

Between the Stacks and the Statehouses: Archivists Perceptions of Legislation and the Workplace

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Introduction

A cursory Google search for “bills impacting libraries” yields pages of information regarding state legislation that threatens (or protects) library services and librarians themselves across the United States. Several organizations, like the [American Library Association](#) and [EveryLibrary](#), track legislation of concern, and local and national news agencies write about the introduction, progress, and potential impact of specific bills. But search results for “bills impacting archives,” on the other hand, overwhelmingly concern the founding of the National Archives and Records Association or individual legislative archives.¹ Are we to interpret these results as an indication that archives and archivists do not face legislative challenges? Academic literature and popular journalism rightfully portrays librarians, especially public librarians, as working on the front line against attacks on intellectual freedom. But how are other information professionals, like archivists, impacted by legislation that curtails intellectual freedom?

As a faculty/graduate student research team curious about the intersection of politics and archival work, we found ourselves revisiting this question often enough that we decided to ask archivists directly in the Spring of 2024. The resulting survey gathered preliminary data about archivists’ awareness of legislation introduced or passed in their working state that could impact archival work (positively or negatively), their feelings about such legislation, and their experiences or expectations regarding its impact on their day-to-day work. We also wondered whether, and to what extent, awareness of legislation shaped archivists’ professional identity and their sense of community within the field; for example, do archivists in politically “red” states feel under attack in the way that some librarians in those states might? Are archivists concerned about job security or about their colleagues in other states? Are archivists anticipating or actively experiencing positive or negative impacts on their ability to provide services and conduct their work given the political climate of their state or the country as a whole?

We hypothesized that respondents working in “red” states would perceive state legislation as having a negative impact on the field and archival work, and that the majority of respondents, regardless of their working state, would perceive the political climate of the country as having a negative impact on the field and archival work.

¹ The notable exception being a series of articles written about Alabama Senate Bill 77, passed in February 2024, which allows the governor and legislators to oversee appointments to the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Department of Archives and History in an effort to curtail the inclusion and representation of LGBTQIA+ individuals in Archives programming. See Jemma Stephenson, “Senate approves bills allowing dismissals of Archives trustees, library board members,” *Alabama Reflector*, February 15, 2024, <https://alabamareflector.com/2024/02/15/alabama-senate-approves-bills-subjecting-archives-trustees-library-board-members-to-dismissal/>.

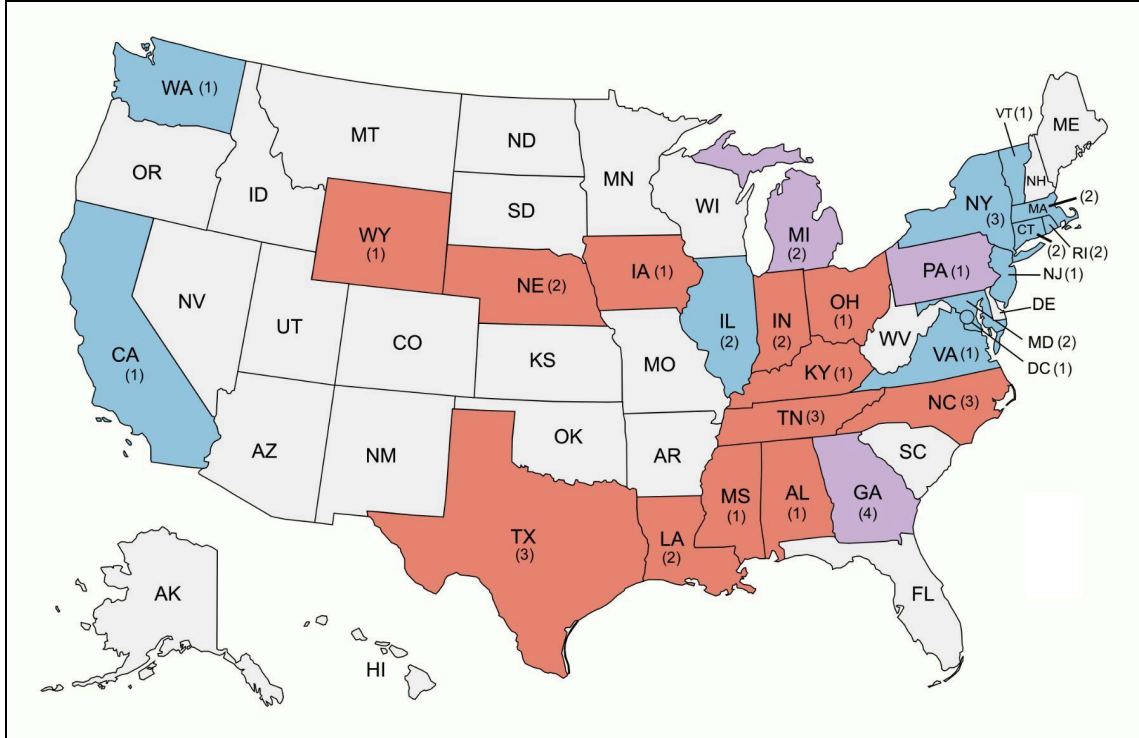
Methodology

We felt that our research goals called for a perception survey. Commonly deployed by [companies](#) seeking to better understand their target audiences for marketing purposes or by [educational institutions](#) gathering student or faculty perspectives on curricula and day-to-day experience, perception surveys center feelings, expectations, and experiences. In line with this framework, our survey asked archivists' to share their perceptions of the potential impact(s) of state legislation and the political climate on the field and on day-to-day work at their respective institutions.

