AWE Fund Winter Survey

The Archival Workers Emergency Fund Organizing Committee has created a second survey to assess the impact of COVID-19 on archival workers. The AWE Fund Organizing Committee distributed their first survey in July 2020. This second anonymous survey, distributed several months later, seeks to keep a pulse on the scope and extent of the impact of COVID-19 on archival workers* in the United States.

You do not need to have participated in the July survey in order to participate in this survey. Your participation in this study is voluntary and you may discontinue the survey or skip any questions that are not required (required questions are indicated by an asterisk*). The survey consists of 18 multiple choice or free-text questions and will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

There are no anticipated risks of participating in this anonymous study. You will not directly benefit from your participation in this study. However, your participation in this study may contribute to the greater profession-wide understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the archival profession. All data and contributed text will be visible to the AWE Fund Organizing Committee members and may be included in future publications. The AWE Fund Organizing Committee will remove any identifying information in data and contributed text from future publications.

This survey will close on Dec 31. Thank you for your participation!

This survey was created with input and many thanks to Jessica Chapel, Alison Clemens, Courtney Dean, Steve Duckworth, Katharina Hering, Carli Lowe, and Amy Wickner.

STUDY00004607 was approved and determined exempt by the Michigan State University IRB. If you have any questions or feedback about this survey please contact Lydia Tang (ltang5@msu.edu).

*"Archival worker" in this context includes employment in an archival repository performing tasks such as reference and public services, records management, collections management, community/family/tribal archives management, archival processing, description, and digitization.

* Required
1. 1. As an archival worker, my job description includes -- (select all that apply) *

   Check all that apply.
   
   [ ] Processing collections
   [ ] Providing reference
   [ ] Providing instruction, outreach, or public programming
   [ ] Creating and maintaining metadata/finding aids/catalogs
   [ ] Preservation and conservation treatments
   [ ] Digitizing and digital preservation services
   [ ] Liaising with donors
   [ ] Supervising staff
   [ ] Supervising student workers and interns
   [ ] Other: ___________________________________________________________________

2. 2. Have your job scope or duties changed due to COVID-19? (Example: less physical processing, more online outreach, etc.)

   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. 3. Before COVID-19, I was — (select all that apply) *

   Check all that apply.
   
   [ ] Student worker/Graduate assistant
   [ ] Temporary/Contract
   [ ] Full-time
   [ ] Part-time
   [ ] Unemployed
   [ ] Consultant/Freelance/Self-employed
   [ ] Tenured or tenure-track
   [ ] Intern/volunteer
   [ ] Other: ___________________________________________________________________
4. How has COVID changed your work status? (select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

☐ No change
☐ I was laid off/my current and future contracts were canceled
☐ I was furloughed/My hours were reduced
☐ I received a pay reduction
☐ My benefits (retirement, health insurance, etc) were discontinued
☐ My benefits (retirement, health insurance, etc) were reduced
☐ Job searches I was participating in were canceled
☐ I began additional job(s)

Other: ________________

5. If you are affiliated with a union, how has your affiliation influenced the impact of COVID-19 on your employment?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. How do you believe COVID-19 will impact your career and/or the broader archival profession going forward?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
7. What type of repository do/did you work in? (select all that apply) *

Check all that apply.

☐ Academic
☐ Community
☐ Corporate/Business
☐ Family/Personal
☐ Federal government
☐ For-profit
☐ Historical society
☐ Local government
☐ Museum
☐ Non-profit
☐ Public library
☐ Religious
☐ Tribal
Other: ☐

8. What support have you utilized during COVID-19? (select all that apply)

Check all that apply.

☐ No support
☐ Flexible work arrangements
☐ Remote/hybrid work
☐ Governmental stimulus checks
☐ Mutual aid funds
☐ Paid time off
☐ Unpaid time off
☐ Unemployment benefits
☐ Modified performance expectations and evaluations
☐ Stopped or delayed tenure-clocks
Other: ☐
9. 9. Was the support sufficient?


10. 10. How was your employer’s/unit budget impacted due to COVID? Was it impacted more or less than you expected?


11. 11. At my institution, the following things are happening: (select all that apply)

Check all that apply.

☐ Hiring freeze/“chill”
☐ Salary reduction
☐ Furloughs
☐ Layoffs
☐ Reduced working hours
☐ Future contracts canceled
☐ Stopped or delayed merit raises
Other: ☐

Other: ________________________________
12. Have you or your employer explored creating additional income/fund raising approaches? If so, what?

13. Are there some aspects of this current COVID-19 world that you would like to see continue into the future? (For example: remote work, online programming, etc) Please explain.

14. Any additional comments?

Optional Demographics
We ask these questions to see if there are trends of impact on particular demographics.

15. Your gender
16. 16. Your race or ethnicity

17. 17. Your age range

Mark only one oval.

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Do not wish to answer

18. 18. How many years have you worked in the archival profession?

Mark only one oval.

- less than 1 year
- 1-2 years
- 3-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-20 years
- 21+ years
- Do not wish to answer
- Other: 

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