

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 23 – 26, 2013
Chicago, Illinois**

**2012 Program Committee Report
(Prepared by Co-chairs Rob Spindler and Petrina Jackson)**

COMMITTEE SELECTION

With the approval of President Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, the co-chairs selected twelve committee members who were diverse by many measures: regional affiliation, repository type, subject expertise, duration of membership, gender, and demographics generally. Of the 55 volunteers for Program Committee service, 37 (67%) hailed from academic institutions. The final committee membership included seven academics (63%). Other members represented museums, a religious institution, and a student representative working in a government archive. Pennington P. Ahlstrand, an archival consultant, was originally on the committee, but resigned for personal reasons shortly before the first committee meeting. We chose not to replace her on the committee. Five of the eleven committee members (45%) declared diverse (non-white) ethnic backgrounds in their volunteer applications. Committee members came from institutions in nine states: Arizona, Virginia, Nevada, Kentucky, Oregon, Maryland, Texas, Florida, New York, and the District of Columbia. Our group was very dynamic, professionally – continually demonstrating their commitment and enthusiasm. The members of the Program Committee were: co-chairs Robert Spindler and Petrina Jackson, Sarah Buchanan, Riccardo Ferrante, Kathleen Hertel-Baker, Kira Homo, Nadia Nasr, Tiffany Schureman, Mark Shelstad, Tomaro Taylor, and Brittany Turner.

PROGRAM OVERALL

President Trinkaus-Randall requested that the Program Committee create a ‘theme’ that would deal with collaboration and cooperation between institutions, organizations (regional and national), and in any other way. From this request, the 2012 Committee came up with the theme “Beyond Borders.” Beyond Borders proved to be a successful and versatile theme. The conference sessions were well-attended. In fact, the last Saturday, which we tagged “Super Saturday” because it consisted of sessions that had popular appeal, was well-attended through the end. To our knowledge, the sessions were individually and cumulatively successful. The Committee worked hard to avoid scheduling sessions on the same topic at the same time and were rewarded with very

positive feedback about that and the program overall. We even heard some say that the 2012 Annual Meeting was the best one that they had ever attended (I am sure it helped that we were in a beautiful hotel in a great city).

One area of feedback for improvement was in session preparation. All session chairs and speakers should work out the technical details and test all materials before they get to the conference. The sessions will flow smoothly from beginning to end if these issues are worked out in advance.

SESSION PROPOSALS

The Committee's selection process resulted in 70 sessions in seven time slots representing a broad range of topics and generally proportional to the topics submitted. Using the primary session topic assigned during the session proposal evaluation process, staff assembled the following chart documenting the diversity of the 2012 program session proposals submitted and accepted.

Topic	Total	Accepted	Undecided	Declined	Poster	% Accepted of those submitted	% of All Accepted
Other	40	21	0	19	0	53%	16%
Diversity	19	13	0	6	0	68%	10%
Social Memory	17	11	0	6	0	65%	8%
Electronic Records	16	10	0	5	0	63%	7%
International	15	8	0	7	0	53%	6%
Professionalism	15	7	0	8	0	47%	5%
Advocacy	19	7	0	11	0	37%	5%
Ethics	7	6	0	1	0	86%	4%
Description	10	6	0	4	0	60%	4%
Management	19	6	0	11	0	32%	4%
Access/Privacy	13	5	0	7	0	38%	4%
Methodology	13	5	0	8	0	38%	4%
Web Access	10	4	0	4	0	40%	3%
Education	13	4	0	9	0	31%	3%
Preservation	14	4	0	9	0	29%	3%
Reference	5	3	0	2	0	60%	2%
Appraisal	6	3	0	3	0	50%	2%
Digitization	10	3	0	7	0	30%	2%
Audio/Visual	12	3	0	8	0	25%	2%
Records Management	5	2	0	3	0	40%	1%
Archives History	6	2	0	4	0	33%	1%
Standards	1	1	0	0	0	100%	1%
Local Interest	2	1	0	1	0	50%	1%
Facilities/Security	1	0	0	1	0	0%	0%