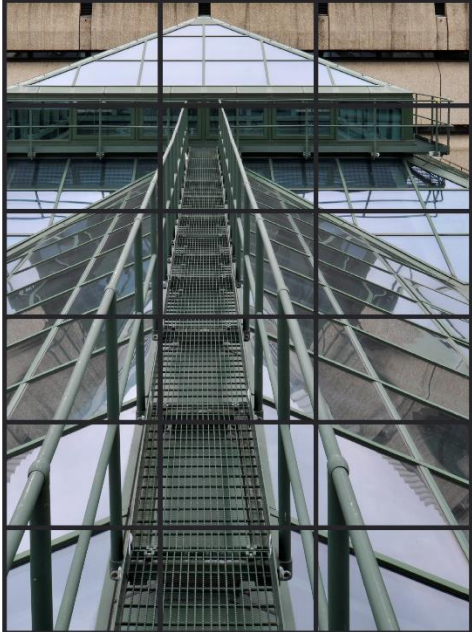


Survey of The National Archives' volunteers 2021



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January 2022



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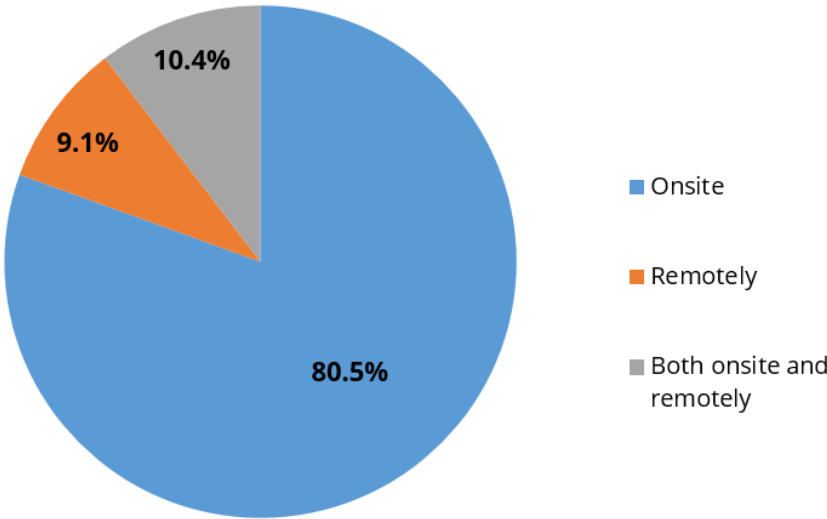


Background

- A survey is usually held annually to help TNA ensure a good experience for volunteers (though not held in 2020).
- Survey was live in November 2021 and generated 77 responses from a mix of onsite/remote volunteers

Where do you primarily undertake your voluntary work for The National Archives?

Please select the option that best describes your working patterns over the last month or, if you volunteer less often, the last five times you volunteered.



Profile of responders

- Around half of responders aged 65 to 74

What is your age?		Response Percent
1	Under 16	0%
2	16 to 24	0%
3	25 to 34	1%
4	35 to 44	0%
5	45 to 54	5%
6	55 to 64	17%
7	65 to 74	48%
8	75+	27%
9	Prefer not to say	1%

- 72% Female
- Most have been volunteering for more than 6 years, with the vast majority (over 80%) volunteering at least weekly.

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Motivations and Benefits to volunteering

'Interest in history' and 'for social reasons' are the most common reasons selected by volunteers as the motivations behind volunteering for The National Archives

What have you found to be the benefits?	Response Percent
Improved historical knowledge	83.1%
Meeting new people/socialising	75.3%
Sense of being part of a community	49.4%
Sense of being part of a workplace	46.8%
Learnt/improved research skills	45.5%
Learnt/improved archival skills	45.5%
Learnt/improved conservation skills	14.3%
Experience gained to enable me to take a related qualification	6.5%
Other	6.5%
Increased my employability	5.2%

Why did you want to volunteer? (Multiple choice)		Response Percent
Interest in history		79.2%
For social reasons		42.9%
To learn/improve archival and/or research skills		36.4%
To feel part of my local community		19.5%
Other		19.5%
To learn/improve conservation skills		10.4%
To continue feeling part of the place I worked		9.1%
To gain confidence with working with new people		7.8%
To improve my chances for future employment		6.5%
To gain experience before undertaking a related qualification		5.2%

← This is echoed by the benefits described – with 'improved historical knowledge' and 'meeting new people/socialising' the most selected.

To maintain this high satisfaction, the key areas to continue to focus on include:

- Flexibility in the timings of involvement
- Suitable equipment to undertake tasks onsite
- Good or sufficient access to computer files/folders/systems needed for tasks onsite
- Seeing the outcome/results from the project

- Receiving the right amount of feedback on individual volunteers' work

- More opportunities to find out about/get involved with other projects
- Additional background about the topic of the project