

Out of the Archives

a newsletter from the Washington State Archives

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Employee Spotlight



Meet Terry Badger

This month's Employee Spotlight takes a look at Deputy State Archivist, Terence S. Badger. We just call him Terry.

What is your role at the State Archives?

As the Deputy Archivist, I am primarily responsible for the day-to-day back of the office functions at the Archives. This includes seeing that invoices are paid, facilities are up kept, coordinating with fiscal, budget, contracts and human resources, and working with the State Archivist on the most important job of all, seeing that the staff have what they need to get the work done and provide our customers

with memorable and useful visits to the Archives!

While this may not appeal to everyone, I love it! That said, I do carve out a few hours a week to process archival collections to keep my hands in the records, as well as, visit the branch archives around the state on a semi-regular schedule to check-in.

What would people never guess you do in your role?

Well, I'm not so sure it is my role, but I do love to go on records pick-ups throughout the state a few times a year. Not only does it allow me to drive one of our big trucks, it also allows me to meet local and state agency customers and find out how we are doing.

Do you have any tips about searching the archives?

Yes. Archives, for the most part, are not self-serve, though this may be changing with the collection of electronic records. Be sure to use the reference archivists, they are familiar with the collections and have been trained to help find answers. While researchers often know what topic they are interested in, the archivists are the ones that think about what government agency may have the best information to use.

What is on your wish list for the next 10 years for the State Archives?

1. Barcode Technology - For the last 10 years

I have dreamed of introducing barcodes into the Archives. We have made progress over the years, but we haven't quite got it done yet.

2. Scanning and Indexing – We have always placed a high priority on getting our important records scanned, indexed and put on-line. It is very exciting to know that we can make our collections useable 24 hours a day to anyone with access to the internet. We now have millions of images that need indexing before we can post on-line and I would love to see a reinvigorated crowd source effort to get that done.

3. A joint Archives/Library Building – We share so many researchers that it would be fabulous to have both of our large collections together in one location to save the customers time.

4. Retirement – I would absolutely LOVE to be able to retire in 10 years (wishful thinking!).

If you could interview one Washingtonian (dead or alive, non-family member), who would it be and why?

Was D.B. Cooper a Washingtonian? If so, I would love to ask him where the money is... so I could spend it of course!



How did you first learn about the Archives?

As an undergrad history major, I was a work-study student shelving books in the library when I had an appointment with my faculty advisor. He asked me what I wanted to do and told me that history was a difficult field to find a job. I told him I loved history and I loved organizing things at the library. He told me to look into Archives. I said archives, what's that? I called the city archives where I lived at the time, and the rest is history, so to speak.

What 3 words would you use to describe the State Archives?

Here be Dragons.

What do you find the most challenging at the State Archives?

Figuring out how to share all of the terrific resources we have at the Archives with as many people as we can, for the least amount of costs possible. Very challenging!

What legacy would you like to leave at the Archives?

None. I do the best I can each day and I am passionate about what I do, but work is just one part of life. I do jump out of bed each

morning to get to work, but when it's over and I've left the Archives, I'm gone and I won't look back. Of course this will all be made the easier for me because of the large number of dedicated folks we have here that are also passionate about what they do and they each have their own vision to provide to the Archives.

If you could go back and give your 18-year-old-self advice, what would it be?

Slow Down and quit fighting everything! I spent a lot of years swimming upstream instead of enjoying the ride.

Describe what you were like at age 10.

I have a hard time remembering that far back, but I have heard the term "a handful" tossed about.

Which cartoon character would you most like to switch lives with?

For the younger generation it would be Johnny Test. For those with a few grey hairs (or no hair at all), probably Felix the Cat.

What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?

A brand new pick-up truck.

What are your most and least favorite foods?

Most: Anything with Ice Cream

Least: Any and all fish



What is a superpower you wish you had?

To be invisible.

Read more great interviews from the staff at the Office of the Secretary of State by continuing to read our newsletter. We will have another one in August!