



ACA News

The Newsletter of the Academy of Certified Archivists Issue 98 Fall 2017

President's Message

Todd Welch, CA
Utah State University
Merrill-Cazier Library
Logan, UT



Dear Certified Archivists,

I would like to take the opportunity to give a progress report on the strategic planning process that Louis Jones and I launched last spring. During our initial discussions, we accepted Capitol Hill, who manages our administrative work, offer to assist us in this process. We did this for two reasons. First, the Academy's long-term relationship with "Cap Hill" spanned two decades, and we felt that with Steve Grandin's retirement and Abby Curro's orientation as the new ACA Secretariat, it presented a unique opportunity to review past practices and explore future possibilities. We also believed that after nearly 28 years of working to certify archivists in the profession, it was frankly time to "come up for air" and review the Academy's mission and purpose.

This strategic planning process involved an online survey of the general membership and a focus group held in Portland with a targeted representation of past and present leadership. The response of the membership was substantial (i.e. over 44% of the membership), with over 86% giving the Academy excellent or highly satisfactory ratings. The survey also collected both complimentary and constructive comments. Many respondents expressed a desire for improved internal communication with the membership on news, services, and volunteer opportunities. Other responses encouraged the Academy to increase promotional efforts on the value of certification within the profession and with perspective employers.

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President’s Message *(continued from previous page)*

These survey results and comments were distributed among the focus group of about two dozen members in Portland, and the group spent an afternoon and early evening developing strategic goals and initiatives. Our Cap Hill facilitator, Brian Buff, recorded the comments and drafted a work plan with suggested action steps for distribution and comment among the focus group attendees. The Board of Regents received the revised plan and we are beginning the process of identifying manageable projects, each with a defined scope, charge, and communication plan. The Board will send out a call for volunteers for specific, targeted projects this fall. Since the ACA Board is a “working board” with a full slate of responsibilities, the success of the Academy’s 3-year strategic plan will rely heavily on the involvement and contributions of you – the membership. These volunteer opportunities will circulate in early 2018. Please stay tuned.

In order to promote transparency and accountability, the Board will post the survey, amended work plan listing first-year initiatives, and subsequent project plans on the ACA website this fall.

