



## **SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION ON ABORIGINAL ARCHIVES (SISAA)**

The Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), issued in October 1996, identified a number of archival, records management, historical, and cultural issues which provide a collective challenge to the Canadian archival community. The move to establish a special interest section within the ACA has largely resulted from the recognition that Canadian archivists must contribute in their own unique way to the future of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. The main purpose of the SISAA is to provide members with a forum to discuss a wide range of archival issues relating to records created by or related to Aboriginal peoples. We want to build a foundation for a permanent membership and communications infrastructure within the Canadian archival community as a whole and among Aboriginal communities and organizations. The other goals of the SISAA are to serve as an interface between the community of Canadian archivists and Aboriginal communities and organizations and to form a base of expertise, advice, and support on archival issues that can be shared with Aboriginal communities and organizations.

If you have any kind of interest in Aboriginal Archives, we would like to strongly encourage you to join the SISAA (Special Interest Section on Aboriginal Archives) of the ACA. We have a listserv, many contacts with SISAA members and interaction with other ACA groups, and we meet at least once a year during the ACA Annual meeting. During our meetings, we try to meet with partners in Aboriginal heritage work and engage local Aboriginal heritage community. For example, last year in Fredericton, we received guests Phebe Noel and Patsy McKinney of the New Brunswick Aboriginal People's Council (NBAPC) and we were pleased to visit the Fredericton Native Friendship Centre, where Executive Director Tamara Polchies hosted a luncheon of moose stew and bannock. This year in Calgary we will visit the Blackfoot Gallery at the Glenbow Museum and meet with Aboriginal representatives.

We would like to invite archivists that work with Aboriginal issues but also, and maybe more specially, Aboriginal archivists, communities and organizations to get involved and informed on our discussions. Aboriginal communities and organizations that may have archival needs to preserve and promote their own archives will be interested to know that the SISAA created an Aboriginal Archives Guide, that is now available on line. It is hoped that this guide will serve to stimulate and contribute to the development of an archives and/or records management programs, as well as to provide advice and assistance on the preservation of Aboriginal records. Should you wish to obtain paper copies, they may be purchased through the ACA's website [www.archivists.ca](http://www.archivists.ca) at a cost of \$2.00 per copy plus postage.

The success of this group is depending of your active participation and sharing of ideas. If you want to take part of the SISAA, please contact us: (click on the name of the individual to send her/him an e-mail message)

Contact: [Erica Hernandez-Read](#), SISAA Chair

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## **ACCESSIBILITY SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION (ASIS)**

This section brings together ACA members who are responsible for, or have an interest in, making archives accessible for people with disabilities in both the physical and online environments.

Our goals are to:

1. Educate
  - a. Provide information on accessibility issues that impact archives.
  - b. Collect, create and share information on accessibility related resources and new technologies that can be used to make archives more accessible for both patrons and employees.
2. Share
  - a. Provide a space where archivists can share accessibility related stories, successes and failures with each other, so we can learn from each other and support each other.
3. Encourage
  - a. Encourage ACA conference sessions that relate to accessibility issues.
4. Collaborate
  - a. Establish relationships with accessibility organizations outside of the archival community, to raise awareness of archival accessibility and possibly collaborate on projects.

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## **SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION ON ARCHIVES OF RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS (SISARO)**

### Introducing SISARO

The Special Interest Section Archives of Religious Organizations came into being during a half-day meeting of religious archivists, held at the 1985 ACA Conference in Edmonton, Alberta. Many core topics were discussed that day, included funding, research access, the promotion of archives to parent institutions, and the isolation of religious archivists. One year later, SISARO was officially formed, and the dialogue continues.

Today, SISARO strives to address current archival issues and the interests of the membership. Specifically, the Section exists to provide a forum for ACA members working or interested in religious archives in order to discuss issues of common concern. And, if appropriate, SISARO will formulate recommendations regarding these issues for action by the ACA Board of Directors.

The Section's members are a diverse group, including archivists working in a variety of religious settings, as well as a number of professional historians and university and college archival studies students. Mindful of this diversity, RASIS continually re-evaluates its purpose, its direction, and its relevance as it faces the challenges of a developing profession

### Goals and Objectives



The goals and objectives of SISARO are:

1. Provide a forum for discussion for ACA members with a primary interest in Religious Archives;
2. Attract new members with an interest in Religious Archives to the ACA and SISARO;
3. Identify possible interests and concerns of Religious Archives nationally;
4. Strive for active involvement of members through participation in the AGM, the submissions of articles to the Bulletin, the ACA Web Site, or Archivaria, or possibly through specials projects, and through continued communication with the Chair and Secretary;
5. Plan and recommend future directions for SISARO based on present concerns or issues raised by the membership;
6. Education and inform the wider ACA membership regarding the uniqueness of Religious Archives with regard to a) types of records dealt with, b) types of institutions religious archives are a part of, and c) special archival needs;
7. Act as a 'support group' for each other as religious archivists and encourage informal communication of questions or concerns as religious archivists; and
8. Encourage members to learn more about archives of differing denominations and how those denominations.

