

# ABOUT ME - 2022 MARGARET JENNINGS AWARD

## AMEILA OWERS – CURTIN UNIVERSITY

### What would you tell someone who is thinking about studying in the area?



Go for it!

Archiving covers such a wide range of interests and there is something in it for everybody. It isn't just old paper documents in a dusty basement, but has technical, historical, social and logical components. Whether you prefer STEM or the arts, you will find something to like about archiving!

### What do you think will change within the sector over the next five years?

I think the largest change in the next five years will be a move towards digital archives. This is a process that requires a lot of work, as I have discovered while doing digitisation in a practical placement. However, there are many benefits too. Namely, it improves accessibility, shareability and searchability of information.

### How did you first get involved in the archival profession?

For a long time, I was uncertain what I wanted to study at university. I wanted to learn practical skills but I also had a passion for history. Archiving was eventually suggested to me – and it certainly fit the bill! Not only did it satisfy my interest in history, but also encompassed my strengths in organisation and digital-literacy.

### What surprised you most about the profession?

I went into my archiving studies uncertain of what to expect. I was concerned archiving was a dying industry and there wouldn't be great job prospects. However, to my surprise, it still a very relevant industry as archivist teams/personnel are integral to all kinds of organisations for the longevity of their records.