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Renee_D View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 12:37 pm

I would like to post this this evening (6 pm EST), so if we need to make any changes please get back to me before then. Thanks! -Renee D.

Click on http://groups.google.com/group/plasc_rt/web/petition-text?hl=en - or copy & paste it into your browser's address bar if that doesn't work.

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Noah Lenstra View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 1:40 pm

Thanks! Just for reference, I just did a quick search of the SAA Members Directory to find out how many members work at public libraries, and here are the results. This list is by no means comprehensive, but should indicate that public libraries are indeed big employers are archivists.

Best,
Noah

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Aprill Susan Kingston Public Library Kingston MA.
Arndt Rachel Waukesha Public Library Waukesha WI
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Baughman Margaret Cleveland Public Library Cleveland OH
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Gonzales Nathan A K Smiley Public Library Redlands CA
Greek Mark District of Columbia Public Library Washington DC
Groskopf Amy Davenport Public Library Davenport IA
Grunow Gregg Newport News Public Library System Newport News VA
Halpin Pérez Heather Atlantic City Free Public Library Atlantic City NJ
Hart Jan Irving Public Library Irving TX
Haun Burton Wilsonville Public Library Wilsonville OR
Howell Rachel Dallas Public Library Arlington TX
Howerton Tracey Nashville Public Library Nashville TN
Humphreys Glenn Chicago Public Library Chicago IL
Hyslop John Queens Public Library Jamaica NY
Idels Helene Escondido Public Library Escondido CA
Jacobs Carol Cowan Pottery Museum at Rocky River Public Library Rocky River OH
Johnson Barbara Northport Public Library Northport NY
Jones Victor New Bern-Craven County Public Library Ernul NC
Keyes Robert Pelham Free Public Library Pelham MA
Knight-Gray Rita East Cleveland Public Library Cleveland OH
Knowles Barbara New York Public Library New York NY
Kraus Jessica New York Public Library New York NY
Lachatanere Diana New York Public Library New York NY
Lee Vince Houston Public Library Houston TX
Leuthauser Martin Denver Public Library Denver CO
Levesque Jeannine Leominster Public Library Leominster MA
Logan Kevin Lakeland Public Library Lakeland FL
Marquis Kathy Albany County Public Library Laramie WY
Martinson Doris Knox County Public Library Knoxville TN
Martorell Penni Holyoke Public Library Amherst MA
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Mayne Rebecca Grand Rapids Public Library Grand Rapids MI
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McClung Erica Cabell County Public Library Huntington WV
McCray Benita Brooklyn Public Library Brooklyn NY
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Myers Jessica Plainfield Public Library Plainfield NJ
Narver Lindy Mission Viejo Public Library Laguna Beach CA
Nowak Isabella Chicago Public Library Chicago IL
Nye Matthew National City Public library San Diego CA
Oestreicher Cheryl Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System Atlanta GA
OHare Sheila Denver Public Library Denver CO
Perrier Charles New York Public Library New York NY
Plazo Mary Akron-Summit County Public Library Akron OH
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Quan Leon Anna Scottsdale Public Library Mesa AZ
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Ruttum Laura New York Public Library New York NY
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Snow Rebecca Moore Memorial Public Library Texas City TX
Snyder Matthew New York Public Library Brooklyn NY
Spalding Jill-Lynn A K Smiley Public Library Yucaipa CA
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Taylor Rodger New York Public Library New York NY
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VanHorn Cynthia Allen County Public Library Fort Wayne IN
Vogel Sherry FNSB Public Library North Pole AK
Wainwright Irene New Orleans Public Library New Orleans LA
Wilson Leslie Concord Free Public Library Concord MA
Wingfield Valerie New York Public Library New York NY
Wright Brianne Kingsport Public Library and Archives Kingsport TN
Yoder Teresa Chicago Public Library Chicago IL
Yolles Melanie New York Public Library New York NY
Zazzarino Ellen Denver Public Library Silverthorne CO

And institutional members:
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Akron-Summit County Public Library Akron OH
Atlantic City Free Public Library Atlantic City NJ
Birmingham Public Library Birmingham AL
Boston Public Library Boston MA
Bridgeport Public Library Bridgeport CT
Chicago Public Library Chicago IL
District of Columbia Public Library Washington DC
Greene County Public Library Xenia OH
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Northport Public Library Northport NY
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Virginia Beach Public Library Virginia Beach VA

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Renee DesRoberts View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 2:00 pm

Impressive, yes, but the ALA estimates that there are 16,000 (plus/minus)public libraries in the U.S.

http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/library/libraryfactsheet/alal...