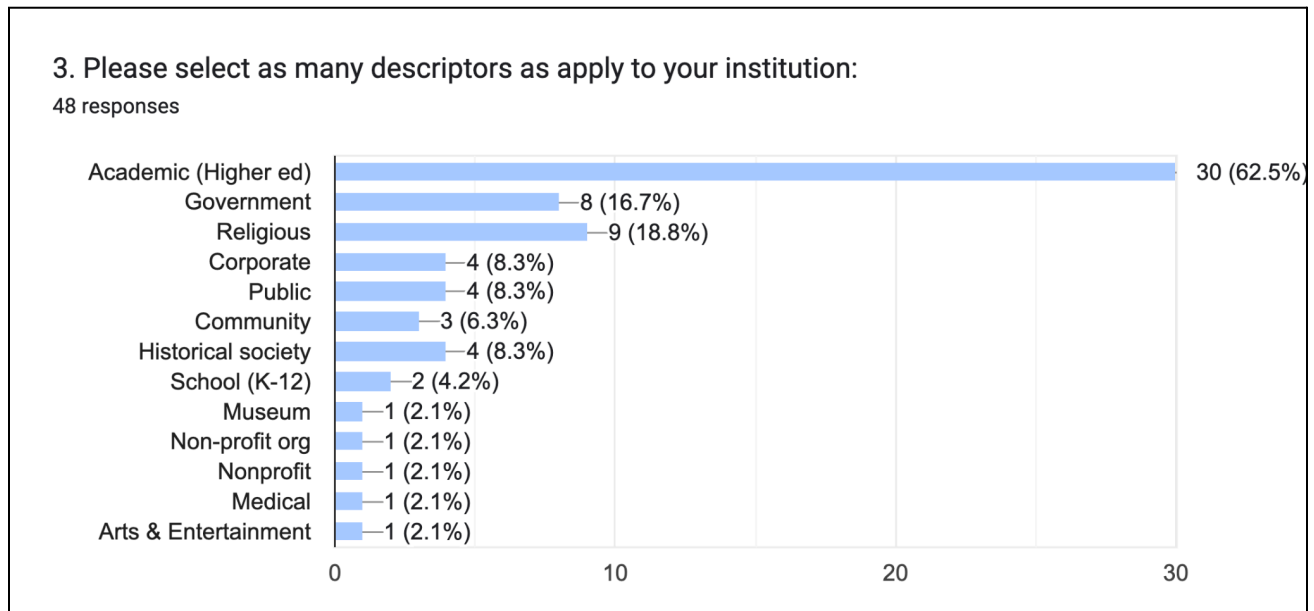
In an effort to construct a survey that allowed respondents to express a range of emotions and opinions, we designed a series of questions in which respondents first selected a statement that best described or aligned with their feelings and then had the opportunity to explain why they selected that statement using a free text response. We shared the survey via the SAA "Announcements" email list. All SAA members are automatically subscribed to this list, which had 5,980 members as of February 2024. The survey was live for three weeks, from February 28 to March 22, 2024. We received 49 responses from archivists across the country.

Findings

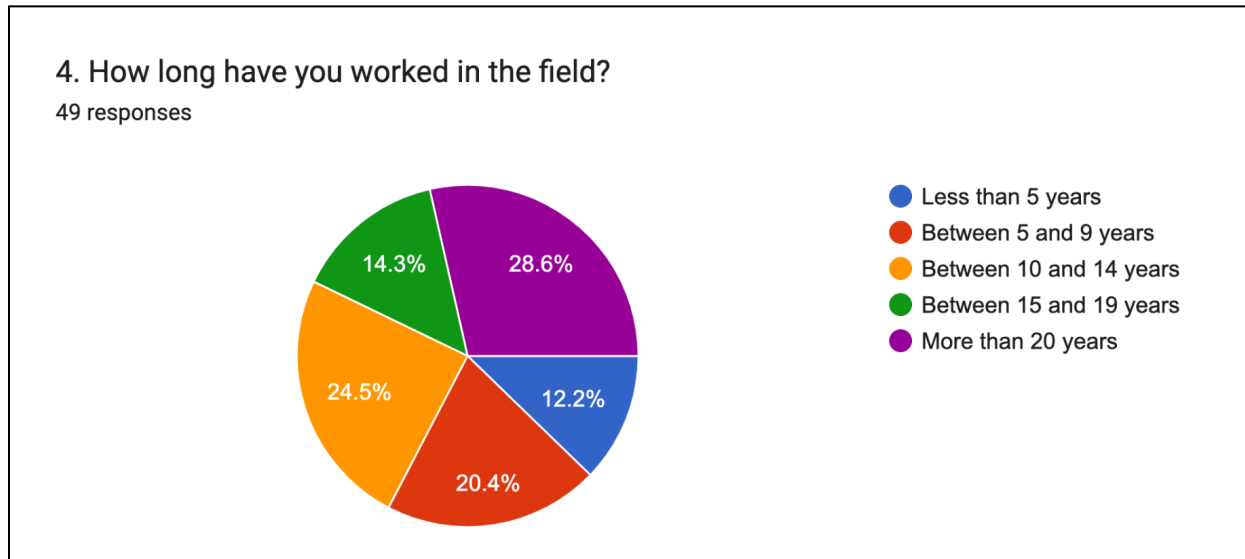
Our first set of survey questions gathered demographic information from respondents, including their working state, type of institution, and years of experience. Since we wanted to understand how, if at all, the politics of an archivists' working state impacted their perceptions, we designated each state as "red," "blue," or "purple" using 2020 presidential election results and 2022 midterm election results. The map below shows the states where our respondents reported working, colored according to the above categorization, and labeled with the total number of respondents from that state. Out of 49 respondents, we heard from archivists working in 26 states and Washington, D.C. Of those responses, 12 came from participants working in red states, 12 came from participants working in blue states, and 3 came from participants working in purple or "swing" states.



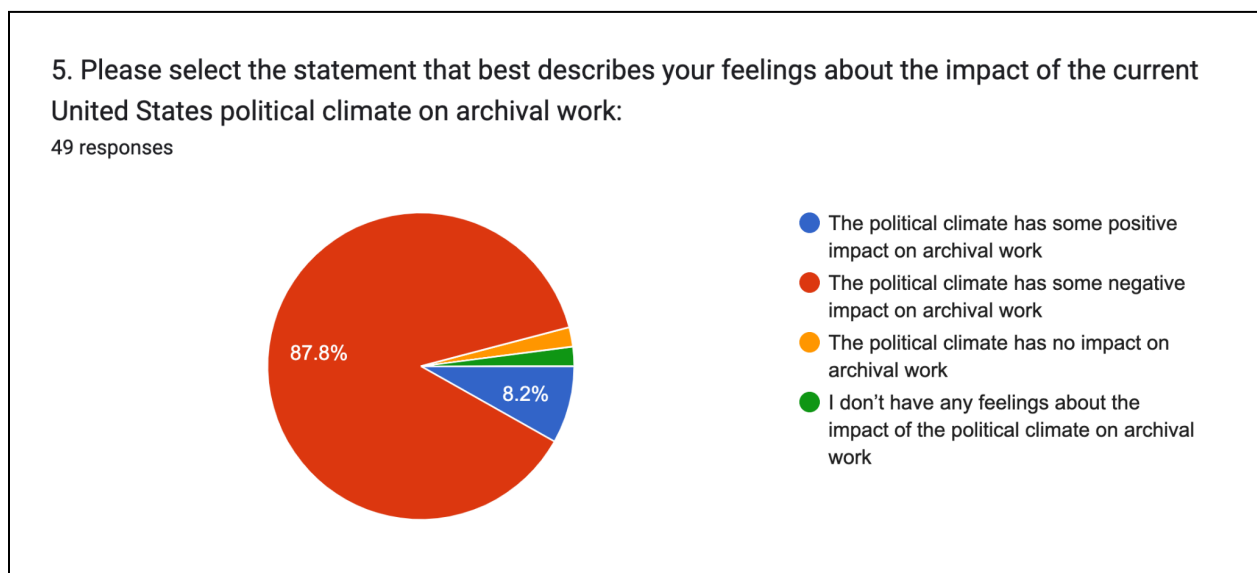
We also gave respondents the opportunity to describe their repository using two questions; one that asked them to categorize their institution as public or private, and one that allowed them to select as many descriptors as applied to their institution. We distinguished between several common types of archives as well as including a write-in option. We found that the distribution of folks working in private versus public repositories was fairly even, with 52% classifying their repositories as public and 47% classifying them as private. Institution types are reported below.



