

# **Between the Stacks and the Statehouses: Archivists Perceptions of Legislation and the Workplace – Preliminary Results**

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## **Abstract**

This session shares the initial results of an online perception survey conducted over three weeks in Spring 2024 among SAA members. The presenters will share preliminary findings and discuss the respondents' perspectives on the state of the archival field within the current political climate. The study also explores archivists' views on the impact of recent state legislation on their day-to-day work and on the profession as a whole. The survey asked respondents to reflect upon experiences and feelings rather than on policies and procedures. The survey garnered 49 respondents from 26 states and Washington, D.C., representing a diverse range of institutions, experience, and geographic location. Results demonstrate diverse perspectives within the profession. Major themes include feelings of job insecurity, concerns over funding, feelings of being unable to do what one thinks is right in the workplace, and concern for colleagues in other states. The presenters will also share plans for expanding the scope of this research among archivists and collaborating across domains, such as deploying similar studies among graduate students and academic librarians.

## **About the authors**

**Katherine M. Wisser** is an associate professor and Director of the Master's Program at the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons University. She holds an MA in History from the University of New Hampshire and MSLS and Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Wisser has worked in Special Collections at the University of New Hampshire and North Carolina State University and served as the metadata coordinator for the North Carolina Exploring Cultural Heritage Online (NC ECHO) program. Wisser teaches graduate courses in archives and the information organization and has advised master's papers in LIS, historical theses and dissertations. She has taught professional development workshops on EAD, MARC Cataloging, EAC-CPF and other related standards. She has served as Chair of the SAA EAD Roundtable, the Description Section, the Archival Educators Roundtable, and is currently serving on the Committee on Education. She served in a leadership position for the development of EAC-CPF for over fifteen years. She has published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *American Archivist*, *Archival Science*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies* and has a manuscript under review on reparative description case studies with SAA Publications.

**Peyton Cleary** is a second-year MLIS student at Simmons University on the Archives Management track. She holds an MA in History from the University of Delaware and a BA in History from Towson University. Prior to starting school in Boston, she worked at several

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