



**Society of California Archivists
Candidate's Statement for 2020 Election**

Candidate for: Nominating Committee

Years: 2020-2022 (2-year term)

Name: Elena Colón-Marrero

Institution: Computer History Museum

Professional Background (begin with current position and areas of responsibility, and briefly summarize duties):

Digital Processing Archivist, Computer History Museum July 2016 - Present

Arrange and describe born-digital materials and software. Developed and revise cataloging guidelines for the software collection. Manage the Digital Repository and ingestion workflows.

John Foster and Avery Dulles Fellow, Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University May 2015 – August 2015

Conducted a digital media survey using XQuery and processed digital media using BitCurator.

Student Processor, Curation Division, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan August 2014 – May 2016

Processed hybrid collections using Green and Meissner's "More Product, Less Process" approach. Created finding aids and corresponding MARC Records

Educational Background (degrees and other applicable training):

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 2016

Masters of Science in Information

Specialization: Archives and Records Management, Preservation of Information

Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Virginia, 2014

Bachelor of Arts, cum laude

Major: History

Minor: Spanish

Professional Affiliations (list organizations, dates and extent of your involvement, e.g., SCA activities, memberships, committee work):

Coordinator, Metadata Working Group, Software Preservation Network, February 2019-Present

Chair, Students and New Archival Professionals Section, Society of American Archivists, July 2018-August 2019

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Students and New Archival Professionals Section, Society of American Archivists, July 2017-July 2018

Committee Member, 2017 Appointments Committee, Society of American Archivists, November 2016-March 2017

Social Media Coordinator, Students and New Archival Professionals Section, Society of American Archivists, November 2015-July 2017

Planning Committee Member, 2017 Digital Preservation Conference, National Digital Stewardship Alliance, March 2017-October 2017

Taking into account differing levels of monetary and institutional support, how can the Nominating Committee ensure that candidates are 1) chosen from all facets of the archival profession--lone arrangers, large institutions, government archives, academic archives, corporate archives, library, museum, and other settings; 2) holding various types of positions (contract, temporary/project, permanent, etc.); and 3) representative of various levels of experience in the field? [300 words or less]

Members of the Nominating Committee have an obligation to look high and low for individuals that reflect what our profession looks like, but most importantly what we want the profession to

become. The Nominating Committee should critically look at candidate submissions to determine who is not at the table. The committee should ask themselves who is missing and why are they missing. They should then work to find and encourage individuals that traditionally are not represented, whether that be lone-arrangers, project archivists, and/or new professionals. Nominating committee members need to see the potential in individuals and advocate on their behalf. This committee has the opportunity to lift up members within our community and say, “we see you and we believe in you.”

We must also acknowledge our own shortcomings and limitations as professionals. Personally, I see myself as a new professional that still discovering the wide landscape of archival professionals in California. But that also means that I am not wedded to the traditional idea of what an SCA leader looks like. Members of the Nominating Committee must recognize and challenge their inherent biases when determining what slate of candidates that they should put forward. They need to be willing to challenge their idea of what a leader looks like. To do so the membership must elect Nominating Committee members that also reflect the community it wants to foster. The work of the Nominating Committee can only be done with the trust of the membership. Without mutual trust the Nominating Committee cannot ensure that our organization’s leadership reflects the community. Members of the Nominating Committee should continually strive to make the organization better than what it was before.