For Steering Committee

Beth Bensman

Education

Academy of Certified Archivists, CA 1996, recertified by petition 2002 and 2007
Master of Arts in History (Archives Management), Florida State University, 1993
Bachelor of Arts, Purdue University 1984

Professional Experience

- Archives Specialist, National Archives and Records Administration, Mid-Atlantic Region, 2009-Present;
- Presenter, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 2005-Present;
- Manager of Public Services and Outreach, Presbyterian Historical Society, 2001-2007; - University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Thomas Jefferson University, 1998-2001;
- Technical Archives, Richard B. Russell Library, University of Georgia, 1997-1998; - Assistant Project Archivist, GAMMA Project, Emory University, 1995-1997.

SAA Participation

Member 1992-present; Program Committee Member, 2007-2008; Manuscript Repositories Section Steering Committee Member, 1999-2001, Manuscript Section Vice-Chair, Chair, Past Chair, 2005-2008; Vice-Chair and Chair EAD Roundtable, 1998-2000; Reference Access and Outreach member, 1992-Present; Presented at SAA in 1998 and 2007.

Other Activities

- Academy of Certified Archivists: Regent for Outreach, 2002-2004;
- Delaware Valley Archivists Group (DVAG): Vice-Chair, Chair, Past

Chair, 2000-2005; - Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference: Local Arrangements Committee, 1999-2001, Education Committee, 2002-2004; - National History Day Judge: 2006 and 2008; - Society of Georgia Archivists: Administrative Assistant, 1998, Membership Committee, 1997-1998, Newsletter Section Editor, 1996-1999, *Provenance* Indexing Project, 1997-1998; - Presenter at various conferences including MARAC, Society of Georgia Archivists, and the Special Libraries Association.

Bridget Burke

Education

MLS from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1984)
MA in liberal studies (American History) from Wesleyan University (2001).

Professional Experience

Head of the Alaska and Polar Regions Collections at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (APR) (July 2009-present). Also has held curatorial positions at the Colorado Historical Society (1999-2003) and the Western Americana Collection at the Beinecke Library, Yale University (1994-1996), and previously headed the Arts of the Book Collection at Yale (1996-1999), the American Alpine Club Library (2003-2006), and Special Collections and Archives at George Mason University (2006-2008). Served as an instructor in Archival Methods in the Graduate Program in Public History at Colorado State University (2003).

SAA: member of SAA

Other Activities

-Board of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA) from 2002 to 2005, served as president in 2004-2005.
-Member of ALA/RBMS, and presented papers at meetings of ALA/RBMS (1998), SRMA ((2002, 2003), the Western Archivists Super Regional Conference (2005), and the Mountain Plains Museum Association (2006).
-Research interests include the education of women for librarianship, archival education, and the role of women and technological change in the printing industry.

Jessica Lacher-Feldman

Education

Certification from the Academy of Certified Archivists (2001)
MLS from the University at Albany in Albany, New York
Master's Degree in History, University at Albany in Albany, New York
BA in French Studies, University at Albany in Albany, New York

Professional Experience

Public and Outreach Services Coordinator at the W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library at The University of Alabama, 2000 – present.

SAA

Reference, Access and Outreach Section: former chair
Member of the Education Committee, subcommittee on Continuing Education.
Served on SAA Local Arrangements Committee, for annual meeting in Birmingham, Alabama in 2002.

Other Activities

Project manager for *Publishers' Bindings Online, 1815-1930: The Art of Books*, an IMLS-funded collaborative digital project between

the University of Alabama and The University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Past president of the American Association for History and Computing and is active in the Society of Alabama Archivists. Teaches as an adjunct professor of Archives in the University of Alabama's School of Library and Information Studies

Jennifer Davis McDaid

Education

Old Dominion University
The College of William and Mary

Also attended the Modern Archives Institute and was selected in 2008 to attend the Archives Leadership Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Professional Experience

- Library of Virginia (1991 – present); began as a reference archivist, and is now as the Library's local records appraisal archivist.
- Served for ten years as the deputy coordinator of the Virginia State Historical Records Advisory Board.
Skills include energy, commitment, and the ability to communicate effectively, as well as experience building cooperative working relationships with patrons, with staff across departments and divisions, and with officials in state and local government.

