

## Employee Spotlight – Maggie Cogswell

Contributed by Tracy Rebstock, Southwest Regional Archivist

Maggie works for the Washington State Archives, Olympia Branch in Research Services. She recently spent a week in Salt Lake City, Utah at the National Genealogical Conference where she reported that 21,000 people (at least) joined her in learning about genealogy and family research. Before she left, Tracy Rebstock sent her a list of probing questions. Here are her responses:



**TR:** Where did you go to college?

**MC:** University of Montana for my bachelors and Emporia State University for my masters.

**TR:** What degrees do you have?

**MC:** I have a bachelor's degree in History and a minor in Art History, and a Masters of Library Science degree with specialization in Archival Preservation and Management.

**TR:** What, if any, further degrees or certifications are you pursuing?

**MC:** In one more year I will qualify to take the test to get my Archives Certification, which I am hoping to do at an SAA conference in the near future. I would also like to be certified as a professional genealogist.

**TR:** Do you have any other special training? And what is it? Where have you worked before:

**MC:** I have never been trained in genealogical research per se, but I have been doing genealogy for over 15 years. It is a passion, and I love getting to help people with their genealogy research here at the state archives. When I was working on my master's degree, I volunteered at the National Archives Branch in Seattle as a genealogical aid.

**TR:** What honors/awards have you received?

**MC:** Last year I, and others here at the archives, received the Governor's Award of Excellence for our work in Oso. I spent 3 days in Arlington last spring helping clean and preserve photographs, books, and records belonging to the families who lost their homes in the Oso landslide.

**TR:** Could you give us some personal background?

**MC:** I grew up in Tacoma, WA but I was born in Las Vegas, NV. I spent a lot of time there as a child, but I consider Washington my home. I live in Olympia with my husband, David, our two cats, Olive and Noah, and our puppy, Penny. And before I decided to pursue a career in library science and archives I trained as an artist and photographer in San Francisco. I lived in SF for three years in a tiny 400 sq. ft. apartment on Nob Hill.

**TR:** What are your hobbies?

**MC:** At the moment my hobbies are house projects and yoga! Last summer we bought a 1920's cottage near Priest Point Park, and I have been busy painting and decorating ever since. It is one of my favorite things to do. I have also been practicing Yoga on and off for about 12 years. I just recently picked it back up again, and am really enjoying it.

**TR:** Are there any political or social issues you feel passionately about?

**MC:** I am not very politically active, but I do feel passionately about education, health, and women's rights.

**TR:** Do you have a nickname?

**MC:** Mags, Magpie, Magster, Maggie May...

**TR:** List your favorites (book, movie or play, quote, poem, website, type of food or individual dish, music genre, song, band or individual musician, perfume, clothing style or designer, etc.). Pick one or two, or list them all.

**MC:** **Book**—Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro; **Movie**—Away We Go by Sam Mendes; **Quote**—"Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful" – William Morris; **Poem**—"Hug O' War" by Shel Silverstein; **Website**—Pinterest...I'm obsessed; **Food**—Indian!; **Band**—This changes all the time, but at the moment it's Saintseneca; **Clothing Style**—cute and comfortable

**TR:** Where have you traveled?

**MC:** I've been all over the U.S. including the southwest, northeast and mountain states. And I've travelled a bit in Europe, including the UK and France.

**TR:** Who is your role model and why?

**MC:** Peter Reinhart—he does one thing really well. Baking bread. I endeavor to have that kind of focus in my life.

**TR:** What things do you not like to do?

**MC:** Make dinner, clean the cat box, and sit for long periods of time. I'm terrible on road trips, after two hours I start to get anxious and have to jog around the car.

**TR:** What is your super power or what is your spirit animal?

**MC:** I have the power to organize anything! Seriously. I can help you.