The goals and objectives of the Chair of SISARO are:

1. Act as a leader in ensuring that SISARO strives to achieve the above stated goals and objectives;
2. Find a focus for the Section that is timely and attracts the interest of at least a majority of the members. This focus may be dealt with through article submissions, round table discussions or presentations at the AGM, the creation of special projects or other ways; and
3. Facilitate the planning of high quality annual meeting sessions for SISARO which go beyond the regular yearly business of election of officers and which address the concerns of Religious Archives and Archivists.

### Communicating With Our Membership

Communication between SISARO members is maintained through several avenues, including submissions to the ACA Bulletin, the SISARO Web Page, the SISARO e-mail list, annual mailings, and the Section's Annual General Meeting held at the ACA Annual Conference. All members are encouraged to participate in any and all of these forums.

The nature of the SISARO Annual General Meeting has varied over the years. In the past, the gathering has functioned both as an informal setting for information sharing and brainstorming, as well as a structured session complete with formal presentations. The AGM also includes an annual business meeting in which the Section's goals and accomplishments are discussed. All ACA conference attendees are welcome to join the meeting.

Contact: [Carey Pallister](#) (SISARO Chair)



## GOVERNMENT RECORDS SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION (GRSIS)

1. Purpose:
  - a. To provide a forum for ACA members who are responsible for, or have an interest in, the management of provincial, territorial or federal government records and archives.
2. Goals and objectives:
  - a. To collect and disseminate information and discuss issues surrounding the management of government records throughout their life cycle (management, appraisal, preservation, arrangement/description, and use).
  - b. To organize an annual meeting and encourage the development of ACA conference sessions which address government records issues from a multi-jurisdictional perspective.
  - c. To form and sustain a group of professionals who may provide ACA members with advice on and support for government records issues.
  - d. To inform/alert the ACA executive about significant government records issues and concerns for possible further action.
  - e. To liaise with other special interest sections and student chapters with related issues.
3. Membership and communication:
  - a. The GRSIS Chair maintains an e-mail distribution list of members. To join GRSIS, simply send an e-mail to the Chair expressing your interest.
  - b. Anyone with an interest in government records is encouraged to attend the GRSIS annual meeting, held at every ACA conference.

Contacts: [Natasha Zwarich](#) (GRSIS Secretary)

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## SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION ON PERSONAL ARCHIVES (SISPA)

We invite your participation in the Special Interest Section on Personal Archives. This is a forum to discuss the different approaches to archival procedures called for when dealing with individuals and their archives. SISPA comes from the realization that a great many issues surrounding personal archives are not fully comprehended, thus the members feel urged to explore in depth the topic of personal archives and the approaches to the individual life within archives.

### Background

The SIS grew out of a session at the 2001 ACA Conference in Winnipeg which dealt with personal archives in various repository settings. The response in the post-panel discussion was so dynamic and it came from such a diverse group of archivists that the panel members were drawn to create the SIS.

Section members manage the archives of individuals within their work environments and work in a variety of archival settings, including government, university, and corporate repositories. The



section also invites participation from scholars and practitioners in other disciplines and students who are interested in issues surrounding personal archives.

SISPA received formal recognition by the ACA Board of Directors in November, 2001.

### Purpose

The purpose of the SIS is to:

1. provide a forum to discuss the issues surrounding acquisition and management of personal archives; realizing that personal archives overlap with the purview of the other interest sections, but that when dealt with as a whole, personal archives provide a new set of associations and issues.
2. form a base of expertise and provide ACA members with information on issues relating to personal archives.
3. create resources for those interested in personal archives, such as the bibliography.

