

# Exploring New Frontiers in 21st Century Archival Education

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# Roadmap

- Motivation and need for project
- Historical and current context
- Research components
- Intended results and impact



# Why the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- Previous support of archival education and training
- Opportunity to bring together diverse academics and practitioners
- Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian program
  - National Forum
  - Build Capacity
  - Lifelong learning
  - Master's level education
- September 1, 2020-August 31, 2021



# Historical trajectory

- 1909: Leland
- 1934: NARA
- 1936: SAA
- 1938: Columbia
- 1939: American
- 1977: Guidelines
- 1982: UBC MAS
- 1988: Revised guidelines



- 1989: Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA)
- 1994: MAS recommended
- 2002: SAA GPAS
- 2009: AERI
- 2009: Clayton State MAS
- 2016: Latest GPAS revision

# Current State of Archival Education

## Generations:

- Pioneers
- Practitioners
- PhDs
- 4<sup>th</sup>

## Need for closer collaboration

- Academics, practitioners, associations (Tanya Z-B)
- Personal experience

## Stakeholders

- iSchools and LIS programs
- Society of American Archivists
- Regional archival associations

## Curriculum standardization

- 60+ programs

## Recruitment and retention

- Underrepresented populations
  - “diverse diversity” (McGovern, 2019, 19)

# Literature Review

- Professionalization
- History vs. LIS base
- Theory vs. practice
- Practicums/internships
- Manuscripts vs. records tradition
- Practitioner-faculty versus full-time research faculty
- Appropriate credentials (degree, concentration, certificate)
- Pre- and post-professional training
- ARM and digital curation

# Advisor-Participants

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# Archival Curriculum Modules

- Identify archival topical groupings and associated curriculum components:
  - **Essential:** core archival principles, functions, and practices
  - **Advanced:** topics that reflect new professional developments
  - **Flexible:** adaptable as a single weekly topic, multiple weekly topics, or a full-course syllabus



# Module Data Sources

- SAA Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies (GPAS)
- Graduate archival course offerings
- Graduate archival course syllabi
- Professional annual meeting programs
- Student and early career practitioner surveys
- Faculty interviews

# SAA GPAS

Source: SAA Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies (2016) (original 2002; revised 2005, 2011, 2015)

Rationale: Latest professional standards for archival graduate education in terms of mission, **curriculum**, faculty, and infrastructure

Methods: Listing of curriculum topics recommended in GPAS and grouping them in the recommended knowledge framework

# SAA Graduate Archival Curriculum Guidelines (2016)

Core	<b>Material &amp; Functions</b>	Nature of records and archives
		Selection, appraisal, and acquisition
		Arrangement and description
		Preservation
		Reference and access
		Outreach, instruction, and advocacy
		Management and administration
		Records and information management
		Digital materials management
	<b>Profession</b>	History of archives and archival profession
		Records and cultural memory
		Ethics and values
	<b>Contextual</b>	Social and cultural systems
		Legal and financial systems
Complementary	Information technology	
	Conservation	
	Research design and execution	
	Organizational theory	
	Library and information science	
	Liberal arts and sciences	
	Allied professions	

# Graduate Archival Course Offerings

- Source: Graduate archival course titles
  - 60+ graduate programs in North America
- Rationale: Information about current course topics as well as how they are related to the GPAS curriculum requirements
- Methods:
  - Grouping course titles by topics to identify topical groupings of archival courses offered by graduate programs
  - Mapping the course topical groups to the GPAS knowledge framework
- Work completed during the years when the two co-PIs served as members and successive chairs of SAA Graduate Archival Education Subcommittee (GAES)

SAA Graduate Archival Curriculum Guidelines (2016)			Graduate Archival Course offerings (Data Source: 60+ programs in NA, 2017-19)	
Core	Material & Functions	Nature of records and archives	Foundation archival courses	Introduction to archives
		Selection, appraisal, and acquisition		Appraisal
		Arrangement and description		Arrangement and description
		Preservation		Preservation
		Reference and access		
		Outreach, instruction, and advocacy		
		Management and administration		Access and outreach
		Records and information management		Records and information management
		Digital materials management		Advanced / specialized archival courses
	Profession	History of archives and archival profession		
		Records and cultural memory		
		Ethics and values		
	Contextual	Social and cultural systems	Electronic records, digital archives, digital curation and preservation, etc.	
Legal and financial systems		Practicum / internship / field work / capstone		
Complementary	Information technology	Allied profession courses	Library and information science courses	
	Conservation		Information technology, data science	
	Research design and execution			
	Organizational theory		Cultural heritage courses	
	Library and information science			
	Liberal arts and sciences			History courses / liberal arts courses

# Graduate Archival Course Syllabi

- Source: archival course syllabi
  - Online and personal outreach
- Rationale: Detailed information about archival curricula including course description, learning objectives, weekly topics and readings, assignments and rubrics, technology requirements, etc.
- Methods:
  - Contacting full-time archival faculty from the 60+ programs to collect archival course syllabi
  - Analysis of course content (syllabus components) for courses with similar topics to generate consensus about topical coverage and related materials (readings, assignments, technical requirements, etc.)

# Professional Education Programs

- Source: SAA and regional annual meeting education programs (2018-2020)
- Rationale:
  - Topics covered in professional education programs
  - Alignment with graduate archival curriculum topics
- Methods:
  - Reviewing program session descriptions to generate brief topic terms
  - Creating the coding system based on the topic terms/descriptions
  - Generating topical clusters and comparing them with topics covered in existing archival curricula

# Surveys and Interviews

- Source: Students and early career practitioners (surveys) and full-time archival faculty (interviews)
- Rationale: how current archival students/new professionals and faculty think about the current and future archival curricula
- Methods:
  - Creating survey and interview protocols
  - Surveys: SAA Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Section, regional associations
  - Interviews: Current full-time archival faculty



# Possible Modules

- Community archives
- Diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI)
- Digital curation
- Digital forensics
- Management
- Non-Western/pluralization
- Arrangement and description
- Ethics
- Appraisal
- History
- Instruction/pedagogy
- Social media, email, web
- Personal
- Outreach/advocacy
- Electronic records management

# Deliverables

- Website
- Archival curriculum modules
  - 15 exemplars
- National Forum event
  - 45 practitioners and academics
  - 3.5 days
  - Plenary speakers, panels, breakout sessions, working groups, and open discussions
  - Games, videos, and multimedia
- Peer-reviewed publications
- Conference presentations and papers
- White Paper
- Further funded research collaborations

# Thank you!

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