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Archeota, Fall 2017

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Archeota

Volume 3, Issue 2, Fall 2017

December 4, 2017

*Official publication of the
San José State
University
Society of American
Archivists
Student Chapter*

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Welcome to the issue

*By Kimberlee Frederick
Managing Editor*

A very warm welcome to the Fall 2017 issue of *Archeota*. I'm thrilled to mark my time spent at San Jose State and in SAA by *Archeota* releases.

I have a dedicated place in my heart for organization-specific publications. I have a background in student journalism, and I currently create and release six issues per year of an internal staff newsletter for the university library at which I'm lucky enough to be employed. I have a firm belief that the voices of the many must have an outlet for an organization to realize its potential. *Archeota* has established itself as an impressive voice indeed, and I feel terribly fortunate to be a part of it.

I'm finding that recently my mind has been focused on the many varied ways the concerns of archives embed themselves into our daily lives, and this issue takes a stab at attempting to explore the ways in which we're affected by the archival mindset. From the books we read and the work we set out to do all the way up to how our politics influence archival practices, the thoughts in the following pages look at how the very fabric of our day-to-day lives depend on a dedication to preservation and archiving.

Thank you, very sincerely, for reading.

My best,
Kimberlee



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Career and professional development advice from the archival community

By JoAnn Urban

We reached out to 3 Society of American Archivists Archival listservs with some of our career and archives-related questions. Over 25 archivists across the country responded. Here's what they had to say:

As a recent iSchool graduate looking to stay connected with my peers while also seeking employment opportunities, I decided to reach out to the Archival community for some advice. I was interested in learning

how students and recent graduates can gain experience and skills employers look for, in addition to discovering ways to get involved with the profession. I was interested in more general topics, too, and open to advice about anything archives.

In hopes of starting a conversation with the archival community, I put together a questionnaire with topics, specific questions, and open areas for respondents to share their thoughts. The questions ranged from internship tips to class recommenda-

tions. I then created a questionnaire using Google Forms, and emailed the link with an attached Word document to three [Society of American Archivists Discussion](#) Sections: [Women Archivists](#), [Issues & Advocacy](#), and [Metadata and Digital Object](#). Then, I waited to see what would happen.

To my excitement, **I received an overwhelming response from the archival community.** I greatly appreciate those Archivists that took time to answer the Google form, email responses, or talk with me by phone. This article is a summary of their responses, as well as a few takeaways from the exercise.

The first major topic I noticed across responses was **the importance of experience.** During my time at San

Jose State University, I developed theoretical knowledge about the archival profession. Many of my assignments even included networking and working directly with Archivists in my state to develop projects and proposals. These experiences greatly deepened my theoretical knowledge and appreciation for archives, and were echoed in respondents emphasizing the importance of **practical, hands-on experience** at a physical location. **Volunteering and internships** were the two most frequently listed ways to gain experience as a student or recent graduate. One thing that surprised me was the places respondents listed to volunteer or intern. **Museums and historical societies** are two places besides archives that can help students and recent graduates gain experience in the field. Other ways to develop skills include attending workshops, facilitating independent studies, and gaining non-archive employment experience. In addition to practical experience, respondents emphasized **the importance of building technical skills**, such as coding and digitization skills. Many respondents stated **not to limit yourself to one area of the profession**, nor limit the focus of your skills and development.

Beyond building skills and gaining experience, **networking** is key to success. Joining a local, regional, and/or national organization, and attending conferences were all listed as excellent ways to get involved with the profession. **Presenting**

Advice continued on page 4



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SAA resources for students and more!

General information for students:

<http://www2.archivists.org/students>

Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Roundtable:

<https://snaproundtable.wordpress.com/>

SAA Online Career Center, Job Seekers Page:

<http://careers.archivists.org/jobseekers/>

A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology:

<http://www2.archivists.org/glossary>

Digital Archives Specialist (DAS) Curriculum & Certificate Program:

<http://www2.archivists.org/education/das>

***The American Archivist* online:**

<http://americanarchivist.org/>

Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA):

<http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>

ArchivesGig:

<https://archivesgig.wordpress.com/>

Derangement and Description: A chaotic little archives webcomic:

<https://derangementanddescription.wordpress.com/>

Free Publications:

<http://www2.archivists.org/publications/epubs>

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Continued from page 2: Finding an in with archivists

posters or research at conferences is also a great networking tool. One respondent also suggested seeking out information professionals' social groups in your city, starting a virtual reading group, and **blogging** about either your work as an archivist or your interests in the profession. All are important, innovative, and practical ways to make connections and develop key writing and communication skills. Social media is also a great way to connect with professionals, as well. Finally, **conducting informational interviews** with Archivists in your area can connect you with your local archival community.

