

Archives & Archivists SIG Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2026; 2:00-4:00 pm MT on Teams
Facilitators: Co-chairs Abby Smith and Michael Mongeau
Attendance: 16

1. Welcome and Introductions- Michael Mongeau

2. Repository Highlight- Sue Taylor, International Museum of Art in El Paso

Sue is on the museum's executive board and has contributed to various other efforts there, including outreach. Her presentation focused on materials known as "Sue Koenig's Window to the World." Sue says that this collection is an example of what she means when she tells people that archives aren't necessarily paper—they can also consist of artifacts.

Koenig was a grade-school teacher who traveled throughout the world and liked to bring items back to share with her students. Ultimately, she collected over 10,000 objects from 110 countries. After she retired, she approached the International Museum of Art about donating her collection, and they accepted it. The collection includes a wide variety of items—carvings, clothing, dolls, wigs, jewelry, musical instruments, etc. Some items have been difficult to identify, but Koenig has been able to help museum staff with questions about what the objects are and what countries they are from.

Outreach for the collection has included the STEAM show for Texas Education Service Center Region 19 and an event earlier this month for teachers to come see the items in the mobile museum that can be taken to classrooms. Materials have also been a part of events at the museum, such as a pop-up event in 2023 and an exhibit focusing on Africa and the Middle East. Sue said they want to have a version of the mobile museum at the BRAG bazaar in the fall.

Michael asked how they balance interaction and preservation. Sue said some objects are deemed too fragile and don't go out. Ones that are more durable go out with the mobile museum. They also supervise use and direct the ways that the items are handled.

Kyle asked her to explain how the International Museum of Art differs from the El Paso Museum of Art. Sue said the International Museum building was the original home of the El Paso Museum of Art, but when that museum relocated, another group arranged for a new museum to move into the space. The El Paso Museum of Art is operated by the city; the International Museum is not. It is a smaller operation, with limited hours from Thursday through Sunday, and the staff is part-time.

Sue noted that a large, unfinished project for the museum concerns a safe on the property that is filled with paintings that have no provenance.

3. National Archives News - Michael Mongeau

*Michael was unsure if he mentioned it last time, but there is a new special exhibition on Declaration of Independence at the National Archives.

*Mickey Mouse visited the National Archives as part of America 250.

*Repatriation is usually thought of as European institutions returning items to Africa, Asia, and Indigenous groups, but a recent repatriation of items from Latvia to Ukraine shows this is not always the case.

*A UNESCO project recently reached the milestone of cataloging 8,000 films.

*Bradford P. Wilson has been nominated to become the new Archivist of the United States but has not been confirmed. Dylan provided a variety of additional information about this item: First, there continue to be concerns about the firing of the previous archivist because her firing has never been explained. Wilson is a scholar but has no background leading a government office or archival organization. His hearing was today, and he was asked whether he would enforce the Presidential Records Act. He said that he will follow the law, whereas the Trump Administration has said that they will not. The National Archives have come under fire and been retaliated against because of the records that Trump retained after his first term. Dylan provided a link to [a recent report](#) by the Organization of American Historians summarizing efforts by the Trump administration to transform how American history is researched and presented.

*The deadline to submit archival material to be shared in the SAA's 250 for 250 is July 4.

*Society of American Archivists president-elect is Alison Clemens.

4. Announcements - Everyone

*Jolene Manus has a presentation titled "Collaborative Stewardship with Native American Donors – Agreement Form" at the SAA 2026 Research Forum (which is separate from the SAA annual meeting).

*The State Records office will be helping retrieve material pertinent to local investigations of Jeffrey Epstein

*Portia and Margie Montañez will be presenting at SAA Archives/Records. They have one session on their own and another in collaboration with some archivists from Buffalo.

*Portia said ArchivesSpace has been glitchy, so IT at the University is going to do a reindexing and run it over the long weekend.

*Dylan announced that the Teaching With Primary Sources Collective's [TPS Fest](#) is next month. It is a free, virtual event held over three days (July 9, July 15, and July 21). He encouraged people to register and attend.

*Dylan also announced the [Cloudcroft Museum Fest](#) in Cloudcroft, New Mexico on Saturday, July 18.

*Abby asked if anyone is going to SAA; Chloe Walker said she was going, as are Portia and Margie from UNM.

*Kyle asked Portia about a recent AI Project Manager job posting at UNM. Portia said she didn't know it was being posted--it is a campus-wide position and went out to the whole library. The previous dean, Leo Lo, was enthusiastic about AI, and this position was created during his tenure. Though he is gone, they are still hiring. It is a 3-year term position, renewed annually. Abby posted a link to Lo's [recent article](#) on the University of Virginia Archival AI Protocol.

*SSA presentation: the Society of Southwest Archivists conference in May included an online session in which members of the SIG presented about the SIG's origin and subsequent work. Response was favorable and well attended even though the timeslot was on Saturday morning.

5. Other business

*Michael will send out a survey regarding our next professional development event.

Next meeting: Professional Development event, July 2, 2026