**CAD BIM Taskforce Report / July 30, 2013**

This report outlines what the CAD/BIM Taskforce has accomplished since its inception, a couple of months after last year’s SAA annual meeting; and what we envision as possible threads for further research and collaboration.

Within the SAA’s Architectural Records Roundtable, the CAD/BIM Taskforce co-chairs, Aliza Allen Leventhal and Ines Zalduendo, with the help of Tawny Ryan Nelb, opened communication with the larger roundtable community in late October 2012, asking for interested members to join the taskforce, and setting out a general plan of inquiry into the CAD/BIM question (email text attached). The initial email received a response from 24 members showing interest in participating in the discussion (participating members listing attached) and outlined the CAD/BIM question within three main categories of concern: legal, technological, and curatorial issues.

The co-chairs set about addressing those issues by first compiling a bibliography of existing reports, studies and projects related to archival issues related to CAD/BIM technology. The scope of this research was internationally based, though limited to resources in English. A total of 13 projects and reports were identified in this preliminary research (bibliography attached). Given the nature of projects being funded, the bibliography is heavily weighted towards technological issues. The bibliography was shared with the entire taskforce in early 2013, at which time feedback and additional community knowledge was solicited. This report has since been shared throughout the archival community, both domestically and abroad. Although it will inevitably need to be updated as technologies evolve, we trust it may already serve as a source of reference for our community.

Building upon the bibliographic reference, Aliza Leventhal submitted a proposal for the 2013 Imaging Science & Technology, Archiving Conference to present on the motivation and formation of the CAD/BIM Taskforce within SAA and its areas of concern (paper attached). This paper was submitted in hopes of engaging with a broader, but still like-minded, community. The presentation of this paper at the April 2013 conference in Washington D.C. was well received and incited lively discussion about potential areas for further study, including engaging with the “cutting edge” community of 3D printing.

When first discussing the original plan a survey among colleagues and peer institutions seemed a propos. Because a parallel study, in the form of a survey, by Anne Barrett was taking place at the time, it seemed to us that an additional survey could be received as redundant. The survey is not readily available, but her thesis is: <http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/s_papers/id/1995> . However, building upon that existing survey, a broader survey encompassing the legal and curatorial issues could be developed should the roundtable believe it would bring added value to the conversation.

Since April 2013, the co-chairs have been debating how to best engage and utilize the resources of the larger task force. With the bibliographic resource, the knowledge of what is happening within the archival community allows the taskforce to move forward into new frontiers of research and conversation facilitation. Furthermore, the notion of “trusted digital repositories” and the OAIS reference model seems to be taking hold of the archival community, and it may be worth considering in parallel to the discussion of digital preservation management with that of the specifics of CAD/BIM collection and preservation for digital architectural records.

We think it is important not to lose sight of the broader picture: the collection, description and preservation of born-digital architectural records not only has to do with technological issues, but also how these technological issues impact our traditional roles as curators of collections. A possible framework for a broader discussion of born-digital architectural records may have to take into account not only technological issues, but legal and curatorial issues as well.

There are numerous potential next steps for this taskforce, on which the co-chairs are open to suggestions, questions, and collaboration with the larger community.

1. Build upon bibliographic resource, which is predominantly technologically focused, to establish a comparable source of reference addressing the curatorial and legal issues with CAD/BIM files, be it through a bibliography or through a session with a call for papers and discussion at next year’s conference that we can facilitate.
2. Follow the 3D Printing community’s interest in interoperable file formats, and most notably their movement away from subtractive file formats (STL) towards additive file formats (AMF/AML)
3. Exploring the differences between CAD and BIM, investigate the communities using these products, what they require for the long term use of their files, and conclude whether the archival community should treat them as similar or diverging issues.
4. Develop a COPAR-type model to better utilize and engage the larger taskforce. This would involve establishing a clear course of action and invite taskforce members to volunteer for particular initiatives.

With those few ideas in mind and both the task force current membership, bibliography and presentation paper are available upon request (unless Dana would like to provide copies at the meeting), the co-chairs of the SAA Architectural Records Roundtable CAD/BIM Taskforce are excited to enter into their 2nd year, and hope to involve everyone more actively. Do let us know your thoughts and we will try to steer our taskforce in a productive collaborative manner.

Aliza Leventhal and Inés Zalduendo.