

# Archival Workers Collective 2022 Survey Summary

**BECKY BRIGGS BECKER**

## **Abstract**

The Archival Workers' Collective (AWC) published a summary of its 2022 survey results in April 2023. The AWC Survey Team created a mixed methods research survey that served as a follow-up to two 2020 Archival Workers Emergency Fund surveys that were distributed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous surveys revealed immediate labor issues and impacts on the profession caused by the pandemic-related workplace shutdowns that began in March 2020. To capture archival workers' experiences since the previous surveys, the team created a Google form that gathered anonymized information on workers' experiences dating between January 2021 and Spring 2022. This period is when many archival workers returned to their workplaces beginning in Spring 2021. This presentation highlights the themes and findings from the 2022 survey, which ultimately reveal that this period was a time of movement and upheaval. The presentation will focus on themes from the survey that reflected national labor trends happening during this time, including burnout, inflation, and "The Great Resignation." It will also discuss future considerations for research on archival workers and emerging labor issues in the profession as we progress into a future when international health organizations have ended their COVID-19 public health emergency declarations.

## **About the author:**

*Becky Briggs Becker* (she/her) joined the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) University Libraries as its University Archivist in February 2022. In this role, she oversees the preservation and access to administrative records and historical materials documenting UMKC's operations and history. She previously worked in the university archives at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she earned her master's degree in information sciences, a graduate certificate in online teaching and learning, and a bachelor's degree in communications.

Becker has been a member of the Archival Workers' Collective (AWC) Organizing Committee since July 2021, and volunteers as a social media coordinator for the group. She has been active in the Society of American Archivists and regional library and archives organizations, including serving on the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section's Events and Exhibits [Resource Bank](#) Team and as an editor-at-large for *The American Archivist* [Reviews Portal](#) (2019-2021).