

**TO:** Core Board of Directors

**TOPIC:** PRESERVATION SECTION PROPOSAL

**ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT:** ACTION

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** Martha Horan, Metadata & Collections Section Leadership Team; Andy Hart, Preservation Standards & Practices Committee Co-Chair; Karen O’Connell, Preservation Standards & Practices Committee Co-Chair; Mark Coulbourn, Preservation Administration Interest Group Co-Chair; Kim Norman, Preservation Administration Interest Group Co-Chair; Sean Ferguson, Preservation Outreach Committee Co-Chair; Jessica Bitely, Preservation Outreach Committee Co-Chair; Beth Doyle, Head of the Conservation Services Department and Preservation Officer for Duke University Libraries; Miriam Nelson, Director of the Mahn Center for Preservation and Digital Initiatives; Kara McClurken, Director of Preservation Services for the University of Virginia Library

**SUBMITTED:** January 23, 2022

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## **SUMMARY**

Re-establishing a section dedicated to preservation, one clearly named with a focus in preservation, will help to retain and grow a community of experts in the field. The section can offer more professional development opportunities in the field for new and emerging leaders and strengthen learning opportunities for ALA/Core members interested in preservation or have preservation as a secondary responsibility.

The field of Preservation is looking to develop the community and to build the field of study and practice, which would also allow us to be a more robust collaborator to other areas within Core. There are many potential intersections that we hope to bridge, including: assessment, technology, building and facilities, technical services, diversity, along with other areas.

## **BACKGROUND**

As PARS was dissolved in part of the merger, Preservation has become less visible within the organization. People new to the field are struggling to find a path to a preservation community. In addition, Digital Preservation became very diffuse in the merger, missing the opportunity to draw on strong interest in this growth area among current and potential members.

Preservation programming and activity has historically been well attended. Traditionally, there has been a strong demand for publications and continuing education programs, such as the *Fundamentals of Preservation*. Other recent endeavors include a 2020 e-Forum on *Preservation Core Competencies* and the well-attended symposium on the future of library binding.

Preservation is a valuable partner, and we wish to work with ALA to grow this new section under Core. To do this, we need to make a change, sustaining our work at large and within the organization.

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Proposal: establish a Core section with a readily recognizable focus on preservation.

Proposed name: Preservation Section

Scope: (modeled after other sections' "About/Contact" page in Connect)

Our community addresses and improves all aspects of library preservation in all types of libraries.

Examples of our work include but are not limited to:

- Sharing best practices and knowledge related to preservation;
- Identifying best practices for equity, diversity, and inclusion in the field of preservation;
- Creation and input on standards and best practices for preservation of library content in all forms, including print, digital, audio, and moving images;
- Fostering leadership development for preservation in Core and the field.

Effective date: Committees will be appointed as much as possible prior to the 2023 Annual Conference.

Leadership: The Preservation Section will work with the Core Board to establish a Leadership Team. In the first year, the Leadership Team will be composed of recent past-chairs from the Section's Committees and Interest Groups, providing continuity to members as well as the recent experience of leaders within the Section. The Preservation Section will work with the Core Board to establish a leadership appointment or election cycle, according to which established procedure will work best for the Section.

Structure: The Preservation Section will include:

- Committees
  - Preservation Standards and Practices
  - Preservation Outreach Committee (move from Core level to Preservation Section)
- Interest Groups
  - Book and Paper
  - Promoting Preservation
  - Preservation Administration
  - *Digital Preservation*

## **NOTES**

The Preservation Section would follow established Core procedures to form a Digital Preservation Interest Group, as this group existed in PARS and fills a gap in the holistic approach to preservation administration. In addition, results of the Library Binding Survey suggest that there is community interest in establishing a Library Binding Interest Group.

Interest Groups, such as Digital Conversion and Newspapers that intersect preservation but have a broader scope, would remain where they are in the Core organization. Preservation Section leadership would encourage members to participate in these groups as well as other Core groups and allied ALA

sections to learn from colleagues, bring a preservation perspective, and foster collaboration across Core and ALA.

### **TRANSITION/TIMELINE**

If the proposal is approved by the Core Board, the Preservation Section will begin on September 1, 2023. As outlined above, Section leadership will be composed in the first year of recent past-chairs from the existing Core Preservation Committees and Interest Groups. Before September 1, current Committee and Interest Group chairs and recent past chairs would determine who will be in a position to be appointed to the Leadership Team. Additionally, information about the new section will be a presentation topic at the annual PAIG meeting as well as through ALA Connect communities, and Section Committee and Interest Group membership will be encouraged in those ways as well as via tools like [Find Your Core](#).