

Visual Materials Section Annual Report for 2016-2017

SAA's component groups are integral to improving SAA and the profession, as well as being many member's primary experience with SAA. Please indicate all projects and activities your group has completed this year, continues to work on, or plans to implement in the next year.

6. Completed:

Highlights from this year include:

- 1) On October, 2016, several Section members served as "resident experts" and participated in "Ask An Archivist Day," monitoring the SAA and VMS Twitter feeds and answering questions about visual materials.
- 2) The Chair hosted the midwinter meeting in Lakeland, Florida on February 12-13, 2016, during which time the six attendees discussed plans for the year ahead and discussed new and old projects.
- 3) The Section's Communications Committee, led by Kim Andersen, was very active during this year, posting announcements as well as trying to beef-up our social media presence. The *Views* newsletter team published three content-rich and visually beautiful issues, while changing our format to a twice yearly, more content, less news format.
- 4) Nicola Shayer, the section intern attended meetings and conference calls, taking minutes and helping offering opinions. She also helped with local arrangement efforts for the annual meeting.
- 5) The Chair and Chair-Elect posted an internship description and reviewed applicants, and in August the Section's new intern, Angela Schwarz will begin her term.
- 6) The annual meeting was held July 26. There were 164 attendees from a wide variety of institutions. Full minutes can be found on the Resources page of the VM Section's web site at <http://www.saavms.org>. During the business portion, membership heard Committee reports, and got an update from Stephen Fletcher's new digital photograph workshop. Then we had a Pecha Kucha session with 5 members talking about various collections. As part of the SAA annual meeting, the Section also held office hours in the Expo Hall on July 28.

7. Ongoing:

- 1) We awaited word from Council on the new Bylaws template which came through in early summer. There was no time to change the bylaws to vote on them during the annual meeting in July. Schaad will chair an ad hoc committee to bring the current VM bylaws into alignment with the new template.
- 2) Ongoing efforts are being made to advertise and move over members of the Berkeley Visual materials listserv to the SAA VMS list.
- 3) The Section has begun an update of the VMS bibliography, which will include the latest resources on working with visual materials, and will identify gaps in guidelines or information that the Section can address; this updated resource will be shared with the ICA-PAAG (International Council on Archives' Photographs

and Audiovisual Group) Steering Committee, which is planning an update of their resources.

- 4) The Communications Committee continues to develop and refine the Section's vision for its social media outlets, which now include Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, as well as its web site and newsletter.

8. New:

- 1) Sandra Varry and Nikki Shayer are creating a survey on social media for the section.
- 2) Discussion ensues about holding a joint meetings with the Visual Materials Section and the Recorded Sound RoundTable – now the Audio and Moving Image Section and the Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Section.

SAA's Strategic Plan is the guiding document for the entire association (See: www2.archivists.org/governance/strategic-plan/2014-2018.) Please review the current Strategic Plan and indicate below how your group has contributed to each of the 4 main goals.

9. Goal 1: Advocating for Archives and Archivists

- To promote the value of visual materials archives and archivists, the VM Education Committee is currently updating the Photography bibliography to share with the International Council on Archives' Photographs and Audiovisual Group Steering Committee

10. Goal 2: Enhancing Professional Growth

In order to support professional growth among our members and allies, from beginning to senior archivists, the Visual Materials Section:

- Sponsored a Pecha Kucha session during the annual business meeting which allowed members a chance to present to peers, and for attendees to learn about collections and projects others are working on
- Disseminated content on best practices, techniques, new standards, and newsworthy events through its website, email list, and newsletter
- Supported the development of annual meeting session proposals on visual materials

11. Goal 3: Advancing the Field

The Visual Materials Section supported the advancement of professional knowledge by focusing our attention on born-digital visual materials best practices and new guidelines. The Section:

- Launched an update of the VMS bibliography, which will include the latest resources on working with visual materials, and will identify gaps in guidelines or information that the Section can address; this updated resource will be shared with the ICA-PAAG (International Council on Archives' Photographs and

Audiovisual Group) Steering Committee, which is planning an update of their resources.

- One of our goals for the next year is developing increased collaboration with other groups such as the Visual Materials Section and the Recorded Sound RoundTable – now the Audio and Moving Image Section and the Visual Materials Cataloging and Access Section.

12. Goal 4: Meeting Members' Needs

The Visual Materials Section responds to its members' needs by:

- Communicating proposals, planning, events, meeting minutes and other activities to its membership with transparency and timeliness
- Monitoring and developing social media outlets in order to offer them as effective sites for shared communications among Section members and allies
- Inviting member feedback throughout the year via distributed emails, surveys, and during the annual meeting
- Supporting new professionals by offering them an inclusive environment, holding breakfast meet-ups and a meeting dinner (at annual), and encouraging participation in Section leadership especially through a committee intern.

2017 Annual Meeting

13. Number of Attendees

164

14. Provide a summary of meeting activities and highlights (no minutes, just notes)

1) The Chair opened meeting with announcements, thanks, and introduced the new intern, and spoke about VMS efforts of the last year

2) Committees on Communication, and Election gave their reports.

3) James Eason spoke about the VisualMats list and how non SAA members can now join the SAA Visual Materials List

4) Schaad introduced the Pecha Kucha session which consisted of James Eason showcasing a photograph collection of the Panama Canal opening with nitrate negatives, ledger books, scrapbooks, and glass plates and challenges of processing and cleaning the collection. Elizabeth Clemons showcased the Tony Spina collection, a photograph collection depicting Detroit photos from the 1950s and 1960s. Next up was Annemarie van Roessel describing a photograph collection by Edward J Kelty from NYPL, of different circus troops across the country ranging from 1928-1936. Tess Colwell showcased maps from the Brooklyn Historical Society when they digitized those scrapbooks and finally, Matt Mason from Yale showed early images of the Portland area.