



# State of the States: Social Media Archiving and Electronic Records Preservation

Joy Banks | Executive Director | CoSA

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# Speaker

**Joy Banks**



Executive Director

Council of State Archivists (CoSA)



# Mission

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The **Council of State Archivists** (CoSA) provides leadership to strengthen and support state and territorial archives leaders and staff in their work to preserve and provide access to government records.



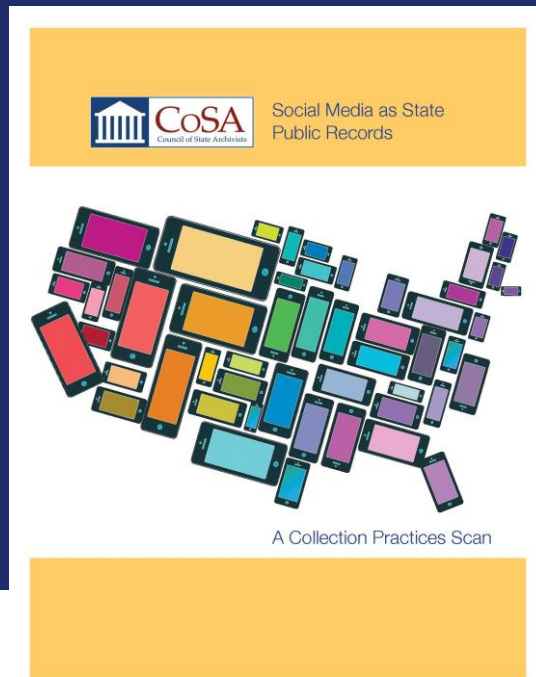
CoSA

## BACKER (2021-2025)

Building Archival Capacity for  
Keeping Electronic Records

- Funder: IMLS
- Activities
  - Self-assessment + benchmarking
  - Direct assistance + mentoring
  - Skill building + training
- Community of practice
- Reports and Workflows
- <https://statearchivists.org/funded-projects/>

# Social Media Archiving



- 2020 Report
- 2024 Member survey
- Things we know
  - Social media usage is common practice in state governments (82%)
  - Less than half (42%) reported harvesting or access to social media accounts after terms end
  - Laws and records retention requirements lack specific guidance for social media

“ States’ statutes and laws are largely in a agreement that **public records are determined by the content and context rather than the medium.** ”

- Social Media as Public Records: A  
Collection Practices Scan

# Social Media Archiving Recommendations

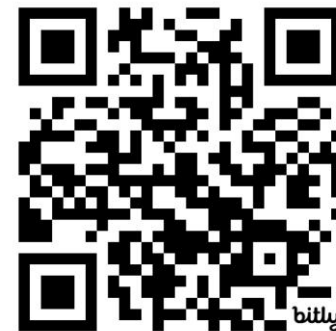
- Follow a retention schedule
- Don't depend on the platform for permanent retention
- Have a plan for engagement
- Consider end of term plans

# Social Media Archiving

## Next Steps

- Release of Tip Sheet
- Update of 2020 report (Spring 2025)
- Continued monitoring of social media practices

Visit the CoSA Website





# Questions?

## Contact Information:

Joy Banks

[jbanks@statearchivists.org](mailto:jbanks@statearchivists.org)