CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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A study on the engagement of volunteers in Australian Archives
1 Survey
15 Questions
318 Respondents

And now the results
Who are our archival volunteers

Q1. Which of the following best describes you?

- Volunteer
- Self-employed
- Unemployed
- Full time worker
- Mum

Response count

Archival/Recordkeeping
Student
Student studying something other than archives/records
Part-time worker
Retiree
Other
Who are our archival volunteers

Q2. How much training and experience do you have within the archival sector?

- I have no official training and limited experience
- I have completed or am currently undertaking official training related to archiving
- I have many years of experience in archiving (with or without official training)
- Other

Response options:
- Limited training
- Library trained
Q4. What best describes the type of archival institution that you volunteer at?

- Public archive (i.e. State Archives)
- Private archive (i.e. Commonwealth Bank of Australia Archive)
- Community archives (i.e. Koorie Heritage Trust Archive)
- Other

- University archives
- School archives
- Historical society
- Libraries
Q5. Why do you choose to volunteer at an archive?

Volunteers are passionate

- For professional experience
- To make contacts in the sector
- Because I am interested in history
- For the relationships you make with fellow volunteers/staff

Response options
Motivations of Volunteers

- A supportive and positive environment
- Forming positive working relationships with staff and fellow volunteers
- Being able to handle the physical records
- Learning about historical events through the records
- Learning about work processes and gaining skills
- Increasing your employability
Q9. Have you worked with any potentially upsetting archival material during your time as a volunteer?

Q10. If yes, did you feel as though you were provided with the support you needed?
Q12. Which of the following do you receive at your archive? [Please tick all that apply]

- Training
- Feedback and moral support from staff
- A clear job description
- A dedicated supervisor
- An environment in which you can ask for help
Demographic
Satisfied volunteers

Q14. Overall, how satisfied are you with your volunteer experience within the archival sector?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response options</th>
<th>Response count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely satisfied</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very satisfied</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extremely dissatisfied</td>
<td>1</td>
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Q15. How likely are you to recommend the archival sector as one in which to volunteer?
Vicarious Trauma
‘Upsetting material has been reading and transcribing WW1 war diaries, postcards, and letters from the Front. You get involved, and then the letters stop....he's been killed.’
Advocacy
Where to Next?