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A Win - Win Situation: Finding Interns and Volunteers for Your Archives

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Outline

- Society of American Archivists: History and Development
- The Internship Process
- Strategies for Recruiting Interns and Volunteers
- Wrap Up and Questions
Historical Background

- Society of American Archivist’s (SAA) inception in 1936
- Development of History Departments in Universities
Historical Background

- 1945– SAA’s Joint Committee on Internships
- 1970s– SAA’s Survey of Education by Committee on Education and Training, later refined by its Committee on Education and Professional Development
- 1980s through 2002– Guidelines for Graduate Archival Studies programs
Historical Background

- Emergence of archival tracks within Library and Information Science and History Programs as well as the development of Doctoral programs
- Diminishing resources
- Trends towards volunteers
The Internship Process: Site Supervisors and Students
The Internship Process: Libraries

- Florida State University Library/University of South Florida Libraries
  - Types of Projects
  - Advertising
  - Applications
  - Learning Objectives
  - Evaluations
The Internship Process: Museums

- Museum Studies
  - Anthropology
  - Africana Studies
  - American Studies
  - Environmental Studies
  - Library Science
The Internship Process: Museums
The Internship Process: Museums
Strategies for Recruiting Interns and Volunteers
Recruiting Interns and Volunteers

- Interns
  - History
  - Public History
  - Library Science
  - Museum Studies
  - Technology
Recruiting Interns and Volunteers

- Volunteers
  - Library Science and Archival graduates
  - Alumni and retirees of the university
  - Former interns who have graduated and are deciding on grad school
  - Former researchers
  - Former teachers
Recruiting Interns and Volunteers

Volunteers
- Your Career Services Department
- Serving as an SAA Key Contact
- Speaking to history/public history classes
- Friends groups
- Contacting local colleges and universities

Volunteers Karlene Messer (left) and Betty Winn work on indexing and preparing delayed birth records for the Oregon Historical Records Index.
Recruiting Interns and Volunteers

Benefits

◦ Gets needed work done
◦ Provides hands-on work experience to potential archivists
◦ Way of publicizing the uses of archives
◦ Encourages younger generations to support the activities museums, archives, historical societies, etc.
◦ Supports the profession as a whole
Recruiting Interns and Volunteers

- University of South Florida
  - Graduate Assistants
  - Volunteers
  - Classroom recruiting
  - Word-of-mouth
  - Email lists
Recruiting Interns and Volunteers: Museums
Suggested Resources


Conclusion

Questions?
Thank you!

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