

Career Satisfaction of Young Archivists

AMBER CUSHING AND ALLISON FOX

Abstract: The 2006 Society of American Archivist's A*CENSUS study included several action items to address the generational shift in the archival profession, including "making room in the archival profession for new workers" and working to "engage younger professionals in leadership roles within organizations." Our Career Satisfaction of Young Archivists study asked working archivists age 35 and under about their satisfaction with their work duties and work environment, as well as about their relationship with professional associations, to determine how to address the A*CENSUS action items. It is our hope that this study will contribute to the collective voice of young archivists in the profession.

About the authors:

Amber Cushing is a doctoral student at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she also serves as a research assistant for Dr. Helen Tibbo. Her current research interests include the information management of personal digital archives and workforce issues in the archival field, especially related to digital curation. Before entering the doctoral program in 2007, Cushing held the position of Librarian at the New Hampshire State Library, where she was the main contact person for manuscript and rare book inquires. Cushing holds an AB from Mount Holyoke College and an MLS from Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science. She has completed internships at the Supreme Court of the United States and Harvard University Art Museums as well as a fellowship at the National Archives Northeast Region.

Allison Fox is a visiting reference librarian at the University of Redlands, where she serves as the subject liaison for English language and literature, French, Theater studies, music, and dance. In addition, she processes special collections materials. She holds a BA in English and French from Pacific Union College, an MA in British Literature from San Diego State University, and an MLIS from Simmons College. She was recently co-presenter of a poster on the Barney Childs collection at the MLA conference in Newport, R.I., and her primary research concerns encompass social issues within the library/archives profession.