No one is born knowing this stuff:
Learning to conference at SAA (and beyond)

Snowden Becker
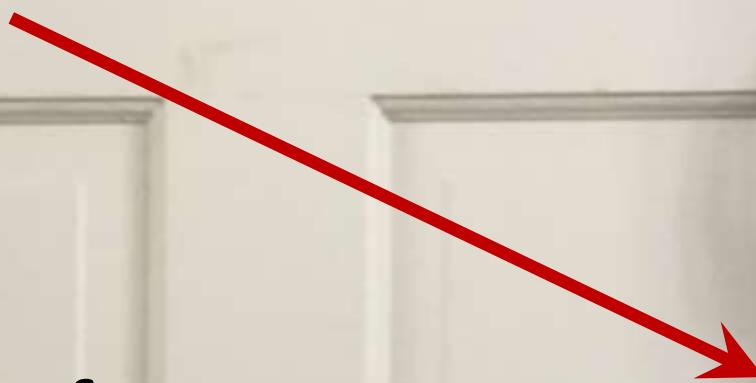
AAPB Public Broadcasting Preservation Fellowship webinar - 7/25/2018

My qualifications

(Plus at least 50 conference presentations, 19 panels, 6 program committees, 2 keynote addresses, and countless other things I now regret having done or said)

What we will cover today

- Conference survival tips-n-tricks
- SAA-specific topics and strategies
- Self-care at professional events
- Perfecting your elevator speech
- Questions and concerns you might have

What we (probably) won't cover*

- How to craft good conference proposals that are guaranteed to get accepted
- How to present like a boss
- Certifications and workshops

*but I'll direct you to resources on if you're curious!

First things first

- Make a folder for your stuff and bring it with you.
- Know where you're going and when you need to be there.
- Check in at the conference registration desk first!
- TiVo your bag (delete the ads & keep the program for later)
- Review schedule: highlight, make notes, rank choices, etc.

101 – Toward Culturally Competent Archival (Re)Description of Marginalized Histories
Annie Tang · Dorothy Berry · Kelly Bolding · Rachel E. Winston

102 – True Confessions: Paying Off the Technical Debt of Early Digital Projects
Deirdre Joyce · Julia Corrin · Rebecca Hirsch · Rita Johnston · Erin Kinhart · Laurel McPhee

103 – Archival Engagements and Recordkeeping Intersections with Wicked Problems [RIM]
Eliot Wilczek · Snowden Becker · Anne J. Gilliland · Eira Tansey

104 – Making the Invisible Accessible: The Complex Labor of Archival Accessioning
Rosemary K. J. Davis · Julie I. May · Meaghan O'Riordan · Rachel Searcy · Katrina Windon

105 – Opening the Black Box: Transparency and Complexity in Digital Preservation
Amy Wickner · Erin Elizabeth Baucom · Elizabeth England · Kyna Herzinger · Jessica Tieman

106 – Leading the Way: Transparency in Archives Management
Chrystal Carpenter · Erin Christmann · Rachel Alston · Jessica Nicole Pavone · Rachael Benjamin

107 – Trying to Put It Out There: Confronting Challenges in Processing and Providing Access to Legal Collections

OMG WTF so many sessions?!

Hacking the SAA program

- Plenary sessions = full (everyone in a big room)
  - Keynotes, awards, etc.
- Concurrent sessions = at the same time
  - "Shop" names, affiliations, keywords, topics
  - Have an A pick and a B pick (and maybe a C)
- Section meetings = business + focused content
- Committees and working groups = members
- Networking groups = for anyone up that early
- Expo hall = vendors, free stuff, poster sessions

General conference conduct

- Show up. Go to stuff.
- Talk to people. As many as possible.
- Ask questions (if and when you have them).
- If you're tweeting, use the hashtags.
- Think about levelling up.
  - This year: volunteer for a committee or project?
  - Next year: submit a proposal/present?
  - Five years: run for a leadership position?

The tote bag

- Cardigan, hoodie, or wrap
- Water bottle
- Mints or gum
- Snacks!
- Notebook or notepad
- A good pen for you
- Crappy pens for extra
- Business cards (use badge!)

- Phone/laptop chargers
- Emergency power supply
- Flash drive
- Tissues (or a hankie, hand sanitizer, wipes, etc.)

The conference is a wilderness! This is your survival gear.

Self-care strategies

- Eat, sleep, and drink water.

- Wash your hands.

- Check in with yourself from time to time.

- Check in with friends or a "conference buddy," too.

- Going to everything ≠ being productive. Downtime is good.

Now let's talk about you!

- Take the next 5 minutes to compose your elevator speech for SAA.

- It should be 1-2 sentences that cover who you are, what you're doing now, and/or what you're interested in.

- Post it in the chat pane ("Everybody") when it's ready; we'll discuss.

If you're done early, and have questions you want to get in the queue for me to answer when we're done with this exercise, send them by private chat to me! There are no dumb questions. I'll answer as many as we have time for together, and can follow up by email on the rest.

What's your **most** basic question?

That thing everyone talks about like it's completely obvious but you don't know?

Chances are someone else wonders the same thing and will appreciate you asking.

No one is born knowing this stuff.

Thanks for listening!

- Slides will be posted on my website: https://snowdenbecker.com/upcoming/

- Email me for access to the recording of this webinar (I won't post publicly, but will make available to PBPF folks who couldn't attend)

- Consider me a resource; feel free to follow up directly anytime.
    - snowdenbecker@gmail.com
    - @snowdenbecker

- Please introduce yourself to me at SAA!