

# Perspectives on Precarity: A Multifaceted Look at the Status of Project Archivists

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**Abstract:** Now that SAA has defined standards for both intern and volunteer workers, it seems fitting to look toward another hallmark of archival employment: project positions. Through project positions, managers can meet needs to get large and small scale projects off the ground, but this can sometimes come at a cost to project archivists, especially early career archivists. Funding and project employment deadlines make it difficult for short-term archivists to complete their work, and the stressors of the project-based work makes the job search a constant reality. To study this issue, a research team from University of Delaware, New York University, and Seton Hall University distributed a nationwide, IRB-approved dual survey that collected 284 full responses from term employees and 83 employers, and discussed topics ranging from demographics to personal reflections about the work. This platform talk presents the survey methodology and preliminary findings of the survey. The data has brought out the difference between the experience and perspectives of this work. Through discussing the different demographics of project archivists and their supervisors, the ways in which archival labor is undervalued, and what is lost through project employment, the team hopes to show the value of advocacy on the managerial level and additional standards from SAA.

## About the authors:

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