Finally, we wanted to know how long each respondent had been working in the field in order to get a sense of how years of experience impacts perceptions. We found that two thirds of our respondents ($n = 33$) have been working in the field for at least 10 years, while one third ($n = 16$) has worked in the field for 9 years or less.



After collecting demographic data, we surveyed respondents regarding their feelings about the impact of the current United States political climate (circa March 2024) on archival work. The vast majority of respondents ($n = 43$) selected the statement “The political climate has some negative impact on archival work” as best describing their feelings. Some respondents ($n = 4$) felt that the political climate has some positive impact on archival work, one respondent felt that the political climate has no impact on archival work, and one respondent had no feelings about the impact of the political climate on archival work.



Notably, all four of the archivists who reported feeling that the political climate has some positive impact on archival work also reported working in blue states: Rhode Island ($n = 2$), Vermont ($n = 1$), and Connecticut ($n = 1$), respectively. Another way of breaking down the data was by years of experience; here, we found that 100% of archivists who have worked in the field for 5 years or less ($n = 6$) reported feeling that the current political climate has some negative impact on archival work. These findings suggest that both a respondents' working state and years of experience shape perceptions of the intersection between politics and archival work.

When respondents were asked to explain why they selected the statement in Question 5, major topics referenced across responses included: public awareness of archives, DEI initiatives, challenges to the historical record, concern for colleagues, and disruptions to day-to-day work. While some issues were consistently framed as exclusively positive or negative, other topics were interpreted by some respondents as positive and some respondents as negative. For example, two respondents who selected "The political climate has some positive impact on archival work" discussed President Trump's mishandling of documents following the 2020 election as having a direct, positive influence on public awareness of archives:

"The classified documents Trump hid at his estate brought archives into the news in a way many people can understand and appreciate."

"The whole mess of a certain ex-president keeping records he shouldn't have has resulted in some coverage of NARA, importance of records & record-keeping, shedding light on the profession as a whole. Small, but some extra awareness for the public about what we do."

But another respondent expressed concern that increased public awareness of archives – especially when influenced by a polarizing politician – may result in increased attacks on archival work:

"I worry that the recent attention paid to NARA and record-keeping practices in the context of investigations of the 45th president could lead to retaliatory defunding of that institution, or other archives, especially if right-wing groups come to view them as possible threats or as effective targets in the culture wars"

Our next set of questions dug deeper into feelings about recent legislative activities across the country. The question asked respondents to select all that apply. While there were thirteen options provided, eight was the maximum number of choices a respondent chose (12%) but nearly 90% of respondents chose more than one category and every survey respondent chose at least one category. In fact, only one respondent chose "I do not have any feelings about recent legislative activities in the country."

Q7: We are interested in how archivists feel about recent legislative activities across the country. Please select all the statements that apply to your feelings.		
Selection	Number of respondents	Percentage
I feel that recent legislation will have a positive impact on archival work	4	8%
I feel that recent legislation will have no impact on archival work	4	8%
I feel that recent legislation will negatively impact archival work	39	80%
I feel that recent legislation will impact collecting initiatives	36	73%
I feel that recent legislation will impact public services (reference, programming, instruction)	36	73%
I feel that recent legislation will impact technical services (digitization, description, metadata)	31	63%
I am thinking about ways to work against recent legislation	16	33%
I am thinking about ways to support recent legislation	4	8%
I feel job insecurity	13	27%
I am worried for my colleagues in other states	33	67%
I feel less free to do what I think is right in the workplace	20	41%
I feel empowered to do what I think is right in the workplace	7	14%
I do not have any feelings about recent legislative activities in the country.	3	6%

A follow up question asked respondents to explain their options, which presented a range of perspectives including the following examples:

“In my current state, the state legislature has proposed bills that would ban tenure (librarians and archivists at our institution are faculty) and DEI training and language in public higher education. Losing tenure would have a chilling effect on the exhibitions, programs, and teaching we are able to provide. Losing DEI professional development and language would deeply impact our repository's priorities for collection development, outreach, exhibitions, instruction, and community engagement. For example, we are planning a significant for us statewide traveling exhibit with public programming to mark and [sic] LGBTQ+ history anniversary in our state in 2025. With bans on tenure and DEI, this would most likely be my farewell to the state before moving for a job elsewhere.

“Because I work in a private, non-governmental archive, much recent legislation does not directly impact me. However I am concerned about the impact on intellectual freedom both in my state (which does have a recent "book banning" movement) as well

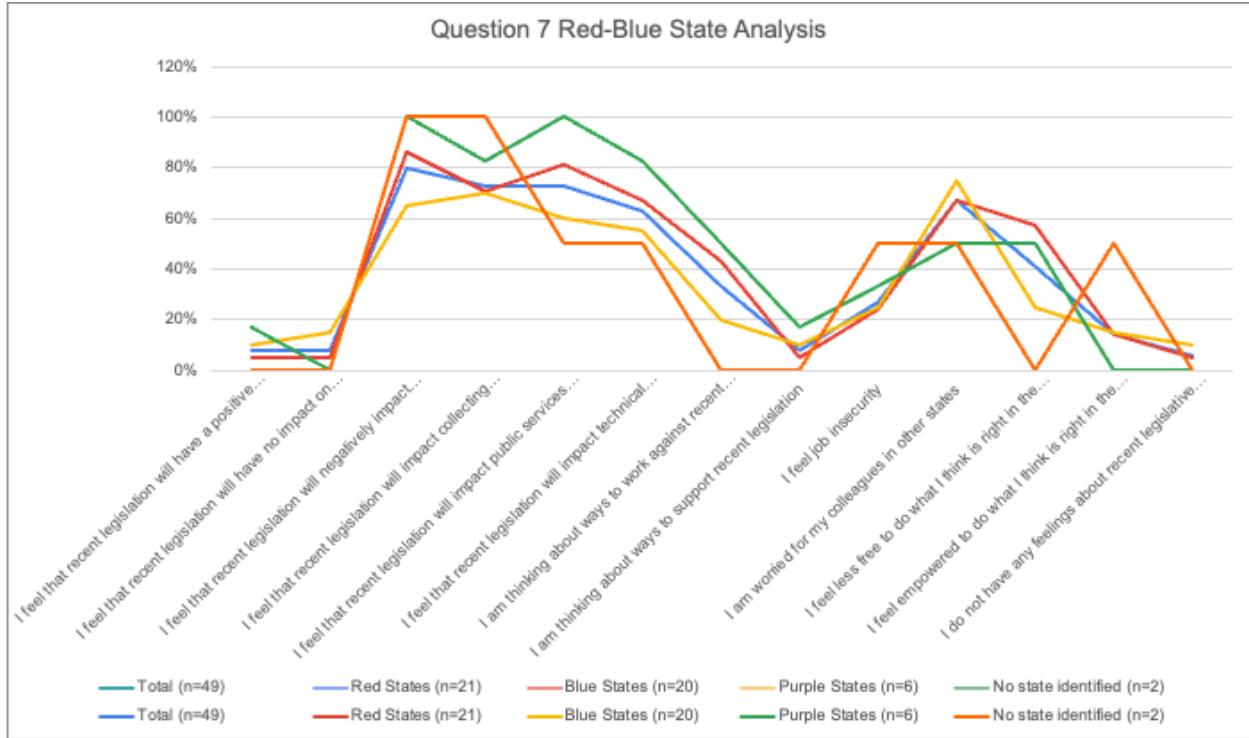
as in other states. Based on what I've seen, there are certain states that I would not choose to work in."