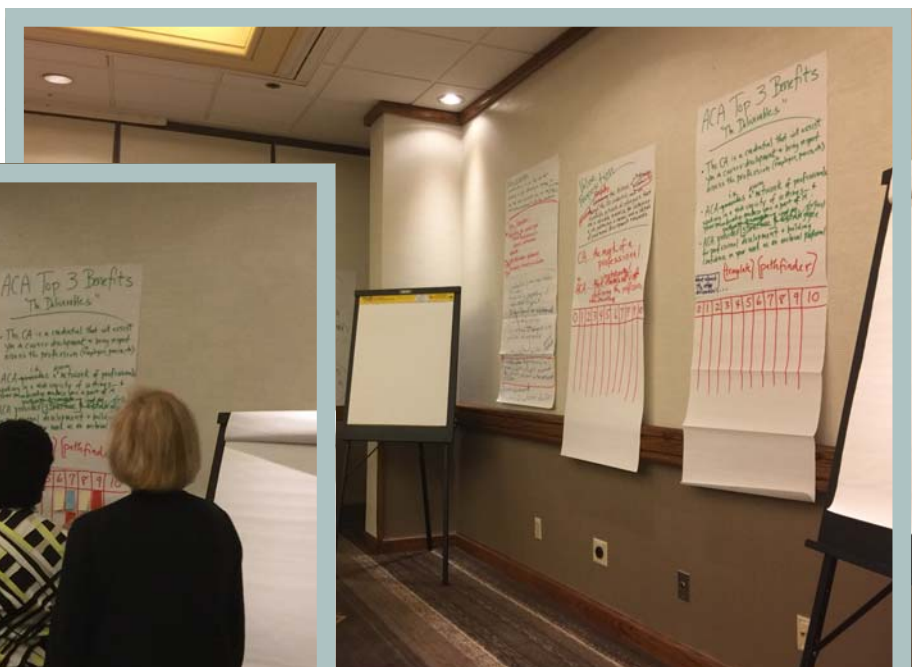
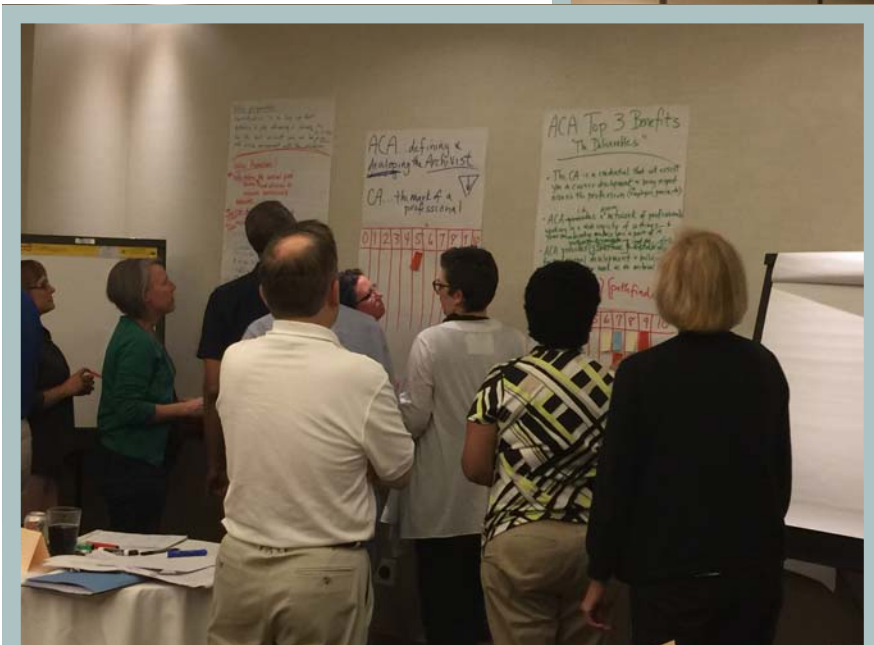


From the Regent for Outreach

Elizabeth Scott, CA
 East Stroudsburg University
 East Stroudsburg, PA



Are you social media savvy? Do you like to keep up with the latest ACA news? If so, we will be looking for a new social media coordinator to post news, images and content to our Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages and produce stats on usage. Look for the formal call coming soon. Questions? Contact Regent for Outreach, Liz Scott. (outreach@certifiedarchivists.org)



Strategic Planning in Progress

From the Secretary

Emily Dominick, CA
University of Washington Libraries
Special Collections, Allen Library
Seattle, Washington



Board of Regents Update

At the July 26, 2017 meeting in Portland, Oregon the Board of Regents:

- Welcomed new board members Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, CA, Daria Labinsky, CA, and Stephanie Malmros, CA
- Thanked outgoing board members Marcus Robyns, CA, Tara Laver, CA, and Mott Linn, CA for their years of service
- Heard reports on ongoing projects including the ACA Oral History Project and the work that the Recertification Petition Taskforce did to revise and approve new guidelines for recertifying by petition
- Commissioned an ACA Survey Task Force and a Task Force on Archiving ACA's Digital Assets

At the July 27, 2017 Business Meeting:

- Members heard reports from board members and were briefed on the on-going ACA Oral History Project that included an audio clip from the first interview conducted by Mott Linn with former ACA Secretariat, Steve Grandin
- Daphne DeLeon, CA was presented with the Distinguished Service Award
- Jodi Foley was presented with the Regents Award in absentia
- The gavel was passed from outgoing president Louis Jones, CA to incoming president Todd Welch, CA



