

AAO Institutional Issues Forum – Acquisition Strategy Session

Some points from the CNSA's Cooperative Acquisition Strategy:

The overall purpose of the CNSA's Cooperative Acquisition Strategy is to “ensure and promote the cooperative acquisition and preservation of Nova Scotia's archival heritage at the local, regional and provincial levels.”

In considering the best fit for archival records, the CNSA strategy balances scope (geographic focus of activities and interests of the records creator) vs. significance (refers to the creator's local, regional or provincial status)

CNSA sees the cooperative acquisition strategy as a building block in the development of an even stronger archival community in Nova Scotia.

CNSA institutional members in the same location or region or with the same thematic acquisition mandate are encouraged to develop cooperative acquisition strategies.

The CNSA Executive will provide a forum to discuss any issues which may arise in relation to the application of the Strategy.

1. CNSA Policy

- Will it work for Ontario?
- What adaptations should be made?
- Benefits to the Ontario archival community of a similar strategy

2. Challenges with a cooperative policy

- Mediation mechanism
- How does a dispute between institutions get escalated and to whom?
- Accounting for donor wishes
- The role of university archives in such a strategy
- What do we do in cases where there is no suitable repository in place? Who is responsible for holding the records in trust?
- Planning, monitoring and performance assessment... how do we tell if it's working?
- Responsibilities of archives for existing holdings (i.e. is the strategy a tool for a de-accession free for all?)

3. What is the nature of the strategy?

- Voluntary guideline/ best practice
 - Or a condition of institutional membership?
- How does the policy get enacted/integrated into local existing policies – avoiding the difficulties of the Archives Emergency Response Network (AERN)?
- Relationship of the acquisition strategy for MFIPPA / Bill 8 obligations?
- How does the emergence of digital resources affect the strategy? If we can share online, do the physical records need to be accessible in a local repository?
- What is the strategy going to look like? Timeframe to completion, etc.?

4. The Archives of Ontario's Private Acquisition Strategy