

# Who Do We Want to Hire? Archival Processing Positions in the 21st Century

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## **Abstract:**

The archives field has recently focused more attention on ethical practices surrounding contingent labor, which is typically used for processing collections, unlike other essential archives functions. In conjunction with this interest, the field has focused on sustainable collecting practices and resource capacities for stewardship. In an effort to better understand how processing is perceived in the field, as part of a larger research project focused on administrative structures within archival organizations, this researcher has been gathering and analyzing job postings focused on archival processing. These openings, posted nationally and regionally within the United States and Canada, provide concrete data regarding what primary archival functions somebody who processes is likely to perform, as well as educational and experience requirements. These postings may also provide information regarding whether a job is full-time permanent, part-time, and/or grant- or otherwise temporarily-funded. Data collected from these posted position descriptions also typically includes repository type and geographic location of job. This poster session will present preliminary results from this data gathering process for December 2022-May 2023 and suggest next steps for analyzing and using this data.

## **About the authors:**

*Marcella Huggard* is the manuscripts processing coordinator at the Kenneth Spencer Research Library, part of the University of Kansas Libraries. Previously she held various roles in the Kansas State Archives, part of the Kansas Historical Society, working with state and county government records and with manuscript collections. She has also managed and worked with three dimensional object collections and archival collections at local historical societies in Kansas and Colorado. She holds an MA in public history from Colorado State University – Fort Collins and a BA in history from Knox College.