ACA Officers

President (2017-18)	Todd Welch, CA Utah State University Merrill-Cazier Library Logan, UT
Vice President/ President-Elect (2017-18)	Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, CA Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Boston, MA
Treasurer (2016-18)	Gerrienne Schaad, CA Florida Southern College Lakeland, FL
Secretary (2017-2019)	Emily Dominick, CA University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, Allen Library Seattle, Washington
Regent for Examination Administration (2017-2019)	Daria Labinsky, CA National Archives at St. Louis National Personnel Records Center St. Louis, MO
Regent for Examination Development (2016-18)	Rebecca Hankins, CA Texas A&M University Libraries Cushing Memorial Library & Archives College Station, TX
Regent for Certification Maintenance (2017-19)	Stephanie B. Malmros, CA Briscoe Center for American History The University of Texas at Austin Austin, TX
Regent for Outreach (2016-18)	Elizabeth Scott, CA East Stroudsburg University East Stroudsburg, PA
Immediate Past President & Re- gent for Nominations (2017-18)	Louis E. Jones, CA, Ph.D. Wayne State University Walter P. Reuther Library Detroit, Michigan

Contact information for the Officers and Regents is available on the ACA website:
www.certifiedarchivists.org/about-us/officers.html

Smithsonian Institution

Viacom

American Archive of Public Broadcasting

United States Marine Corps

World Wrestling Entertainment

Merck

University of Georgia

Louisiana Public Broadcasting

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

The Salvation Army

The Coca-Cola Company

Washington University in St. Louis

The Weather Channel

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Academy Profile

By Ruth E. Bryan, CA

Dr. Shelley Sweeney, Head of the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, Winnipeg, Manitoba



Dr. Sweeney got her start in the archival profession through personal contact with other archivists.

I was completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin in 1981 and my professor asked me what I was interested in doing after my degree. My answer spurred him to point me to the University of British Columbia's Rare Books and Special Collections department to see whether I might be interested in becoming a rare books librarian. When I got there however, only the archivist, Laurenda Daniels, was around, and so I spoke to her. She quickly disabused me of the notion of becoming a librarian and told me that a new program was starting in September to train archivists. I got into the new Masters of Archival Studies program with Terry Eastwood, and the rest, as they say, is history. I do not really remember now what I said that caught everybody's attention, but once I started my archival training I knew that was exactly what I wanted to be.

In her current role as Head of the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, Dr. Sweeney is responsible for guidance of the overall management of the unit, which includes administration and fundraising; collection development; arrangement and description; identifying conservation needs; reference; and outreach activities. Archives & Special Collections provides information about the history of the university and has played an increasing role in promoting the university to the outside world. Dr. Sweeney notes that "the

amount of students and faculty who use our collections

has dramatically increased in the last number of years as experiential learning has increased in popularity. Students consistently rank their visits to the archives as the best part of their experiences in these classes." She was attracted to the larger size of the institution and to the University's location in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The collections include the University of Manitoba's permanently valuable records, although the most challenging part of Dr. Sweeney's position "has been to guide the constant migration of digitized and born digital records. It now seems we never finish but are constantly held up by constraints imposed by other units. The systems never seem to keep up with archival requirements." In fact, Dr. Sweeney identifies "grappling with born-digital records" as the profession's "most pressing activity." However, she feels that "we may actually begin to solve some of the more common problems with preserving these records."

In addition to University records, Archives & Special Collections also holds the private records of individuals and organizations outside of the University:

Our most significant collection is the Hamilton Family fonds. It is composed of extensive photographs and notes of séances conducted from the 1920s to the 1940s by a family who had lost their three-year-old son Arthur to the 1918 flu epidemic. The collection has been frequently employed by artists and art curators, but is increasingly being used for scholarly purposes by people

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Academy Profile *(continued from previous page)* interested in such topics as the role of women as mediums, the response to the trauma of the flu epidemic, and so on. There have been documentaries, films, novels, plays, articles and other products that have used this collection for inspiration. I see my role in promoting this collection as one of the most important contributions I can make to the university. It is such a rich collection that it can be used in endless ways. I like to refer to this collection as 'the gift that keeps on giving!'