"In relation to question seven, I will specifically address legislation related to the state of Florida's recent changes to state-funded higher education and DEI offices/work. I believe this example provides an important case study relevant to the questions above. Many in the archives profession approach political issues presupposing that DEI is something to be pursued with government funds. To do so, one must accept 1) the underlying ideology of DEI which is based on leftist political philosophy and 2) believe that it is appropriate [that] the state's power of taxation is used to promote a particular worldview at the expense of others. Florida's SB 266, which became law July 1, 2023, includes a change in state law to the effect that a Florida College System institution or state university may not use any state or federal funds to "promote, support, or maintain programs or campus activities that . . . advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion, or promote or engage in political or social activism." It goes on to establish the Florida Institute for Governance and Civics that aims to promote "viewpoint diversity, intellectual rigor, and an evidence-based approach to history." This last part is key for the field of archives. The ideology underlying DEI, with its focus on power relationships, is an overly political approach to history (ideological-based not evidence-based). Florida's legislation is the right step towards a healthier approach to what higher education should be (and the archival repositories housed in those institutions). It is also important to note that this legislation only addresses public, not private, institutions. Private institutions can implement any ideological systems they desire. Indeed, DEI is infused throughout essentially all private higher education institutions. That the people of Florida democratically decided not to use their tax money for overtly political objectives is to be lauded. In conclusion, I selected "I am worried for my colleagues in other states" because I see stifling leftward political pressure on archivists in states that do not restrain the promotion of [that] particular political climate. . . . I am considering ways to support similar legislation to that of Florida's in my own state. Viewpoint diversity must be promoted on campus. This creates a healthy culture of open debate – a culture that can only benefit archival repositories and their staff."

Looking at this question from a red/blue state perspective, we wanted to understand whether or not the data supports the hypothesis that an archivists' working state would determine their perceptions of legislation and level of concern. As noted above, political designation was determined by 2020 and 2022 election results. Four categories were determined: red, blue, purple, and, because all questions were voluntary, no state identified.

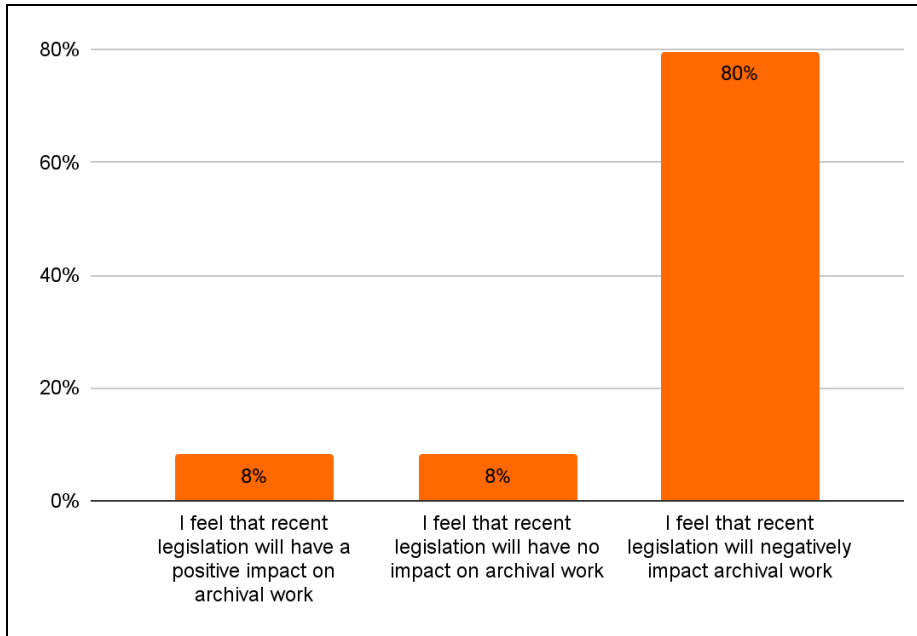
Q7: We are interested in how archivists feel about recent legislative activities across the country. Please select all the statements that apply to your feelings.

Selection	Number and Percentage of Respondents				
	Total (n = 49)	Red States (n = 21)	Blue States (n = 20)	Purple States (n = 6)	No state identified (n = 2)
I feel that recent legislation will have a positive impact on archival work	4 (8%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
I feel that recent legislation will have no impact on archival work	4 (8%)	1 (5%)	3 (15%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
I feel that recent legislation will negatively impact archival work	39 (80%)	18 (86%)	13 (65%)	6 (100%)	2 (100%)
I feel that recent legislation will impact collecting initiatives	36 (73%)	15 (71%)	14 (70%)	5 (83%)	2 (100%)
I feel that recent legislation will impact public services (reference, programming, instruction)	36 (73%)	17 (81%)	12 (60%)	6 (100%)	1 (50%)
I feel that recent legislation will impact technical services (digitization, description, metadata)	31 (63%)	14 (67%)	11 (55%)	5 (83%)	1 (50%)
I am thinking about ways to work against recent legislation	16 (33%)	9 (43%)	4 (20%)	3 (50%)	0 (0%)
I am thinking about ways to support recent legislation	4 (8%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
I feel job insecurity	13 (27%)	5 (24%)	5 (25%)	2 (33%)	1 (50%)
I am worried for my colleagues in other states	33 (67%)	14 (67%)	15 (75%)	3 (50%)	1 (50%)
I feel less free to do what I think is right in the workplace	20 (41%)	12 (57%)	5 (25%)	3 (50%)	0 (0%)
I feel empowered to do what I think is right in the workplace	7 (14%)	3 (14%)	3 (15%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)
I do not have any feelings about recent legislative activities in the country.	3 (6%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

