

Archivists, Curators, and Museum Workers

SOC: 25-4010 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$57,100

Median Salary

40,200

Employment

+6.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 10.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

8.2/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	3.8/10	Investigative	6.6/10
Artistic	7.6/10	Social	9.4/10
Enterprising	5.2/10	Conventional	6.0/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Customer-service skills, Detail oriented, Organizational skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Archivists, Curators, and Museum Workers manage, preserve, and interpret **historical, cultural, and artistic collections**. They organize exhibits, maintain records, and educate the public about artifacts and collections. Their work is critical in museums, archives, libraries, and cultural institutions.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy history, research, and working with artifacts or cultural materials.

What Do Archivists, Curators, and Museum Workers Do?

These professionals oversee collections, organize exhibitions, and ensure the preservation and accessibility of materials.

Common responsibilities include:

- Cataloging, documenting, and preserving artifacts, documents, or artworks
- Planning and organizing exhibits and educational programs
- Conducting research on collections, provenance, and historical context
- Maintaining and securing collections to prevent damage or loss
- Assisting researchers, educators, or the public in accessing materials
- Collaborating with museum staff, historians, and curators
- Ensuring compliance with ethical, legal, and professional standards

Key Areas of Archiving and Museum Work

Professionals may specialize in particular collections or functions:

- Archival Management: Preserving historical records, documents, and manuscripts
- Curatorial Work: Developing and managing exhibits, collections, and acquisitions
- Education and Public Outreach: Conducting tours, lectures, and educational programs
- Conservation and Preservation: Maintaining and restoring artifacts or artworks
- Research and Documentation: Studying collections for scholarly and public purposes

Skills and Abilities Needed

Archivists, curators, and museum workers combine research, organizational, and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education and practical experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): History, museum studies, archival science, or related fields
- Master's Degree (optional but common): Museum studies, library science, or specialized archival programs
- Internships or Volunteer Experience: Gaining hands-on experience in museums or archives
- Certification (optional): Professional credentials in archiving or museum management
- Continuous Learning: Staying current on preservation techniques, museum technology, and professional standards

Where Do Archivists, Curators, and Museum Workers Work?

They are employed in institutions that preserve and present cultural, historical, or artistic materials:

- Museums and Art Galleries
- Historical Societies and Archives
- Libraries and Special Collections
- Universities and Research Institutions

- Government and Cultural Agencies

Work environments include exhibition halls, archives, conservation labs, and educational spaces.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires attention to detail, research skills, and the ability to handle delicate or valuable materials. Professionals must balance preservation, interpretation, and public engagement.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy history, culture, or art
- Are detail-oriented and organized
- Have research and analytical skills
- Can communicate effectively with the public
- Want a career preserving and sharing knowledge through collections

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in history, art, museum studies, or archival science
- Volunteer or intern in museums, archives, or libraries
- Develop research, cataloging, and communication skills
- Learn preservation and conservation techniques
- Explore professional certifications or advanced degrees in museum and archival work

Archivists, curators, and museum workers preserve and interpret collections, ensuring that cultural, historical, and artistic materials are maintained and accessible for education and public enrichment.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/curators-museum-technicians-and-conservators.htm>