Thank you to the Board for approving the proposal for the new field study pilot program! Most of my activities have revolved around planning for the new field study program. We are on track to begin with the Spring 2022 semester. John Davis and I are meeting monthly to move this objective along. My next check-in is a week from Friday.

I have also been working on refining our accessions workflow in collaboration with John Davis. UMD periodically places holds on electronic accessions. This discourages routine record management for an organization like ours and sends conflicting messages about our desire to acquire records. I am advocating for more clarity about these policies so that I can convey them appropriately to MLA.

The Field Study aligns with objectives 2.1 - 2.4 because it provides mentorship and training to emerging archivists and librarians. If we are able to expand the applicant pool beyond UMD, it will only increase our effectiveness in these areas. We are currently exploring that possibility (but that would be after this first round).

It also aligns with objective 3.7, as it allows additional pathways into MLA involvement for students who may not have otherwise considered affiliation with the organization.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the MLA as archivist! I’m looking forward to working with you. Please send me your materials! Not only will it make me happy, but future MLA members will thank you, as it will allow them to learn from your wisdom and continue to shape a healthy professional association. This is especially important as we emerge from the pandemic, and reshape archival workflows to respond to a more “normal” way of life.