

ROGER KERSHAW

Title

Volunteering at The National Archives: The National Archives' approach to user participation
Identifying best practice when working with volunteers at archives.

Note: This session will be presented during a working lunch and numbers will be limited.

Summary

The National Archives has worked with volunteers for many years on a number of activities, from traditional volunteering activities (such as cataloguing and conservation) to a combination of onsite volunteering, remote cataloguing and online collaboration projects.

Abstract

Volunteering at The National Archives: The National Archives' approach to user participation looks at all aspects of how we work with volunteers as an organisation, and recommends a strategic approach for the future.

One of the main recommendations highlights the need for consistent volunteer management, to ensure that we meet volunteers' needs (and that they, as a result, meet ours).

Our volunteering policy sets out what volunteers can expect from us and what we can expect from them. We have also developed an accompanying toolkit for volunteers, including a handbook and agreement to sign before they participate to a project.

Using case studies, this lecture will cover:

- Sharing success with volunteers
- Rewarding volunteers
- Supervising volunteers
- Retaining knowledge and expertise
- Effective Succession planning

Audience

Beginner to Intermediate – those working in Archives and Libraries