SAA

Serves on the SAA Publications Board, and the SAA American Archives Month Task Force. Co-chair of the host committee for the 2006 joint meeting with SAA, the Council of State

Archivists (CoSA), and NAGARA.

Professional Activities

- Editor of *Clearinghouse*, the quarterly newsletter of the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators;
- Program committee chair, 2008 NAGARA/CoSA Annual Meeting;
- Co-chair, local arrangements committee, 2007 Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference fall meeting;
- Co-editor, manuals for the Council of State Archivists designed to assist State Historical Records Advisory Board coordinators, deputies, and members nationwide;
- Past research included projects on women's suffrage and Virginia's disabled Confederate veterans;
- Current project on women's lives during the Civil War and Reconstruction is part of a book on Virginia women's history to be published by the Library of Virginia in 2011.

Blynn Olivieri

Education

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (MLIS), 2009

- Specializations: Archival Services and History of Recorded Information
- Directed Fieldwork: Records Management Internship in School of Medicine's Dean's Office
- Student Leadership Council Member for the Information School

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
MASTER OF ARTS (MA), ART HISTORY, 2007

- Specializations: Late Roman Art and Pacific Northwest Visual Art, 18th to 20th Centuries

- Language Exams: German and Italian

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) WITH DISTINCTION, ART HISTORY, 1996

- Specializations: Late Roman and Early Byzantine Art and Architecture

- Study Abroad: Rome

Professional Experience

University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Unit, June 2006-present
STUDENT SPECIALIST
Special Collections Student Specialist: 1) a website developer project hire (1 year) and 2) as a curatorial assistant for the Pacific Northwest Collection (2+ years). A selection of my duties and achievements relating to reference, access, and outreach include:

Teaching and Reference Services
Archival Accessioning and Processing
Created encoded finding aids (EAD) using XML software
Exhibition Curation: one exhibition and the co-curation of four others, ranging in size from a 30 foot-long case to a large room with multiple vertical and horizontal cases.
Website and Web 2.0 Development
Served on committee to develop blog. Regularly wrote blog postings relating to preservation issues, newly completed finding aids, and printed materials.

SAA Participation

SAA member 2007 - present.

Actively involved in student SAA chapter at the University of Washington. I participated on a panel of students working in UW Libraries Special Collections, I presented a film from my grandfather's WWII gun camera taken from a P-51 and P-48 at our film festival, and I regularly shared information and updates through our group's listserv.

Other Activities

Conferences Attended

- Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) 50th Preconference, June 2009 Charlottesville, VA Full Scholarship Recipient

- Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 14th National Conference, March 2009 Seattle, WA Selected as a "new writer" for the first Research Program Committee (RPC) Writing Workshops

- Library Assessment Conference, August 2008 Seattle, WA Poster session volunteer

Workshops and other Coursework
- Rare Book School, June 2009 Scholarship Recipient (awarded 2008)

H-65: Introduction to the History, Collection, Description, and Use of Maps. Taught by Alice Hudson, then Chief of Maps at the New York Public Library.

- Understanding Photos: Introduction to Archival Principles and Practices, October 2008 Society of American Archivists (SAA) Workshop held in Bellevue, WA

- Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Workshop, June 2008 Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington

Jill Severn

Education

- Certified Archivist by exam
1999, recertified by petition
2005
- MA, History, The University of
Georgia, Georgia, 1996;
- Certificate of Graduate Study
in Museum Studies, The
University of South Carolina,
South Carolina, 1994
- BA, History, Mount Holyoke
College, Massachusetts, 1988

Professional Experience

- Head of Access and Outreach
and Director of the Russell
Forum for Civic Life in
Georgia, Richard B. Russell
Library for Political Research
and Studies, The University of
Georgia 2001-current
- Processing Archivist, Richard
B. Russell Library, The
University of Georgia, 2000-
2001; Assistant Processing
Archivist, Richard B. Russell
Library, The University of
Georgia, 1997-2000;
- Project Curator, McKissick
Museum, The University of
South Carolina, 1993-1994

