

Historians

SOC: 19-3093 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$74,050

Median Salary

3,400

Employment

+2.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Master's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 8.0% 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

7.5/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	6.2/10	Investigative	9.4/10
Artistic	5.6/10	Social	6.4/10
Enterprising	4.8/10	Conventional	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Analytical skills, Communication skills, Foreign language skills, Problem-solving skills, Research skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Historians research, analyze, and interpret **historical information from documents, artifacts, and other sources to understand and explain the past**. They study events, cultures, and societal trends to provide insight into human history and inform education, policy, and preservation. Their work is critical in academia, museums, government, and public education.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy research, critical thinking, and communicating knowledge about history.

What Do Historians Do?

These professionals investigate historical events, compile evidence, and interpret findings for research or public knowledge.

Common responsibilities include:

- Conducting research using primary and secondary sources
- Analyzing documents, artifacts, and other historical evidence
- Writing reports, articles, and books on historical topics
- Presenting findings through lectures, exhibitions, or media
- Advising educational institutions, museums, or government agencies
- Preserving records, archives, and historical data
- Collaborating with other historians, researchers, and educators

Key Areas of Historical Research

Historians may specialize in time periods, geographic regions, cultures, or specific historical topics:

- Archival Research: Examining documents, manuscripts, and records
- Oral History and Fieldwork: Collecting personal accounts and cultural narratives
- Historical Interpretation and Writing: Publishing scholarly articles, books, and reports
- Museum and Preservation Work: Curating exhibits and preserving artifacts
- Education and Public Outreach: Teaching, lecturing, and advising the public

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine research, analytical, and communication skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires advanced education and research experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): History or related field
- Master's or Doctoral Degree (common): Specialized research, teaching, or curatorial work
- Research Experience: Internships, assistantships, or archival work
- Professional Development: Training in historical methods, preservation, and educational outreach
- Continuing Education: Staying current with historiography, technology, and research methods

Where Do Historians Work?

They are employed in organizations focused on research, education, and preservation:

- Universities and Academic Institutions
- Museums and Cultural Institutions
- Government Agencies and Archives
- Research Centers and Think Tanks

- Libraries and Historical Societies

Work environments include offices, libraries, archives, research labs, and field sites.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires extensive research, critical thinking, and attention to detail. Historians must analyze complex sources, interpret findings accurately, and communicate insights effectively.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy research, analysis, and writing
- Have strong attention to detail and critical thinking skills
- Are passionate about history and education
- Can communicate complex ideas clearly
- Want a career contributing to knowledge, preservation, and public understanding

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in history, research methods, and writing
- Participate in archival, museum, or research internships
- Develop strong writing, analytical, and communication skills
- Explore undergraduate and graduate programs in history
- Gain experience in research projects, fieldwork, or historical analysis

Historians study, interpret, and preserve the past, providing insights that inform education, research, and cultural understanding.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/historians.htm>