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The Value of Being a Certified Archivist: A Personal Perspective

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What Does Certification Mean to Me in an Academic Institution?

- Demonstrates to co-workers, department heads, and teaching faculty that I have expertise, knowledge, and commitment to the archival profession.
- Gives me credibility in a predominantly academic library world that I can make a unique contribution to attaining a major library goal: enhancing information access to the university community.

What Does Certification Mean to Me in an Academic Institution?

- Gives me credibility to administrators that having a Certified Archivist on staff and recruiting CAs is best for their organization.
- With the “Graying of the Profession,” allows me to promote the profession to library students and younger “budding archivists” interested in archival work.

Benefits of Certification

- Validates my education, archival skills, experience.
- Can attract grant funding.
- Helpful in obtaining merit \$ by demonstrating to peers that you've received credit for continuing professional education.
- Provides an opportunity to discuss with potential employers, fellow professionals, and administrators what we do, and enlighten them to the benefits of certification.

Benefits of Certification

- To archivists that have been working in the field, certification provides an opportunity to understand the reasoning behind many of the everyday practices that are followed.
- Helps convince the practicing archivist that certification is a worthwhile process by which one gains a better understanding of why we follow these practices.

Motivating Factors in Certification

- Opportunity to shape the archival profession by service to the Academy of Certified Archivists.
- Feeling of “progress” and keeping up in the field, especially when you recertify every five years.
- Gives me an important element of “respect” to those outside the profession.

Motivating Factors in Certification

- Motivation to "give something back" to the profession by your active participation:
 - Serving on panel discussions at professional conferences.
 - Preparing poster sessions.
 - Designing new questions for certification exam (item-writing workshops)
 - Mentoring.
 - Serving as a Key Contact/Liaison to SAA.

How I Prepared for the Exam

- Reviewed SAA Basic Manual Series, highlighting important points covering the major domains.
- Skimmed major texts in the field (e.g., Schellenberg's Modern Archives (1956); Ellis' Keeping Archives (1993)).
- Prepared with a partner, and developed sample test questions covering each domain. Tested each other.

Feedback from Exam

- The Academy furnishes scores in a breakdown by domain, so strengths and weaknesses can be determined.
- Helps in planning continuing education and future work performance.
 - Management Workshops
 - Preservation Workshops
 - Learn more about collection development