"Joining a local, regional, and/or national organization, and attending conferences were all listed as excellent ways to get involved with the profession."

goals and worked to get the position she really wanted. Another respondent recommended **thinking outside the box** when looking for ways to develop skills. For example, **digitizing photos for friends and relatives is one way to gain experience digitizing analog photos**. In short, professional development of all kinds can be used to advance your career.

Finally, **don't be afraid to get involved**. Run for a committee position. Join a student chapter, local, regional, or national professional association. Present or volunteer at a conference. Look for

Networking and connecting with the archival community are also key to **keeping up with current trends** in the field. Networking often leads to the internship or contract positions that are important to your professional development. One respondent stated that she took short-term and contract assignments to fill her skills gaps and to keep large gaps from her employment history. She started at the bottom of the employment rung, but **stayed focused** on her career

opportunities outside of archives to develop the skills and experience that will help you later in your career. **Perhaps the most important takeaway from completing this project is that Archivists are a friendly bunch**, and love sharing their knowledge with students and professionals alike.

Thank you again to everyone that participated and helped make this post happen. Questions or comments? Feel free to email us directly at sjsusaasc@gmail.com.

SAASC Needs You!

The SJSU student chapter of the Society of American Archivists releases this official newsletter each semester. The goal of *Archeota* is to represent the collective efforts of archival students and experts so we can learn and grow with each other within the profession. For that, we need your submissions!

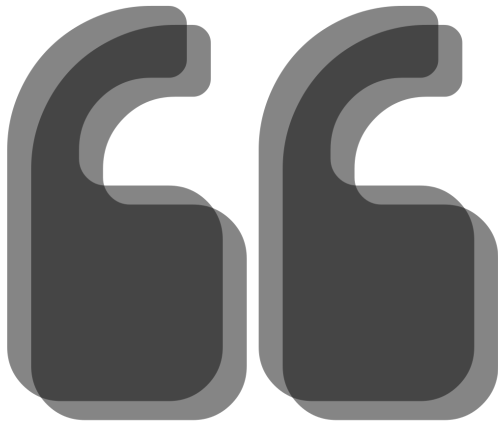
Keep a lookout for the call for newsletter content put out at the beginning of each semester. In the meantime, keep thinking about how your archival job, internship, or classes could be fodder for an *Archeota* feature!



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“Our archives are treasure troves—a testament to many lives lived and the complexity of the way we move forward.”

—Sara Sheridan, writer, b.1968

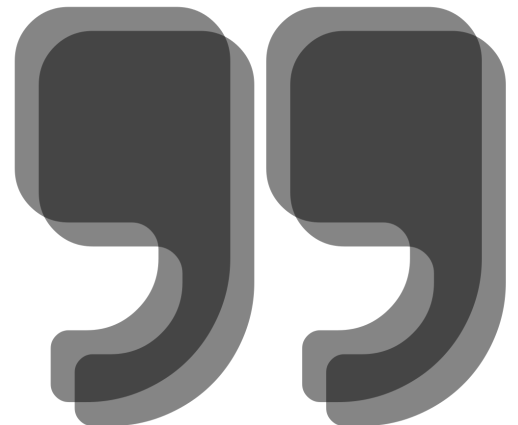
Quote Corner

“Let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.”

—Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826.

“Even if we have bad feelings about our past and it causes a sense of alienation, it belongs to our history. Its benchmarks are stored in the granary of our mind and crucial evaluations for the future cannot be made without consulting the archive of our memory.”

—Erik PeVERNAGIE, painter, b.1939



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SAASC events

Past

November 16, 2017: "Scheduling a closer look: A brief introduction to the works of records management," a special presentation with Eira Tansey. Click [here](#) to listen to the recording.

October 12, 2017: "Job Hunting: What Search Committees Want You To Know," featuring University of North Carolina at Asheville's Archivist and Head of Special Collections, Gene Hyde. Listen to the recording [here](#).

August 30, 2017: Click [here](#) to listen to a recording of the **Annual Members Meeting**, where new Executive Committee members for the year were introduced and we discussed the benefits of SAA and SAASC membership.

Link to event recordings:

<http://bit.ly/2ANoQ10>

Check out our YouTube channel!

<http://bit.ly/2qfnR4s>