

Employee Spotlight – Molly Rooney, Acquisitions Archivist for the Washington State Archives

Contributed by Mary Hammer, Digital Projects Archivist

Molly Rooney is the Acquisitions Archivist at the Washington State Archives. The hundreds of boxes of archival records collected per month from Washington's 194 state agencies go through Molly first! She finds space for them in the Archives (so the records are preserved in perpetuity), catalogs collections for public access (so you can find them online), communicates with agencies regarding how, when, and what to send to us (so history ends up with the right records), and so much more. In addition to being great at her job, Molly has a fantastic sense of humor, the magical ability to get along well with her co-workers, and a beautiful singing voice.



MH: What is your professional background?

MR: An MLIS and a lot of odd jobs, mostly in the retail sector.

MH: Do you have any pets?

MR: I have a large, orange tabby cat named Cap'n Chunkers (pictured above).



MH: What's the best thing about your job?

MR: I enjoy opening up the cans of worms hidden throughout the Archives, like small gifts, left for me by past archivists.

MH: What's your favorite thing you've found in the Archives lately?

MR: We found a display from the Washington State Patrol (ca. 1960s-1970s) that highlights various legal and illegal drugs. It contains a

sample of each item, along with a description of the dangers associated with its use. It's an interesting snapshot of a moment in time.

MH: What's your favorite event in Washington history?

MR: The legalization of gay marriage and marijuana. I think it's amazing that both of those things happened in my lifetime.

MH: What's your favorite thing to do while it rains in Washington?

MR: Visit California.

MH: What are you currently reading and what do you think about it?

MR: I just started reading "I Want My MTV: The Uncensored Story of the Music Video Revolution," by Rob Tannenbaum. I love pop culture and music videos, and the interviews in this book are fantastic.

I'm rereading "A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again: Essays and Arguments," by David Foster Wallace. He's my favorite author, and the title essay is hilarious.

MH: What are your interests/activities, outside of work?

MR: Socializing, eating, singing, puttering.