

ACDA Call for Program Proposals: 2020 Biannual Conference

Call for Program Proposals

Mundelein 20/20: Envisioning the Future

Biannual Conference of ACDA

July 13-17, 2020 * University of St. Mary of the Lake campus in Mundelein, IL.

Submission Deadline: Sunday November 10, 2019

Mundelein 20/20: Envisioning the Future, the Biannual Conference of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists will take place July 13-17, 2020 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake campus in Mundelein, IL.

The Conference Theme

Envisioning the Future of Catholic Diocesan and Religious Archives, Archivists, and Records Managers

A recent article published in the *American Archivist* by a professor and student from the Department of Library and Information Science at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. attempted to study and describe the state of our Diocesan specific information environment. The conclusion of this article has demonstrated that many Catholic academics and secular Archives/Records Management colleagues have an obvious lack of knowledge and understanding of our specific archival community.

And although it is easy to claim that our discipline was misrepresented and misunderstood, it is far better to redirect our momentum to ask ourselves some poignant questions:

- (1) How can we become more transparent to successfully publicize to our various audiences (e.g., Academics, Archival Professionals, Religious communities, etc.) who we are as Diocesan Archivist and Records Managers?
- (2) How can we share and connect with each other to increase our own knowledge or enhance our diocesan neighbors?
- (3) What more can we be doing to ease feelings of professional isolation, and further our “catholic” or “universal” goals?
- (4) What will it take to achieve these objectives?

We do not have set education session formats as of yet, and are hoping your ideas will help identify which format would be best suited to your proposal. Here are some examples taken from the Society of American Archivists website of various Session Formats:

Traditional

A Traditional session is 60-75-minutes in duration and consists of two or three (and no more than three) fully prepared 15 minute presentations and allow for a comment-and-discussion period at the end of the session.

Lightning Talks

Lightning Talks consist of eight to ten lively and informative 5-minute talks in a 60-minute session. A session chair will be responsible for securing speakers and compiling all the presentation slides into one single

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presentation so that the transitions between speakers is smooth and seamless. Proposals in this category may suggest recommended presenters; if the proposal is accepted, commitments from speakers should be secured soon after.

Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion sessions range from 60-75-minutes and consist of a panel of three to five people who informally discuss theories or perspectives on a given topic with time for audience comments and feedback. A moderator is required (this role may be performed by the chair); a commentator is optional.

Incubator Session

An Incubator is a 60-minute session that consists of two, 10 minute presentations that describe project, research, or collaboration initiatives in their developing or formative stages, and including at least 40 minutes of interactive discussion with feedback from the audience.

Special Focus Session

Special Focus Sessions are 60-minute long and are led by an individual or group. They are designed to highlight innovative archives or records management programs, new techniques, and research projects. Participation from the audience is encouraged.

Working Group

Facilitated Working Group Sessions are 60-75-minute long and provide a space for a more focused and intentional discussions that generate action items to direct future work and/or to identify potential archival and records management pursuits or projects. The intention behind Working Groups is to initiate, build, and sustain collaborative efforts that advance various interlocking goals in archives and records management. Proposals for Working Group sessions require, at minimum, one session facilitator and a note-taker. The facilitator(s) is/are responsible for guiding the conversation and related activities of the Working Group session, and the note-taker is responsible for recording notes and action items generated during the session. Shortly after the Biannual meeting, the Working Group session facilitator will provide ACDA with a deliverable (polished notes, outline, workflow, an established working group or research team, and/or action items with identified owners). The deliverable(s) will be shared and publicly accessible via the conference website.

Hands-On Format

The Hands-On Format is intended to train attendees and to engage them in thoughtful discussions, provide opportunities for feedback from attendees, and to cultivate new projects and ideas. Sessions could take the form of demonstration or a participatory how-to session. The facilitator of the session expected to define a specific, hands-on topic. You may even seek collaborators. If your proposal is chosen, you will be required to submit an outline of the intended outcomes of the session along with materials and resources needed to implement Hands-On training session.

Alternative Format

Bored with the regular structure of conference workshops or educational sessions? Suggest an alternative format or create your own! Alternative format sessions may take a variety of forms (i.e., fishbowl or world café discussions, or a breakout session). You could hold a moderated debate offering differing points of view,

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or role play, games that convey essential principles and learning objectives. Alternative Format proposals need to specify the type of format and session facilitator and 2) briefly speak to how the format chosen will add to the presentation of the material. You may also recommend up to four presenters for the session.

Proposal Evaluation

The Program Committee invites submissions for in-person education sessions. Proposals are welcome on any aspect of Diocesan or Religious archives and records management—especially their interweaving with other fields of work and domains. We recommend that proposals incorporate one or more of the following aspects:

- A concrete connection to the conference theme.
- Accurate representation by and about smaller minority communities, to help promote awareness amongst ourselves and gain knowledge to ensure that those communities are included and represented appropriately in our historical record.
- We want representation by a variety of presenters, including those that are not archivists or records managers, who can help us increase our understanding, knowledge.
- Topic should be relevant to ACDA members and other interested attendees.
- Interaction and engagement with session audience.

The Program Committee may not select all of the proposals submitted, but during the selection process we will also be identifying other factors that may not be specifically stated in a proposal but could make a good presentation topic. If two or more proposals submitted cover a similar topic we may ask the proposers to work together as part of a panel on a topic.

Reminder for Proposal Submitters and Session Participants

**Proposals for the 2020 Biannual Conference are due by
Sunday, November 10, 2019.**

The Program Committee will not consider proposals received after the deadline.

[Click Here to Submit Your Proposal](#)

The 2020 Program Committee has created a Google spreadsheet to be used as an informal tool for individuals to submit their proposals and for those who are seeking ideas and/or collaboration on session proposals for the 2020 Biannual Conference.