



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES

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January 2019

Happy 2019!

As I write this, the 2018 midterm elections are a few days away. Early voting is available in our state, and my spouse and I took advantage of this opportunity at our county auditor's office in late October. The brisk turnout on that brisk fall day was very encouraging.

Without a crystal ball, of course, none of us can predict the outcome. More than one pundit has pointed out, however, that—regardless of outcome—it is important for us all to remain engaged in the political process. I encourage us as citizens and as professionals to do so, even if we believe a majority of our local, state, and federal lawmakers in the new biennium have the public's best interest at heart.

This is particularly important to archivists and records managers on several fronts:

Preservation and conservation. We know too well that the clock never stops ticking for records that are at risk on account of physical deterioration or technological obsolescence. Continuing public support for initiatives that ensure the longevity and stability of essential records is vital.

Intellectual and physical access to records. On many fronts, we are facing new barriers. For example, the Trump administration has made it difficult—if not impossible—to determine from online sources the extent of fines levied by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other federal regulatory enforcement agencies. Doing so erodes the public's ability to hold accountable those responsible for infractions. Similar rollbacks undermining access have occurred at state levels as well.

Support for ongoing community documentation efforts. I was honored to serve on a grant review panel for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in 2016, specifically encompassing applications for small grants of under \$25,000 to assist local historical organizations. These grassroots initiatives are community driven and strive to expand our collective memory through oral history interviews, the gathering of family and organizational records, and other strategies. Without support, these stories, often reflecting the experiences of historically underrepresented groups, are at risk of loss.

In addition to the NEH, funding from other agencies contributes to the preservation, documentation, and accessibility of records: the National Film Preservation Foundation, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Council on Library and Information Resources. State agencies also make significant contributions.

(Continued on page 6)

President's Page

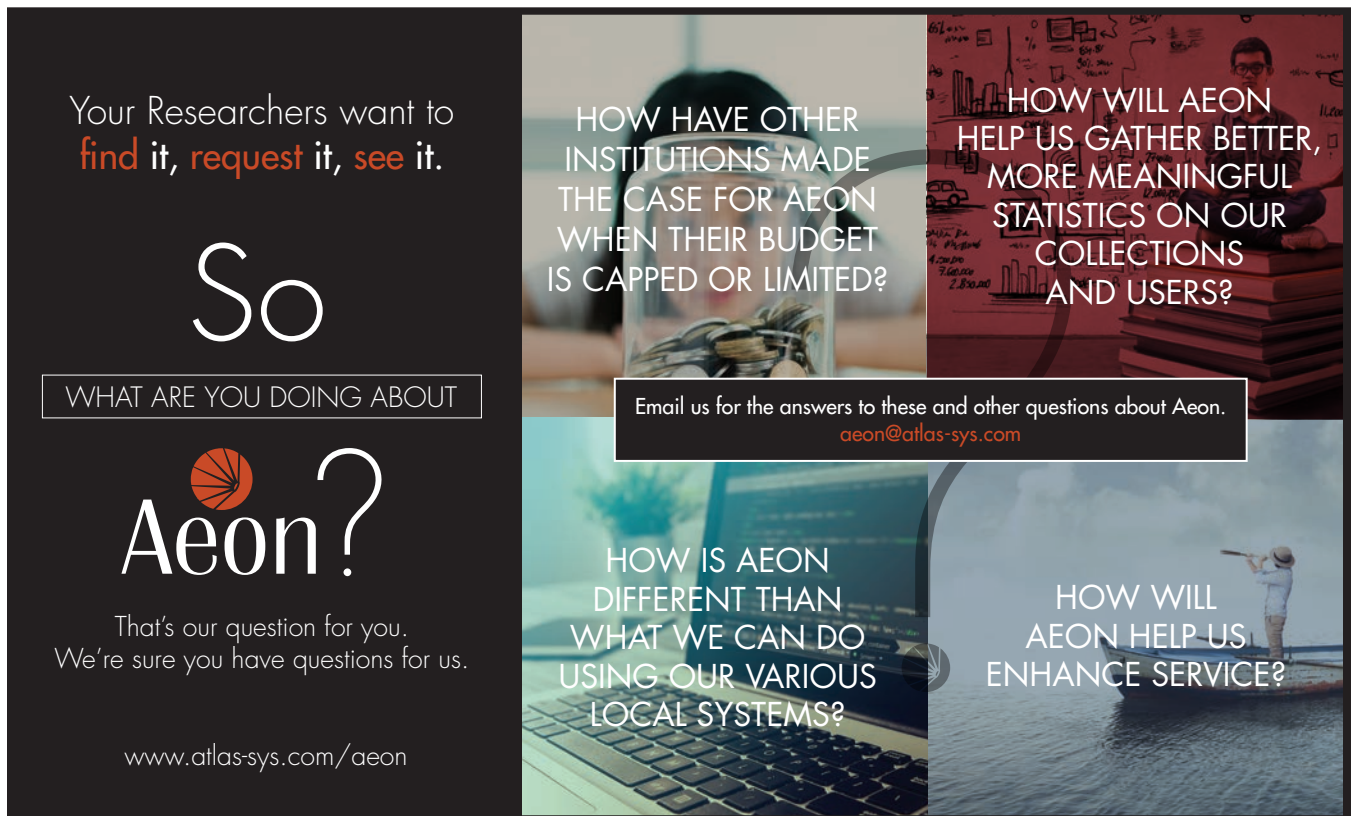
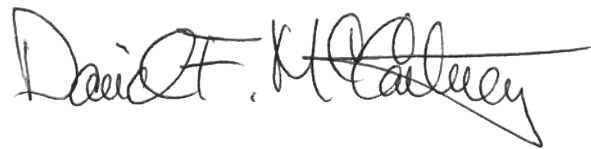
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The new year is a good time to get to know your state and federal legislators, particularly if newly elected. In addition, the Society of American Archivists maintains a website devoted to public policy at <https://www2.archivists.org/advocacy/publicpolicy>. Check it periodically to keep abreast of developments affecting public program funding, access policies, and other issues of concern to our profession.

Remember to renew your MAC membership, if you haven't already done so. Renew by January 31 to ensure

your eligibility to vote online in our upcoming annual election.

This year for the first time, MAC is offering a special student rate—only \$20 annually with all the rights and benefits of regular membership! Please spread the word among your colleagues and up-and-comers.



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