

Citing the reading material for Week 1, describe how the archival profession has been responsive to society and the changes that have occurred in it.

Some of the most impactful changes in society that has affected the archival profession are technology/ digital preservation, reduced funding and accessibility to materials. With the changes in technology the first thing that has to change for this profession to remain relevant is the mindset of the archivist. The archivist must be willing to embrace the rapid technological changes; we will need to continue to be on the cutting edge of records creation and curation so that we can be capable of handling the new media as it makes its way through our doors and into our holdings. (Trinkaus-Randall, 2013)

With reduced funding, it is more important now than ever to advocate. The value and importance of the services that we provide and the assets that we preserve are fundamental to our society. Records are essential, and we need to ensure their long-term viability. (Trinkaus-Randall, 2013) The archival profession is responsible for finding the support need for this field to remain relevant and accessible.

Collaboration is one solution echoed in various assigned articles. Collaboration among other archivist, libraries, museums and educational institutions will help us to serve the end user better. In 2004 the Parliament of Canada formed a collaboration by merging the National Archives of Canada with the National Library, creating an entity called Library and Archives Canada. (Given & McTavish, 2010) This new institution combined the functions of archives, libraries, and museums. Doing this made information more accessible to the public.

We must work with our colleagues in the library, museum, and other information fields to develop a stronger advocacy presence in Washington to push Congress to recognize the substantial impact that federal funding has on the long-term retention and preservation of our cultural heritage and government records. (Trinkaus-Randall, 2013) In the wake of reduced funding, collaboration and advocacy are essential to the survival of the archival profession.

References:

Given, L. & McTavish, L. (2010). What's Old Is New Again: The Reconvergence of Libraries, Archives, and Museums in the Digital Age. *The Library Quarterly*, 80(1), 7-32.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1086/648461>

Trinkaus-Randall, G. (2013). The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The Archival Profession and Future Challenges (with an introduction by Robert P. Spindler). *The American Archivist*, 76(1), 7-18.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.17723/aarc.76.1.u1837m316015t43v>