

An Old Boys Club?: The Society of American Archivists and the Culture of Professional Leadership

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Abstract: Leadership shapes our professional culture and can influence the strength of organizational outreach and advocacy programs now and in the future. To explore the role of leaders and leadership in the Society of American Archivists and the profession as a whole, this poster presents data obtained through a survey sent to SAA membership in 2012. Survey questions will be focused on the presumed leadership roles of SAA roundtable, section, and other group leaders, the presumed and desired roles of existing SAA leaders and administrative staff in developing new professional leaders, and the training of new professional leaders through LIS and other academic programs. Also addressed are perceptions of current SAA members regarding leadership development about how leadership positions within the organization are achieved. The survey also compares the “culture” of leadership in SAA with state and regional organizations, as well as the leadership development resources offered to archivists by their employers. The poster will present the findings of this survey and include a comparison to other affiliated professional associations and their methods for training new and existing organizational leaders. The findings of this survey can help current SAA organizational leaders identify areas to aid in the development of new leaders and help new leaders learn of ways to affect change on the professional level from within the organization and the workplace.

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