



Senior Agency Official for Records Management 2020 Annual Report

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) requires Senior Agency Officials for Records Management (SAORM) to provide an annual report demonstrating how agencies are handling important records management initiatives as identified by NARA.

NARA uses the reports to determine the overall progress of the Federal Government in managing its records and the transition away from paper to digital formats, and to identify best practices and model solutions within Federal agencies.

On June 28, 2019, the Office of Management and Budget and the National Archives issued a memorandum: *Transition to Electronic Records* (M-19-21) to ensure that all Federal records are created, retained, and managed in electronic formats by December 31, 2022. This year's SAORM report provides an opportunity for agencies to report on plans and progress towards the milestones and target goals in this memorandum, as well as other important records management initiatives.

The reporting period begins on January 19, 2021, and reports are due back to NARA no later than March 19, 2021.

NARA plans to post your 2020 SAORM report on the NARA website upon receipt. Please ensure that your agency's report is a publicly releasable version. This action is in the interest of transparency in Government and to promote collaboration and communication among agencies. NARA intends to list any non-responding agencies in a summary report and on the website.

Instructions for Reporting:

- This template covers both records management program developments towards the transition to electronic recordkeeping outlined in M-19-21 through December 31, 2022, and other aspects of agency records management programs.
- Please be brief and precise in your answers. Limit answers to each question to no more than 500 words.
- Please complete the questions/items below and send the report to rmsselfassessment@nara.gov. Include the words "SAORM 2020 Annual Report - [Agency Name]" in the subject line of the email.
- If you are responsible for records management in multiple agencies, components, or bureaus, please determine how you will submit reports to NARA. While NARA prefers a comprehensive report, you may submit separate reports for each component.

Provide the following information (required):

- Name of SAORM: Reid Nelson
- Position title: Acting Executive Director
- Address: 401 F Street, NW, Suite 308, Washington DC 20001

1. What agencies, bureaus, components, or offices are covered by this report and your position as SAORM and which will be reporting separately?

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

2. Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed any policies or practices related to records management at your agency?

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include details of specific challenges, if applicable): The only change is that now that the agency is using Microsoft Teams for a portion of its workload and communications, we developed a records management policy for Teams to ensure all record materials were handled appropriately on this medium and treated in accordance with existing agency records schedules.

3. Does your agency have an established information governance framework that connects records management, data management, and other agency information lines of business? (A relationship between CIO, CDO, SAORM, DRO/ARO, RM Staff)

Yes

No

Do not know

Please provide details on what support is needed: The Records Manager is in frequent contact with all agency staff and coordinates often with the ACHP CIO and SAORM.

4. Has your agency made progress towards managing all permanent records in an electronic format with appropriate metadata by December 31, 2022? (M-19-21, 1.2)

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include specific goals and example metrics): We are continuing to utilize developed file plans and populate electronic folders with both permanent and temporary electronic records while transitioning away from a paper-based records management system.

5. **Has your agency made progress towards managing all temporary records in an electronic format by December 31, 2022? (M-19-21, 1.3)**

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include specific goals and example metrics): See above response.

6. **Is your agency investing resources in IT to support the transition to electronic recordkeeping?**

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response. If Yes: Please include specific examples of resources and how this will support records management processes. If No or Do not know: Please explain.

- 1) *We are investing in increasing our data storage capacity to support the increase in electronic record material.* 2) *We are investing in off-site backup for disaster recovery capabilities.*

7. **To meet the requirements of M-19-21, 1.3, related to records storage facilities, does your agency have plans to use commercial storage to replace agency-operated records centers and NARA Federal Records Centers by December 31, 2022? (M-19-21, 1.3)**

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include specific goals and example metrics): We plan to increase the agency records stored at the FRC.

8. **Does your agency have policies and procedures that include documentation to ensure records of newly appointed and outgoing senior officials* are properly captured and/or processed and not improperly removed, altered, or deleted including electronic records and email?**

*Senior officials are the heads of departments and independent agencies; their deputies and assistants; the heads of program offices and staff offices including assistant secretaries, administrators, and commissioners; directors of offices, bureaus, or equivalent; principal regional officials; staff assistants to those aforementioned officials, such as special assistants, confidential assistants, and administrative assistants; and career Federal employees, political appointees, and officers of the Armed Forces serving in equivalent or comparable positions.

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include specific details of policies and procedures): The ACHP's Records Management Procedures include these requirements. We provide initial training to incoming senior officials on their records management responsibilities. We also provide an exit checklist to departing senior officials and work with those officials to make sure all records are appropriately managed.

9. Do you, as the SAORM, see challenges within your agency in meeting the goal of fully-electronic recordkeeping?

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include details of specific challenges, if applicable): The ACHP is a micro-agency with limited resources. We are unable to invest substantial sums in records management software and generally work to create on own user controlled systems.

10. Do you have suggestions for NARA to improve its engagement with you as the SAORM?

Yes

No

Do not know

Please explain your response (include any comments on previous NARA SAORM engagements, topics for future engagements, or other suggestions):