Dr. Sweeney became certified in 1989 with the first class of CAs, and since then has re-certified by petition, as she is active in publishing, presenting papers, continuing education, and professional service.

I had attended SAA conferences and heard that there was going to be a certification program in the States. Even though I had received my Masters of Archival Studies degree



Hamilton Family fonds, University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections. "Some members of the séance group have apparently fallen into a trance state. In the background a so-called ectoplasm spells out the name "Flammarion," in reference to the French astronomer & author (died 1925) who wrote on psychical matters.

in 1985, I was very keen to increase my credentials. It was a

new degree and a relatively new profession, particularly in Canada where development of the profession was much slower than in the United States. I thought that more recognition would reinforce the status of my education. Also, there had been a lot of negative reaction to the Masters of Archival Studies program, both in Canada and the United States, by people who regarded that degree with suspicion. At

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Academy Profile *(continued from previous page)*

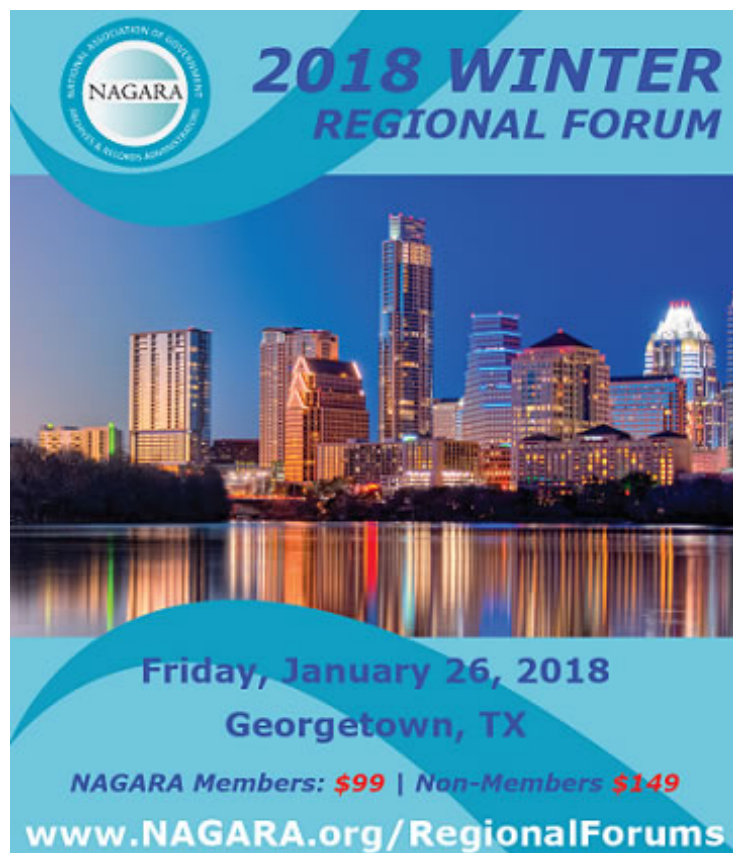
least some in Canada felt threatened by it.

When the Academy's 'certification by petition' process began in 1988, I jumped on the opportunity and received my certification in 1989 as part of the first group of 800 who applied.

She believes that certification is a valuable process for new archivists,

because I think they can be reassured that they have met the same standard that every archivist meets, no matter what their educational background....Given how the examination questions are created, I think it is the fairest and most diverse system of generating an exam. If exam takers have a thorough grounding in the theory and practice of archives, I think they need not have any trepidation in writing the exam.

