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**Agenda Item** 8

**Person Responsible** Jenny Baeseman

## **SCAR Executive Committee Meeting 2017**

**Brno, Czech Republic, 31 July - 2 August 2017**

# **Progress on SCAR Archives**

### **Report Author(s):**

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### **Summary (<150 words):**

With the very real risk of 60 years of SCAR files being lost to the elements and the desire to share SCAR's history with the wider community, SCAR has made it a priority to properly archive its documents and make them available. This paper provides a brief summary of the progress to date and future plans, as well as an estimated budget.

### **Recommendations that EXCOM should consider (if any):**

The Executive Committee is asked to note the progress and to join in the appreciation of the SCAR History Expert Group and the SPRI Archivist for their critical help with this project. They are also asked to welcome Leonora Fane-Saunders and Iqra Choudhry to the project.

## Progress:

SCAR has a large number of boxes of original and important papers, detailing the history of the organization from its inception, that are in danger of being lost to the elements. Indeed, some papers have already sustained irreparable water damage from a basement flood caused by an exceptional storm. In December 2016, SCAR decided that as part of its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities, its records would be officially archived and made available to the wider community for historical and research purposes.

After consultation with the SCAR History Expert Group and the SPRI Archivist, it was advised to hire a professional archivist to create a formal catalogue of these documents as well as preserve those deemed to be of archival significance. The SPRI archivist conducted an initial survey of the boxes and documents, and the SPRI library has offered to take the archives on loan when the collection is complete. The SPRI archive holds a world-famous collection of manuscripts and documents relating to the polar regions, including material from the many “Heroic Age” expeditions led by Scott and Shackleton, and the papers of B.B. Roberts, who played a significant role in the establishment of the Antarctic Treaty.

The position for a Temporary Archivist was announced on 17 May via SCAR website, social media and various archivist mailing lists. Job particulars are included at the end of this report. By the deadline of 5 June, eight applications had been received and were reviewed by the SCAR Secretariat, several members of the SCAR History Group and the SPRI archivist. Three candidates were interviewed via Skype on June 9. The interview committee consisted of the SCAR Executive Director, the SCAR Administrative Assistant and the SPRI Archivist. The interview committee agreed that Leonora Fane-Saunders was the best-qualified candidate to fulfill the role, given her qualifications, experience and interview performance, and she was offered the post. Leonora has accepted and will begin full time on 19 July.

In addition to the archiving, the SCAR Executive Director together with Simone Turchetti at the University of Manchester put in a proposal for funding of a PhD Student through the Economic and Social Research Council, North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership, CASE Studentship Programme. This proposal was funded and the PhD Studentship opportunity titled “*Unlocking the SCAR archive: the sixty-year long consolidation of Antarctic governance through polar research*” was advertised in March and closed in April. Three qualified candidates were interviewed and Iqra Choudhry was offered and accepted the post beginning in October.

A second of the PhD candidates interviewed was still very much interested in studying the SCAR archives. She worked with Dr. Turchetti and SCAR’s Executive Director to submit another proposal to the Economic and Social Research Council, North West Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership, but this time to the Industrial Strategy Studentship programme, to examine SCAR’s role in the acquisition of satellite data for the Antarctic Region.

## Future Plans:

The cataloging of the SCAR Archives is expected to be completed by the end of October. SPRI has offered to take the paper archives on loan if SCAR is interested, which would enable the collection to be stored securely in appropriate climate-controlled conditions, well away from the risk of flooding or other dangers. Digitizing should be the next step in the process, and should be fluid with a well-organized catalogue. The digitized files can be kept on the SCAR website, but it might also be advisable to find a Library that could host the files as part of their digital archive.

If progress continues on track, the archive should be publically available and freely accessible online by the Polar2018 meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

## Budget

Funds for the archiving are being allocated from the 2016 Contingency funds at the discretion of the Executive Director according to the decision at the 2016 Delegates meeting.

### Estimated Costs:

- Leonora Fane-Saunders, Temporary Archivist (1900 £ / month x 4 months = social costs): 8400 £
- Archiving Materials: 1000 £
- Travel support for PhD Students: 7500 £
- Digitizing Estimate: 10000 £
  - Total: 26,900 £ (~\$35,000 USD)