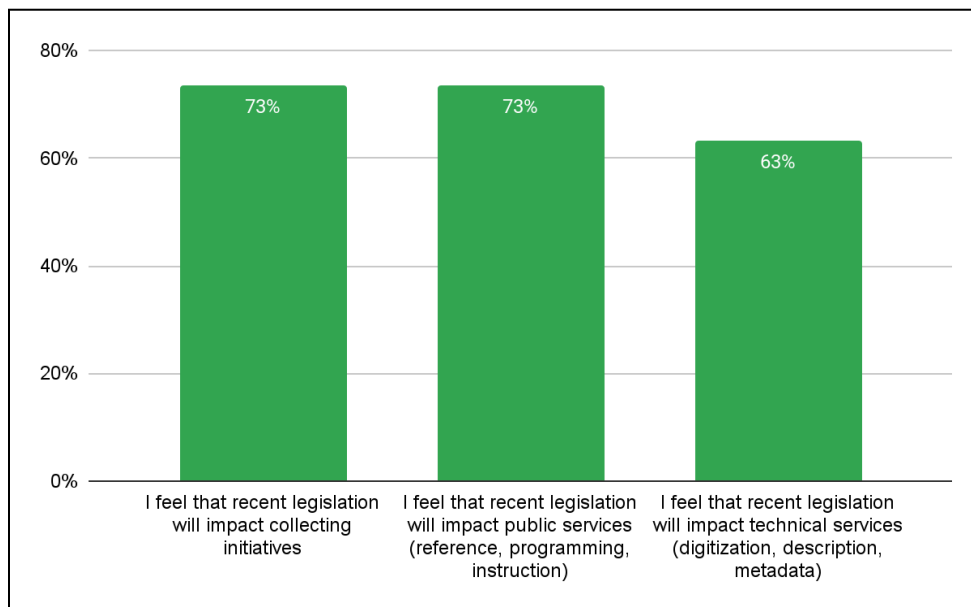


As shown in the line chart, despite political differentiations, the trend is very similar. This runs counter to the hypothesis that archivists in red states would exhibit more concern about recent legislation than those in blue or purple states.

Looking more closely at two sets of options from Question 7 reveals some general trends. The first group asks about the impact recent legislation may have on archival work: options included positive, negative, or no impact. As the chart demonstrates, in general, respondents believe that recent legislative activities will have a negative impact on archival work, but this was not a universal feeling. In fact, 8% of respondents felt that recent legislative activities can have a positive impact, and 8% indicated that it will have no impact. This shouldn't be surprising, however, as we didn't provide citations to specific legislation.



Related to that set of options were the specific activities that legislation might impact. The options included collecting initiatives, public services, and technical services. 83% of respondents felt that recent legislative activities will have an impact on at least one of these activities. Breaking it down further, while 59% of respondents felt it would impact all three activities, when only one or two activities were chosen, collecting initiatives and public services were selected more often than technical services.

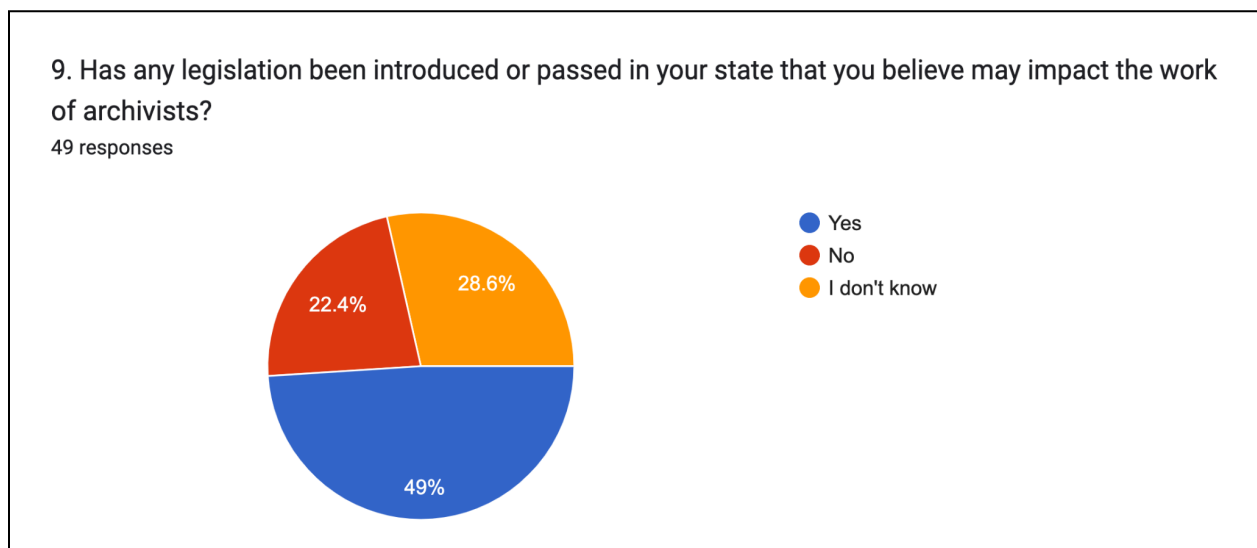


Four other options in this question deserve a closer look. Nearly a third of respondents (27%) felt some sort of job insecurity, but over twice as many (67%) responded that they were worried

about colleagues in other states. This latter statistic is both worrisome and reassuring. It is troubling that archivists feel that there are reasons to be concerned for their colleagues, but it is reassuring to see that our profession has a culture of care.

The last two options focused on feelings regarding doing what is right in the workplace. Just under half of respondents (41%) felt that they were less free to do what they think is right in the workplace due to recent legislative activities while 14% felt empowered. Two explanations offered by those who reported feeling empowered included working for a private, non-governmental organization and working as a freelance archivist. Others who responded positively to this set of options did not provide any explanation for their feelings and signal a potential area for further exploration. Again, we anticipated that the political climate of a state would influence the perceptions of archivists, but this did not prove to be the case. The only selection with significant variation based on state was “I feel less free to do what I think is right in the workplace.” Over half of the respondents from red states and purple states chose this category while only a quarter of the respondents from blue states did.