### Goals and Objectives

The Goals and Objectives of this Section are:

1. To provide a forum for discussion for members of the ACA with a primary interest in personal archives.
2. To identify the topics of common interest and the concerns regarding personal archives in the Canadian archival community. To open dialogue on the issues and practices of dealing with personal archives in Canadian archival institutions. To promote discussion of these issues through member participation in the AGM; through organization of conference sessions; through publications such as the *Bulletin*, the *Web Site* and *Archivaria*; through special initiatives and projects; and through continued communication with the Chair and the Secretary.
3. To encourage discussion and learning about the different issues for different types of personal archives and to encourage sharing of coping strategies, institutional tools and approaches to aid archivists in their everyday work acquiring and maintaining records from private individuals.
4. To plan and recommend future directions of the SIS based on present concerns or issues raised by the membership.
5. To attract new members with an interest in personal archives to both the Section and to the ACA overall.

### Contacts

- [Rodney Carter](#), SISPA Chair
- [Heather Beattie](#), SISPA Secretary

### SISPA Resources

SISPA has put together resources for those interested in Personal Archives.



Association of  
Canadian Archivists  
Association canadienne  
des archivistes

- [SISPA Bibliography](#)
- [SISPA Listserv](#)
- [SISPA on the ACA Member's Site](#) (login required)

#### Related Groups

- [Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts](#) (North America)
- [Society of American Archivists Manuscript Repository Section](#)

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### **SOUND AND MOVING IMAGES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION (SMISIS)**

The Sound and Moving Image Special Interest Section (SMISIS) is a forum for ACA members to discuss issues relating to sound and moving image media in both analogue and digital forms, including its management, preservation, and migration. The group will focus on moving images and sound recordings, often underserved areas of preservation theory and practice. It will provide an opportunity for ACA members working in this area to network, share knowledge, and discuss the evolving technology of these materials.

We invite archivists tasked with the management of sound and moving image records in academic, public, private and cultural organizations of various scales to join SMISIS. When working with film, video, or sound recordings in any format, including digital, there are many concerns that can arise; this group serves as a forum to discuss those issues. We will share ideas about challenges in the field, share knowledge about recent technological developments, and also give updates about recent acquisitions to our collections.

Whether you are an archivist working with a diverse assortment of media in a wide range of formats, or you only have one or two sound or moving image items in your collection, we encourage you to become part of this group. SMISIS also welcomes participation from students, scholars and practitioners in other disciplines who are interested in the practical and theoretical issues surrounding audiovisual archives. SMISIS aims to communicate and collaborate with like-minded associations and committees in order to foster broader local, provincial and national dialogues and communities.

#### Goals and Objectives:

1. Foster community by offering a forum to discuss issues surrounding the acquisition, appraisal, preservation, conservation, and management of sound and moving image materials
2. Support advocacy affecting sound and moving image preservation
3. Encourage the development of standards and best practices, nationally and internationally
4. Support and provide education surrounding sound and moving image preservation
5. Create and disseminate resources for those interested in sound and moving image archives
6. Provide notifications of professional development sessions and courses relating to sound and moving image archives
7. Form a base of expertise and provide ACA members with information on issues relating to sound and moving image archives



Contacts: [Rachel E. Beattie](#), Co-Chair

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## **TECHNOLOGY AND ARCHIVES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION (TASIS)**

The Technology and Archives Special Interest Section or TaASIS provides a forum for ACA members to discuss and act upon a wide variety of issues relating the intersection of archives, electronic records, and the digital world.

[The Archives and Technology Unconference \(TAATU\)](#) is organized by TaASIS each year as a full day pre-ACA Conference event; anyone interested in technology and archives is welcome to participate. TAATU is participant-driven and provides a forum for networking, collaboration, sharing, and innovation.

TaASIS succeeds the Special Interest Section on Electronic Records (SISER). SISER memberships will be automatically transferred to TaASIS. The renaming of TaASIS reflects the growing technology interests and needs of archivists.

If you would like to take part in TaASIS, please update your membership profile on the ACA website.

Contact: [Cindy McLellan](#), Chair

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## **UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ARCHIVES SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION (UCASIS)**

The University and College Archives Special Interest Section (UCASIS) was established in 1985. It was preceded by a University and College Archives Committee, which was dissolved as a result of amendments to the ACA Constitution, passed at that year's general meeting, which limited committee membership to six members. Membership in the UCA-SIS is open to representatives from all university and college archives in Canada and internationally.

The Section's goals are:

1. Provide a forum for ACA members with a responsibility or interest in the archives of Canadian post-secondary education institutions.
2. Plan projects and meetings which address the concerns and needs of university and college archivists.
3. Promote archival programs at Canadian colleges and universities.

If you are a member of the ACA you can visit the UCASIS page on the Member's Only site for more information on or projects and activities.

Contacts: [Julia Hendry](#)