SAA Activities

- Selected to participate in the
2008 Archives Leadership
Institute, 2008;
- Reference Access and
Outreach: member, 1999-
current
- Manuscripts Repositories
Section: member, 1999-
current; Steering Committee,
2005-2006
- Congressional Papers
Roundtable: member, 1998-
current; Steering Committee,
2000-2002
- Preservation Taskforce, 2002-
2003

Other Activities

- Academy of Certified Archivists:
member, 1999-current
 - Society of Georgia Archivists:
President, 2007; Vice President-
President Elect, 2006; Chair,
Membership Committee; Secretary,
2001-2002; Scholarship Committee
2004-2005; Membership Committee
2000-2001
 - National Forum on Archival
Continuing Education: recorder,
April 27-29, 2000
 - Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights
Studies: member of the faculty,
2001-current
 - Published "Adventures in the Third
Dimension: Artifacts in Archives," in
the forthcoming Congressional
Reader, Scarecrow Press.
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Don't forget to check our [blog](#) for sessions that may be interesting, and add your own session ideas in the comments.

And remember that you can send submissions – announcements, press releases, articles - for the blog and the newsletter to RAOnews@gmail.com

Your Editor

Report of Newsletter Task Force

We received 36 responses to the 12 question survey about the RAO newsletter that was available October 20 - 27, 2008. Several things were very clear in the survey results. First, section members want information communicated to them as it becomes available. Second, they are most interested in news from repositories and in research projects. Third, when asked if they would contribute to a newsletter, a majority indicated that they would forward their repositories' press releases or contribute when they "have news to report" or "something significant has occurred." Finally, in order of preference, they would like to receive information by Blast E-mail, Newsletter, and/or Blog.

Our interpretation of the results is that the respondents support a desire for information on a regular, timely basis, but still want a newsletter. Based on this interpretation, we recommend that RAO create a blog that the membership can contribute postings to, and the blog postings are periodically repackaged into a newsletter (which also adds in, say, a column from the chair, etc.), with the newsletter editor responsible for the blog. The editor will solicit content for the blog at least once a quarter. The newsletter could be distributed as a pdf by blast e-mail.

We also recommend proposing a by-law change that change the requirements of the publication schedule of the newsletter to "at least once per year" and that the nominations process and by-law amendment requirements eliminate references to the newsletter and add a time requirement to the publication of the slate of candidates and proposed amendments (30 days prior to the annual meeting).

Finally, we recommend that the steering committee direct the editor to publish the results of the survey and its decision about the newsletter as the first post to the blog,

and to send out a blast email announcing the blog with instructions on how to submit/post content. We also encourage the steering committee to regularly consider and explore new means of communication with and for section members

Proposed Changes to By-Laws

Bylaws of the Reference, Access and Outreach Section of the Society of American Archivists

I. Membership

Membership in the Reference, Access and Outreach Section of the Society of American Archivists is open to any member of SAA who has an interest in reference, access and outreach issues.

II. Officers

The officers of the Reference, Access and Outreach Section shall be the chair, vice chair and newsletter editor. Only members of SAA and the Reference, Access and Outreach Section may serve as officers of the Section. A new vice chair shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Section and shall serve for one year as vice chair, succeeding automatically to the office of chair for the subsequent year. If for any reason the vice chair is unable to succeed to the office of chair, a new chair shall be elected following the same procedures as for election of the vice chair. **The newsletter editor communications liaison shall be appointed by the chair, with the advice of the Steering Committee, for a term of two years, which may be renewed indefinitely.** Both a chair and a vice chair shall be elected in the first election following the approval of these bylaws. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and the Steering Committee; represent the Section in its relations with SAA in general and with the Council and other groups within SAA; serve on SAA committees, task forces, etc. as an ex-officio member when required or appoint a representative to do so; appoint Section committees as needed; and submit an

annual report of Section activities to the SAA executive office. The vice chair shall serve as acting chair in the absence of the chair. **The newsletter editor communications liaison is responsible for issuing three newsletters at least one newsletter annually to the Section membership.**

III. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall consist of the officers and four members. The members shall serve two year terms, two members being elected at each annual meeting with additional members elected if for any reason unexpired terms need to be filled. The Steering Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the chair and its members may be assigned specific responsibilities by the chair. The Steering Committee shall plan each annual meeting of the Section.

