

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 25 – 27, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

**Fundamental Change Working Group Report
(Prepared by: Teresa Brinati)**

The 11-member Fundamental Change Working Group is composed of a mix of members from the Publications Board and *The American Archivist* Editorial Board: Peter Wosh (New York University), Tom Frusciano (Rutgers University), Nicole Milano (AFS Intercultural Programs, Inc.), Michael Shallcross (Bentley Historical Library), Gregory Hunter (Long Island University), Paul Conway (University of Michigan), Donna McCrea (University of Montana), Christopher Prom (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Nancy Beaumont (SAA Executive Director), and Teresa Brinati (SAA Director of Publishing). It is chaired by SAA Immediate Past President Helen Tibbo (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill).

The Working Group met for the first time in early November 2011 in Chicago to begin research and development on the next iteration of the best-selling Archival Fundamentals Series. The meeting, which was made possible with assistance from the SAA Foundation, focused on short- and long-term product development, a modular approach to content, and the possibility of implementing distribution options that would include eBooks.

The proposed approach to delivering information involves discrete modules, like chapters in a book, that will communicate foundational archival knowledge. But unlike chapters, they will be conceived and written as stand-alone pieces. So, for example, instead of a single book addressing arrangement and description, there will be a number of stand-alone modules on different aspects of this topic, which in turn will be part of a larger, evolving series.

The first modules to be produced would initially complement and fill in subject gaps in the existing titles of the seven-volume Archival Fundamentals Series II, which were published between 2004 and 2010. Finished modules would be available for purchase and distributed in several forms: as discrete downloads, bundled and downloaded with other modules relating to a particular topical area, as a book, and as readings for SAA's continuing education offerings. This new and modular approach to distribution of content would provide the association with a sustainable publishing model in a rapidly changing market.

The modular approach is a work-in-progress and there are many details to work out regarding editorial oversight, content, and production. Even so, the Working Group's goal is to debut a few modules in time for SAA's 2012 Annual Meeting in August.