After establishing a baseline understanding of respondents’ feelings about the broader political climate of the United States and its impact on archival work, we shifted focus to state legislation. In the Fall of 2023, we researched bills introduced or passed by state legislatures across the country that could reasonably impact the work of information professionals. But in order to accurately assess awareness, we decided against providing the legislation and asking respondents to indicate any bills they had heard of. Instead, we asked respondents to indicate whether legislation that “may impact the work of archivists” had been introduced or passed in their state. We intentionally did not define “impact” as positive or negative. Respondents who answered “Yes” were then asked to self-report what legislation they were referring to and describe the impact they anticipate it having on their work or archival work more broadly. In response, 51% of respondents ($n = 25$) answered “No” or “I don’t know.” 49% of respondents ($n = 26$) answered “Yes.”



We were somewhat surprised by the results of this question because during our initial legislation research, we had identified at least one bill introduced or passed since 2020 for every state ultimately represented in the survey responses (with the exception of California) that could reasonably impact the work of information professionals. While some of the bills failed either prior to or following the survey period, as reported in Appendix 2, the fact that most respondents either said that no such bills existed or that they weren't sure if they did gives rise to several possibilities:

- Archivists are unaware of legislation being introduced or passed in their state
- Archivists are aware of legislation being introduced or passed in their state, but are not aware of the potential impact these bills may have on their work
- Archivists are aware of legislation being introduced or passed in their state, but do not think these bills will have any impact on archival work

Given the complexity of these scenarios, further research is required to fully tease out archivists' awareness of legislation being passed or introduced in their state that could impact archival work. It is also notable that the majority of respondents who answered "No" reported working in blue states ($n = 9$), while respondents who answered "Yes" were more likely to work in red states. Whether this means that archivists in red states are generally more aware of state legislation than archivists in blue states requires further investigation.

Respondents who answered "Yes" to Question 9 were then asked to identify the legislation using as much detail as possible, such as the formal or informal name of the bill and/or a brief description of its contents. A total of 18 bills were mentioned, with 4 bills mentioned by at least two respondents: Texas SB 17, Nebraska LB 1330, Nebraska LB 1064, and Georgia SB 390.² Of these four bills, only one has become law: [Texas SB 17](#), which effectively bans DEI initiatives at public institutions of higher education in the state.

Respondents who answered "Yes" to Question 9 were then asked to describe the impact they anticipated the legislation to have on their work or archival work more broadly. This question garnered similar responses to Question 6, especially related to DEI and the inclusion of marginalized voices in collections and programs:

"We have to be careful when working with donors around LGBTQ collections, labor collections and women's reproductive rights, how we use, teach, or provide access to these materials. We have had to hire extra security for certain events that may attract people who wish to harm us or our collections."

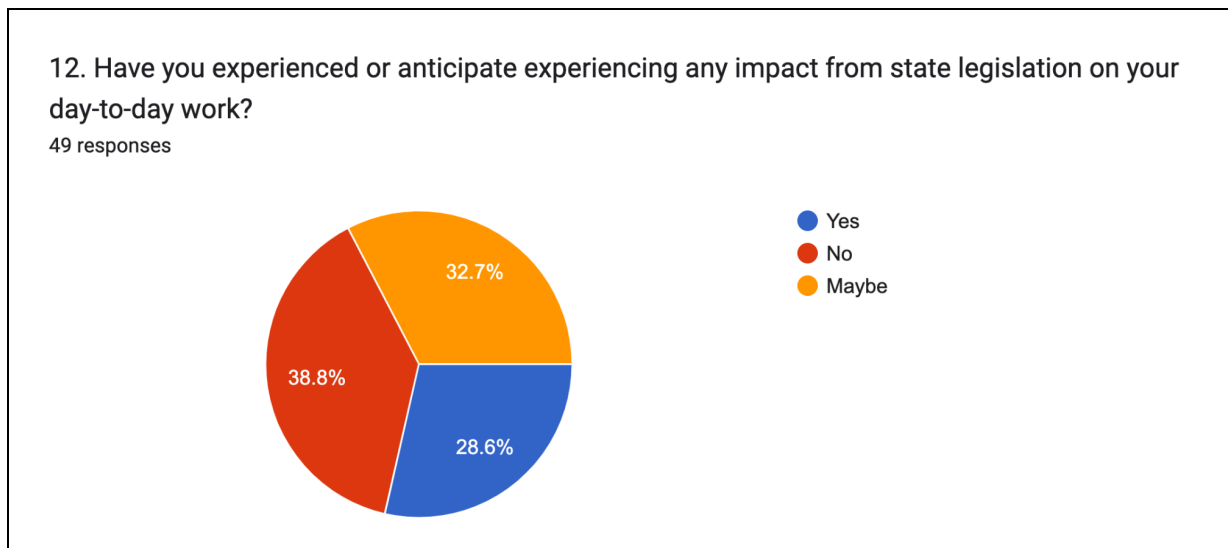
"We are having to be extremely cautious in our programming, our description of collections, and our openness about what types of collections we hold."

² Georgia SB 390 died in committee in March 2024, and both Nebraska bills were indefinitely postponed as of April 18, 2024, after the survey closed. The other 14 bills mentioned by respondents were: Alabama SB 77, Georgia HB 1178, Indiana SB 0202, Indiana HB 1338, Iowa HF 2330, Louisiana HB 168, Louisiana HB 777, Kentucky HB 9, Kentucky SB 6, Nebraska LB 374, Nebraska LB 1077, North Carolina H259, Tennessee SB 0817, and Wyoming HB 87.

“Losing DEI professional development and language would deeply impact our repository’s priorities for collection development, outreach, exhibitions, instruction, and community engagement.”

Again, the chilling effect of such legislation was mentioned across responses. One respondent discussing Texas SB 17 said that although they work at a private institution, they often partner with public institutions and therefore anticipate some changes to the workforce, user-base, and day-to-day operations of their own repository as a result of the bill. A respondent from Kentucky explained that while the two bills they mentioned (HB 9 and SB 6) target public education, they create a “chilling atmosphere” for archivists who lead class sessions and/or seek to educate through exhibits. “The language is sufficiently vague,” the respondent said, that the bills may impact “things like exhibitions that don’t seem like they should be covered.”

Our next set of questions asked respondents to consider whether they had experienced or anticipated experiencing any impact from state legislation on their day-to-day work regardless of whether or not they knew of any specific bills that had already been introduced or passed in their state.