IV. Election of Officers and Steering Committee

There shall be a Nominating and Elections Committee consisting of the immediate past chair of the Section (serving as chair of the Committee) and the two Steering Committee members whose terms are not expiring at the conclusion of the next annual meeting. **Utilizing an announcement in the newsletter issued by the Section chair, this Committee shall solicit from Section members the names of volunteers or persons recommended for the positions to be filled in the next election.** All persons whose names are submitted to the Committee or proposed by the Committee itself shall be considered nominees if they agree to have their names placed in nomination and are members of SAA and the Section. The Committee shall be responsible for ensuring that there is at least one nominee for the position of vice chair and that the number of nominees for membership on the Steering Committee is not less than the number of positions to be filled. **The Nominating and Elections Committee shall announce publish the nominees to the membership of the Section in the last newsletter issued at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting.** Additional

nominations may be made from the floor at the Meeting. Any member of the Section who is unable to attend the Annual Meeting may request an absentee ballot from the chair of the Nominating and Elections Committee; such ballots must be returned to the chair of the Committee prior to the Annual Meeting. Voting at the Annual Meeting shall be by secret ballot if there are more nominees than can be elected; only members of the Section may vote. The Nominating and Elections Committee shall be responsible for tabulating and announcing the results of the election. A simple majority of the votes cast shall be required for election to vice chair. Members of the Section may vote for as many nominees for member of the Steering Committee as there are positions to be filled and the nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. Elected officers and Steering Committee members shall assume office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Section.

V. Meetings

The Reference, Access and Outreach Section shall meet once a year at the annual SAA meeting at the time and place scheduled by the SAA program committee and executive office. Additional meetings of the entire membership or the Steering Committee may be scheduled by the chair if needed to carry out the business of the Section.

VI. Amendments

Any member of the Reference, Access and Outreach Section may propose amendments to these bylaws. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the chair. **The chair shall distribute publish proposed amendments to the membership through the last Section newsletter at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting and voting on the proposed amendments shall be by secret ballot at the Annual Meeting.** A two thirds majority of votes cast shall be required to amend these bylaws. Any member of the Section who is unable to attend the Annual Meeting may request an absentee ballot from the chair; such ballots must be returned to the chair prior to the Annual Meeting.

VII. Enactment

These bylaws shall be distributed to the membership of the Section with a mail ballot for their approval or rejection. They shall become effective immediately if approved by a majority of the votes cast by the deadline set for the return of the ballots.

Adopted 1996

Revised 2009

Announcements

Call for Papers....

Cataloging & Classification Quarterly

CCQ welcomes the submission of research, theory, and practice papers relevant to the broad field of bibliographic organization.

This journal, published now 8 times a year by Taylor & Francis, LLC, is respected as an international forum that emphasizes research and review articles, description of new programs and technologies relevant to cataloging and classification, and considered speculative articles on improved methods of bibliographic control for the future.

Articles are particularly welcome in areas dealing with research-based cataloging practice, including user behavior, user needs and benefits.

Authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts via email with attached word document to the Editor, Sandra K. Roe, Bibliographic Services Librarian, Illinois State University (email: skroe@ilstu.edu).

Special Issues

Colleagues interested in guest editing a special issue or expanded double issue are invited to contact the Editor with a general proposal, tentative schedule, and CVs. Previous special issues have included:

**Metadata and Open Access Repositories*

(Michael Babinec and Holly Mercer, Guest Editors)

**Bibliographic Database Quality* (Jeffrey Beall and Stephen Hearn, Guest Editors)

**The Intellectual and Professional World of Cataloging* (Qiang Jin, Guest Editor)

**Knitting the Semantic Web* (Jane Greenberg and Eva Méndez, Guest Editor)

**Cataloger, Editor and Scholar: Essays in Honor of Ruth C. Carter* (Robert Holley, Guest Editor)

Annual Best Paper Award

Taylor & Francis sponsors an annual prize for CCQ with a small financial stipend for the Best Paper of the Year.

Free Print Sample

A free print specimen copy may be obtained by sending an email to [<Marisa.starr@taylorandfrancis.com>](mailto:Marisa.starr@taylorandfrancis.com)

For More Details

Further details may be found at the CCQ home page: <http://catalogingandclassificationquarterly.com/>