

CAREERS THROUGH MATHS: ARCHIVIST



Archivists use mathematics to solve complex problems and drive innovation. (Image Source: Unsplash)

JOB OVERVIEW

An Archivist is responsible for the systematic management and preservation of an organization's historical records and documents of enduring value. Daily responsibilities typically include acquiring new materials through donations or transfers, then meticulously arranging, cataloging, and describing them according to professional standards to ensure intellectual control. A significant portion of the role involves implementing and monitoring preservation protocols, which can range from rehousing fragile documents in acid-free containers to managing environmental conditions in storage areas and overseeing the digitization of analog materials to enhance accessibility and safeguard originals.

KEY MATHS APPLICATIONS

Primary Areas:

- **Statistics and Data Analysis:** Archivists use statistics to make evidence-based decisions about collection management. For example, they analyse user engagement data from their online...
- **Boolean Logic and Set Theory:** The fundamental principles of organising and retrieving information in archival databases are rooted in Boolean logic.
- **Geometry and Spatial Reasoning:** Effective storage is a critical and costly aspect of archival work. Archivists must use geometry and spatial reasoning to maximise storage capacity within a...

ESSENTIAL SKILLS & TOOLS

SKILL	APPLICATION
Digital Preservation Software (e.g., Preservica)	digital files over time.
Environmental Monitoring Equipment	Archivists use dataloggers to continuously monitor temperature and relative humidity in...

TYPICAL PATHWAY

The most common route into the profession is via a postgraduate qualification. After obtaining GCSEs and A-levels (where subjects like History, English, and Mathematics provide a good foundation), candidates must complete a first degree in any subject, though History,...

INDUSTRY DEMAND

The UK job market for archivists is stable but competitive, with roles concentrated in the public and charitable sectors (national archives, local government, universities, and heritage organisations).

REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Archivists are the guardians of the UK's collective memory, ensuring the survival of records that underpin democracy, identity, and history. Their work enables high-profile projects like the UK Parliament's Historic Hansard digitisation,...

QUICK FACTS

- **Education:** GCSEs and A-levels (where subjects like History, English, and Mathematics provide a good founda
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