Caring for Collections:

Accessioning & Effective Archival Stewardship

SAA 2021 Research Forum
THE TEAM

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THE PROGRAM

Research overview
Survey
Best practices
Q & A
1 Overview
Our research goals

People
Surfacing the lived experiences of people performing accessioning duties

Tools
Creating a well-resourced community of practice for those of us doing accessioning work

Perception
Developing a holistic definition of accessioning as a constellation of workflows and collaborative relationships
Our research components

Survey
A profession-wide survey of individuals performing accessioning labor types in the field.

Site visits
In-person site visits to see accessioning in action + learn directly from the people doing this work.

Standard
Developing national best practices for accessioning that everyone can use, adapt, and push further.
2
Survey
SURVEY SUMMARY

- Open October-December 2019
- 169 total responses
- 118 completed responses
- 141 responses with 50% completed
Backlog

- Yes: 86.8%
- No: 7.2%
- Other: 5.9%
3 Best practices
National Best Practices for Archival Accessioning

■ 2 chairs (us) + 30 members in SAA-sanctioned working group

■ 5 subgroups
  ○ pre-custodial work (including selection, acquisition, and appraisal)
  ○ arrangement and description
  ○ stabilization, storage, and preservation
  ○ labor, ethics, relationships, and the work environment
  ○ born digital accessioning and preservation

■ Final draft delivered in Summer 2023 with rounds of public feedback happening throughout the development phase
REACH OUT

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LEARN MORE

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