Ruth E. Bryan, CA, is the University Archivist at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky



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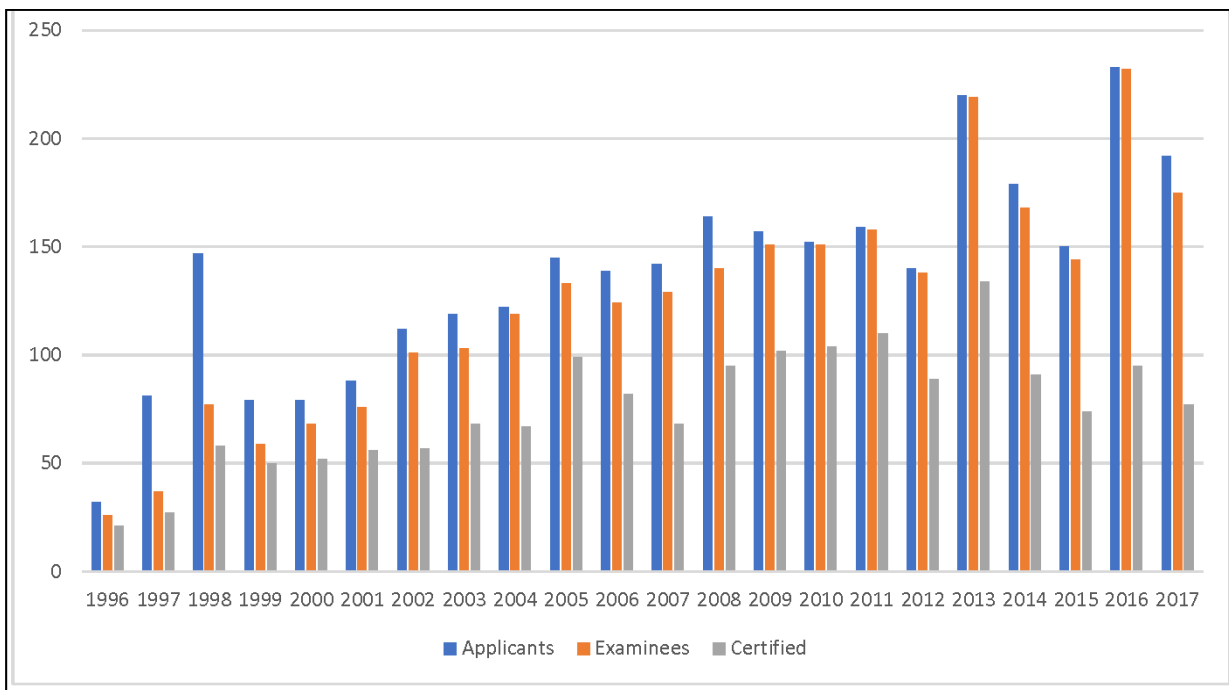
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ACA Examination Candidate History, 1996-2017

The Academy continues to grow with each year! Both the number of test takers and the number of sites fluctuates, but there has been a steady rise of both over the years. In 1996, the exam was offered in just three cities– Chicago, Philadelphia, and San Diego. Since 2002, there have been at least ten sites every year. In 2016, there were twenty! If you know someone who would like to take the test, send them here to learn how to pick their site- <https://www.certifiedarchivists.org/get-certified/test-locations/>. It only takes a few successful applicants to designate a site!

Year	Applicants	Examinees	Certified
1996	32	26	21
1997	81	37	27
1998	147	77	58
1999	79	59	50
2000	79	68	52
2001	88	76	56
2002	112	101	57
2003	119	103	68
2004	122	119	67
2005	145	133	99
2006	139	124	82
2007	142	129	68
2008	164	140	95
2009	157	151	102
2010	152	151	104
2011	159	158	110
2012	140	138	89
2013	220	219	134
2014	179	168	91
2015	150	144	74
2016	233	232	95
2017	192	175	77



Please send any comments, ideas, or suggestions about *ACA News* to:

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