

Activist Archivists Document the Living Wage Movement

CARMEN COWICK AND JEFF COWICK

Abstract: The Living Wage Project began in February 2014 as a graduate student-led project intending to document the current movement fighting for a living wage across the United States. While the project seeks out organizations who are currently a part of this movement, the project founders are also archiving their own activist experience in the movement by documenting rallies they have attended and donating personally collected ephemera as well as well as donating their personal photos to the digital archive.

The project founders of The Living Wage Project also promoted archiving within the activist organizations they encountered, teaching them the importance of archiving and encouraging them to take a more active role in archiving their organization's materials. The project founders also discuss the impact of technology in promoting the collection, the development of strong relationships between archivists and social justice activists, and the importance of strong social networking skills for collection building.

About the authors:

Carmen Cowick graduated in May of 2014 with a Master in Library Science and a Certificate in Archives and Preservation of Cultural Materials from CUNY Queens College. She is the newly appointed Preservation Librarian at Amigos Library Services in Dallas, Texas.

Jeff Cowick graduated in May of 2014 with a Master in Library Science from CUNY Queens College. He is currently curating and managing the Secret Supper Club Digital Archive, a digital archive documenting the social phenomenon of secret dinner parties in New York City.