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Mary Koegel View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 2:42 pm

An astounding, and encouraging list, no doubt!

I was thinking about this anyway - perhaps stating it as "historical collections" rather than "history collections" (under the "benefits" section), but perhaps we should reword the whole first sentence to include a notation about the institutions,

as well as the employees, since that is, essentially, part of our aim (and SAA has a number of institutional members, as Noah has pointed out). Particularly if we hope to encompass public institutions beyond libraries (e.g. historical societies).

For reference, the sentence (under "Benefits") I am referring to is:

"First, there are a great number of people who work with history collections within public libraries who do not identify themselves as archivists."

Perhaps rewording it to something like:

"There are a great number of people who work with historic collections within public institutions, including libraries, who do not identify themselves as archivists."

We have an option, of course, of noting that SOME caretakers & their institutions seemingly acknowledge their role as archivists, based on SAA membership, and this is an opportunity for them to find a more comfortable role(?) in SAA. Perhaps with a sentence or two in the 1st paragraph in the "benefits" section. Something to squeeze in like:

"[...] identify themselves as archivists. Based on SAA membership, some public institutions and the caretakers of their special collections/archives do acknowledge their archivist roles. However, based on American Libraries Association data, there are many others that potentially do not [Renee, I saw your email, but don't recall the numbers]. This is an opportunity to reach out to already existing SAA members and recruit potential new members. Since SAA roundtables are open to non-members, the group [...]"

It's not absolutely necessary, but I think it may strengthen our position & explain the need for the RT even more. By the way, this is brief & quick thinking - just drafting - feel free to rewrite or throw out altogether! But thanks for considering! & thanks, Noah & Renee for the data! I'm so excited at how close we are!

~Mary Koegel

--- On Mon, 11/30/09, Noah Lenstra <nlens...@gmail.com> wrote:

From: Noah Lenstra <nlens...@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: View this page "Petition text"
To: plasc_rt@googlegroups.com
Date: Monday, November 30, 2009, 12:40 PM

Thanks! Just for reference, I just did a quick search of the SAA Members Directory to find out how many members work at public libraries, and here are the results. This list is by no means comprehensive, but should indicate that public libraries are indeed big employers are archivists.

Best,
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Blake Thomas Boston Public Library Boston MA
Bledsoe Michelle Memphis Public Library Memphis TN
Burdock Harriet Leonia Public Library Leonia NJ
Burgess Larry A K Smiley Public Library Redlands CA
Burke Erica Crandall Public Library Center for Folklife Hartford NY
Cook Beverly Chicago Public Library Chicago IL

Covey Sarah Zion Benton Public Library Kenosha WI
Crews Andrew San Antonio Public Library San Antonio TX
Crist Cheri Rochester Public Library Rochester NY
Crocetto Heather Arlington County Public Library Alexandria VA
De Waelsche T San Antonio Public Library San Antonio TX
Dean Riva Spokane Public Library Spokane WA
Delfs Jeninne Cleveland Public Library Westlake OH
DesRoberts Renee McArthur Public Library Biddeford ME
Doering Anita La Crosse Public Library La Crosse WI
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Doyle Thomas Woburn Public Library Medford MA
Dudley Roger Denver Public Library Denver CO
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Elliott John Santa Ana Public Library Fullerton CA
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Findley Vicki Birmingham Public Library Birmingham AL
Fish Michael Windsor Public Library Windsor ON
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Flug Michael Chicago Public Library Chicago IL
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Valerie_W View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 3:23 pm

Thank you Noah for the list. Its very impressive. We gather strenght from our numbers.