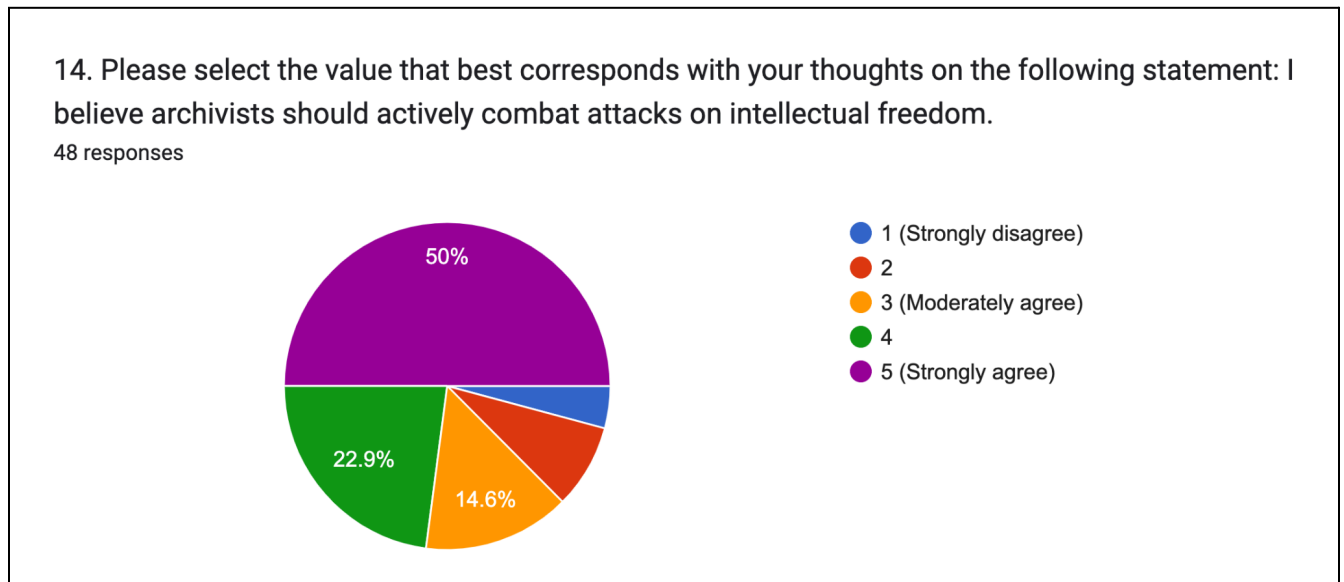
Among respondents who reported experiencing or anticipating experiencing impact from state legislation on their day-to-day work, 42% ($n = 6$) referenced public-facing archival work, such as programming and outreach, as the area most likely to be impacted by state legislation. Funding was also referenced as an area of impact by several respondents in each category, either from folks worried about losing funding ($n = 3$) or folks confident they would continue to receive funding ($n = 2$), such as the respondent quoted below:

“I work at a private institution with endowed funds for the archives in a blue-to-purple state. I’m very lucky to be in a place where I don’t have a ton of worries about my own work, as [state legislation] affects it.”

A broader theme that emerged in respondents' answers to this question was uncertainty. One respondent expressed feeling like it was "only a matter of time" before archivists began facing similar challenges as public school teachers and librarians. Others highlighted the potential chilling effect(s) of state legislation on outreach and collecting initiatives, programming, and donor relations, with one archivist saying:

"I anticipate that the chill, if not the actual legislation, will impact donors' willingness to give us material. We are already getting questions about whether we'll be able to support LGBTQ+ and Black communities' collections. Exhibitions and class sessions are part of our daily work, too, and we expect them to be impacted. We will need to explore what we can and can't present to our students and to the community folks who come to our public programming."

Our final pair of questions focused on whether or not respondents believe that archivists should actively combat attacks on intellectual freedom. We asked respondents to express their feelings on a Likert scale. Nearly three quarters of respondents (72.9%) either agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "I believe archivists should actively combat attacks on intellectual freedom." Around 10% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement ($n = 6$).



The range of answers for the open ended question paired with this statement reveals the range of emotions a statement like this can evoke. Examples of those that strongly agreed include:

"Protecting intellectual freedom through our collecting and access policies and activities is at the heart of what our profession does."

"Now more than ever we need to be loud about what we do and the valuable role we have in a safe, open society."

“As information professionals we have a duty to ensure that all information is accessible to the widest possible range of people. Intellectual freedom is paramount in that duty.”

Other respondents expressed reservations, demonstrating how thoughtful they were in considering the possibilities. One respondent shared:

“I don't feel comfortable attaching activism, protest, or combatting attacks on intellectual freedom as another archival responsibility - not that I see it as unimportant, but I'm aware that for some, they may not be comfortable with the work or self-attention this can bring, or may not be able to due to institutional, health, or other circumstances.”

The open-ended responses overwhelmingly suggest a commitment to intellectual freedom as a strong tenet of the profession, but disagree on how that might be understood as a responsibility. For those that disagreed with the statement, their stance was not so much about intellectual freedom but rather about job security, personal safety, and administrative support. A few conveyed somewhat helpless attitudes, such as “in general, as a group we lack political power of any kind,” “we have pretty much no power,” and “I feel threatened and powerless.”

Takeaways

In general, our findings supported our hypotheses that most archivists perceive the political climate of the country as having a negative impact on the field and archival work, and archivists working in red states particularly view state legislation as having a negative impact on the field and archival work. However, individual responses provided a more complex picture than a simple alignment between red states/concerned archivists and blue states/optimistic archivists.

Other findings also surprised us; for example, we assumed that there would be a higher level of awareness of state legislation across respondents. We also expected that respondents would emphasize public services as the area of archival work most likely to be impacted by state legislation. While public services was the dominant response, collecting and technical services received nearly as much attention, indicating that archivists consider all aspects of archival work vulnerable to attack or in need of additional support.

Limitations

Despite our best efforts, this study had some significant limitations. First, the response rate was much lower than we anticipated and because of that the results have limited generalizability. As demonstrated by the various opinions expressed in our limited sample, it is clear that archivists are a complex group of professionals that hold a wide range of perspectives. While the qualitative data we collected provides critical insight into how individual archivists perceive the impact of state legislation and the political climate on their day-to-day work and the broader field, we cannot assume that their experiences represent the perceptions of archivists as a whole, and further research would be required to make any broad generalizations.

The survey instrument itself also presented some limitations. A couple of respondents indicated that the survey questions were vague and therefore they were unable to provide meaningful input. The vague nature of some questions was intentional on our part to limit bias in the survey instrument, but it may have led to some frustration among respondents. We also acknowledge

that completing the survey was purely voluntary and therefore there is a potential for response bias. In other words, those who had the most stake in these issues (on either side of the political spectrum) would be more likely to complete the survey.

Future Research

Conducting this survey and hearing from professional archivists across the country made us wonder how *future* archivists view the intersection of politics and archival work. To this end, we designed a study to determine the extent to which LIS graduate students' perceptions of the field are impacted by both the political climate of the country and the legislation passed or introduced in states where they currently live and/or hope to work. The survey will be disseminated among LIS graduate students at eight top-ranked LIS programs around the country in Fall 2024.

We are also interested in expanding this research to other information professionals; for example, do those who self-identify as archivists and those who self-identify as librarians demonstrate any significant differences in perceptions regarding the political climate, state legislation, and information services? Above all, we want to continue researching how archivists are impacted – both positively and negatively – by United States politics and state legislation, especially legislation that curtails intellectual freedom.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Survey instrument

Question	Options
1. Where is your repository located?	List of 50 states plus Washington, DC
2. Please choose the term that best describes your institution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public ● Private
3. Please select as many descriptors as apply to your institution:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic (Higher ed) ● Government ● Religious ● Corporate ● Public ● Community ● Historical society ● School (K-12) ● Other (please describe): _____
4. How long have you worked in the field?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Less than 5 years ● Between 5 and 9 years ● Between 10 and 14 years ● Between 15 and 19 years ● More than 20 years
5. Please select the statement that best describes your feelings about the impact of the current United States political climate on archival work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The political climate has some positive impact on archival work ● The political climate has some negative impact on archival work ● The political climate has no impact on archival work ● I don't have any feelings about the impact of the political climate on archival work
6. Please explain why you selected the statement in the previous question.	[Free text]
7. We are interested in how archivists feel about recent legislative activities across the country. Please select all the statements that apply to your feelings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I feel that recent legislation will have a positive impact on archival work ● I feel that recent legislation will not impact archival work ● I feel that recent legislation will negatively impact archival work ● I feel that recent legislation will impact collecting initiatives ● I feel that recent legislation will impact public services (reference, programming, instruction)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I feel that recent legislation will impact technical services (digitization, description, metadata) ● I am thinking about ways to work against recent legislation ● I am thinking about ways to support recent legislation ● I feel job insecurity ● I am worried for my colleagues in other states ● I feel less free to do what I think is right in the workplace ● I feel empowered to do what I think is right in the workplace ● I do not have any feelings about recent legislative activities in the country.
<p>8. If you would like to expand on any of your selections from the previous question, please do so here:</p>	<p>[Free text]</p>
<p>9. Has any legislation been introduced or passed in your state that you believe may impact the work of archivists?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● I don't know
<p>10. If you answered "Yes" to Question 9, what is that legislation? Please provide as much detail as possible, such as the formal or informal name of the bill and/or a brief description of its contents.</p> <p>If you answered "No" or "I don't know" to Question 9, please leave this question blank.</p>	<p>[Free text]</p>
<p>11. If you answered "Yes" to Question 9, please describe the impact you anticipate said legislation to have on your work or archival work more broadly.</p> <p>If you answered "No" or "I don't know" to Question 9, please leave this question blank.</p>	<p>[Free text]</p>
<p>12. Have you experienced or anticipate experiencing any impact from state legislation on your day-to-day work?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Yes ● No ● Maybe

13. Please explain your experience(s) or elaborate on the impact you anticipate experiencing. If you do not anticipate any impact to your day-to-day work, please explain why not.	[Free text]
14. Please select the value that best corresponds with your thoughts on the following statement: <u>I believe archivists should actively combat attacks on intellectual freedom.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 (Strongly disagree) ● 2 ● 3 (Neither agree nor disagree) ● 4 ● 5 (Strongly agree)
15. Please explain why you selected the scale value in Question 14.	[Free text]

Appendix 2: Bill data

The following table lists bills introduced or passed in the 26 states represented in our survey responses at the time of survey dissemination (March 2024) that we felt could reasonably impact the work of information professionals, with the exception of California. Updates to the status of the bills are noted in the far right column. It is possible that more bills could be included in addition to those identified below.

State	Bill(s)	Status (as of November 2024)
Alabama	HB 401 (2023)	Dead
	SB 77 (2024)	Dead
	SB 10 (2024)	Dead
Connecticut	HB 5417 (2024)	Dead
Georgia	HB 1178 (2021-2022)	Effective July 2022
	SB 154 (2023-2024)	Dead
	SB 390 (2023-2024)	Dead
Illinois	HB 2789 (2023)	Effective January 2024
Indiana	HB 1447 (2023)SB 0202 (2024)	Effective May 2023
	SB 0202 (2024)	Passed March 2024
	HB 1130 (2023)	Dead

	HB 1338 (2023)	Dead
	HB 1522 (2023)	Dead
Iowa	SF 496 (2023)	Passed May 2023
Kentucky	SB 5 (2023)	Passed March 2023
	HB 9 (2024)	Dead
	SB 6 (2024)	Dead
Louisiana	SB 7 (2023)	Effective August 2023
	HB 974 (2024)	Effective August 2024
	HB 102 (2023)	Dead
	HB 168 (2024)	Dead
	HB 777 (2024)	Dead
Maryland	HB 1397 (2024)	Passed April 2024
	HB 0785 (2024)	Passed April 2024
Massachusetts	H.4235 (2023-2024)	Introduced July 2024
	S.2447 (2023-2024)	Introduced July 2024
	H.4005 (2023-2024)	Introduced June 2023
	S.2528 (2023-2024)	Introduced July 2024
	H.4229 (2023-2024)	Introduced December 2023
Michigan	HB 4136 (2023-2024)	Introduced February 2023
Mississippi	HB 1341 (2023)	Dead
Nebraska	LB 1330 (2023-2024)	Indefinitely postponed
	LB 1064 (2023-2024)	Indefinitely postponed
New Jersey	A 5620 (2022-2023)	Dead
	S 2421 (2024-2025)	Introduced January 2024
New York	S 07677 (2023-2024)	Introduced October 2023
	A 07843 (2023-2024)	Introduced July 2023

	A 07878 (2023-2024)	Introduced July 2023
	A 08870 (2023-2024)	Introduced January 2024
North Carolina	SB 49 (2023-2024)	Passed August 2023
Ohio	HB 245 (2023-2024)	Introduced July 2023
	HB 327 (2021-2022)	Dead
Pennsylvania	HB 209 (2023-2024)	Introduced March 2023
	HB 1659 (2023-2024)	Introduced September 2023
	SB 7 (2023-2024)	In committee October 2023
Rhode Island	H 7873 (2024)	Dead
	S 2041 (2024)	Dead
Tennessee	SB 0817 (2023-2024)	Effective July 2023
	HB 2457 (2023-2024)	Dead
	SB 2107 (2023-2024)	Dead
Texas	HB 900 (2023-2024)	Effective September 2023
	SB 17 (2023-2024)	Effective January 2024
	HB 1006 (2023-2024)	Dead
Vermont	H 0806 (2023-2024)	Dead
	H 0807 (2023-2024)	Dead
	S 0220 (2023-2024)	Passed May 2024
Virginia	HB 1206 (2024)	Dead
	SB 235 (2024)	Vetoed by Gov. March 2024
Washington	SB 6208 (2023-2024)	Dead
	HB 1609 (2023-2024)	Dead
Wyoming	HB 0087 (2023)	Dead