Renee thank you for the draft and your hard work. In response for comments, I like Mary's rewriting "There are a great number of people who work with historic collections within public institutions, including libraries, who do not identify themselves as archivists." This is very true and states much. This reflects many of the professionals that the roundtable need to reach out to.

also historical collections rather than history; history is subject specific

My other comment is that as the roundtable evolves, and if the need arises, the statement can always be revised. From what, I have seen the statement covers the key points that need to be addressed. Why don't we set a deadline at 5:00?, so Renee you have time to make the necessary changes to post the statement.

great work!

Valerie

On Nov 30, 11:37 am, Renee_D <rdesrobe...@gmail.com> wrote:

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Judith Turner View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 3:55 pm

Renee --

The petition text looks great to me. I suggest that you add a box for SAA Membership Number. That will reinforce the point that only SAA members's signatures can be counted. It will make life easier for the SAA office staff, too.

I think historic is the correct word in the context of the sentence. Most public libraries have shelves of items in the Dewey 900's and could refer to those as historical collections. Historic implies items
of artifactual value (to borrow a museum term; this is material called realia in the library world) that are significant for the local community.

As far as Mary's suggestion about involving historical societies I would caution against making a point of that, unless the historical society is a unit of the public library. My sense is that historical societies tend to be free-standing organizations. In Wisconsin histocial societies are supported by a mix of public and private funds and membership dues. Some major historical societies receive very little public funding; others are primarily state-funded, rather than locally funded the way public libraries are.

On the question of signing vs. joining - any SAA member who wants to join any roundtable is free to do so. OTOH, it's important to avoid any suggestion that PLASC would poach members from other units. There are SAA units for manuscript curators, and governmental archivists and records managers who work in historical societies (in addition to the library and museum staff there -- as Noah's paper indicated historical societies are a hybrid.) There's also the American Association for State and Local History, the American Assoc. of Museums, ARMA and the ALA depending on a person's primary professional affiliation.

There's no obligation for people who sign the membership petition to actually join or even get involved in the roundtable. It will be up to the RT chair and other officers, or steering committee, to organize an annual meeting (usually with a program featuring several speakers) at each SAA annual meeting. These meetings need to attract enough interested participants who can then be approached to take a more active role and keep the roundtable going and get into new program areas.

Once the RT is established, SAA meeting coordinators will have an idea of how many people are involved because people indicate what sessions they plan to attend when they preregister (this is how they know what size meeting room to assign.) In checking to make sure needed AV, room setup and refreshments have been provided by hotel staff, they'll get an idea of how many people actually show up for the RT's annual meeting.

I hope someone from this group will attend the midwinter meeting of SAA - that would be a good place to get add'l signatures if any are needed. I've some ideas about SAA committees, sections and other RT's that we could contact to circulate the petition if we need additional signatures but it's probably best to save that for another day.

Judy Turner
Whitefish Bay, WI

Blogging at: http://alms-jact.blogspot.com/
and
http://judyct.wordpress.com/

"The difference between the almost right word & the right word is really a large matter--it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning." - Mark Twain in a letter to George Bainton, 10/15/1888

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Renee DesRoberts View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 3:59 pm

Great feedback, everyone, I'll make the changes. We'll get this out tonight!
-Renee

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Renee DesRoberts View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 6:54 pm

It's done!
I sent it out to A&A, Visual materials, and Lone Arrangers. The complete revised text is on the group page to copy if you think of other places to send it to.
Great job everyone, I'm going to sign the petition right now!
-Renee

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Renee DesRoberts View profile More options Nov 30 2009, 7:31 pm

Ugh, what a nightmare. Of course it came out WRONG. I've already reposted it, but *sigh*...
Sorry everyone.

On Mon, Nov 30, 2009 at 5:54 PM, Renee DesRoberts <rdesrobe...@gmail.com>wrote:

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End of messages

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