

NARA Competency Model

IX - Digital Preservation Division

Archivist GS-13

Note: Competencies noted as "Not for selection" were rated as important to the job, but not required on entry and thus not to be used for screening candidates.

Core Competencies

Problem Solving (Thinks Analytically)

Seeks, examines, and interprets information from different sources to determine a problem's cause and develop a course of action for problem resolution. Analyzes information, develops and evaluates multiple solutions to a question or problem, and selects the most appropriate solution for the situation. Recommends innovative approaches to improve processes and results.

Interpersonal Skills (Collaborates Across Boundaries)

Works cooperatively with others across functions and geographic locations to achieve team and organizational goals. Builds and maintains strong relationships with others both internal and external to the organization. Seeks out and integrates diverse views and perspectives to enhance work quality and results.

Execution and Results (Takes Accountability for Results)

Takes ownership and accountability to ensure that work is completed accurately, efficiently, and in a timely manner, even when faced with multiple priorities. Identifies and uses the resources, tools, and information needed to achieve goals and objectives. Demonstrates flexibility, persistence, commitment, and initiative to resolve obstacles and respond to changing priorities.

Customer Service (Provides Customer Service)

Actively looks for ways to help internal and/or external customers locate information or resolve problems and issues. Gives full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and following up to ensure customer satisfaction. Provides information and resources to fulfill customer obligations and resolve customer complaints.

Communication (Communicates Openly)

Communicates opinions, facts, and thoughts with clarity, transparency, and honesty. Seeks diverse perspectives and listens openly to others' points of views. Demonstrates the courage to speak up on issues and risks as well as present good news. Researches information for and prepares documents and presentations that effectively convey relevant information.

Organizational Awareness (Demonstrates Organizational Awareness) (Not for selection)

Demonstrates behaviors and actions that are aligned with the agency's mission and function, applying programs, policies, procedures, rules, and regulations to work activities. Places a high priority and focus on supporting NARA's mission and achieving agency goals. Considers the potential impact of external factors (for example, changes in legislation) on the needs and objectives of one's department and the agency as a whole.

General Competencies**Influences/Negotiates with Others**

Promotes ideas and proposals persuasively. Shapes others' opinions, convinces or persuades others, and gains support through own actions/examples or persuasion in an ethical manner. Achieves mutually satisfying agreements in negotiations with others by listening to different objectives, effectively communicating own objectives, and seeking common ground and collaborative situations.

Leads Teams

Leads teams of diverse individuals that can work collaboratively to achieve business objectives, openly communicates, discusses, and works through team objectives, and promotes shared accountability for individual and team performance. Promotes coordination and teamwork, leverages team members' strengths and weaknesses, and takes steps to optimize team performance. Celebrates team successes, evaluates setbacks, and implements processes and approaches to continually improve performance and results.

Manages Projects

Achieves desired outcomes on projects, on time, and within budget. Designs and plans the project, defines the project workflow, and manages the project team. Controls and provides project deliverables, optimizes the contribution of the people involved, and makes decisions and assesses the impact of those decisions on quality, productivity, schedules, cost, performance, etc. Evaluates and reports progress against goals and milestones.

Embraces Continual Learning

Seeks opportunities to expand knowledge and skills through formal and informal education, training, and feedback. Identifies and leverages own strengths and developmental needs and strives to improve own skills. Acquires new knowledge related to business, professional, and technological changes and developments. Demonstrates and supports continual learning, and shares knowledge and expertise with others.

Utilizes Computer Technology

Utilizes computer technology and software applications (e.g., word processing, spreadsheets, databases, web-based tools) to perform work activities. Applies technologies and/or tools to improve work, productivity, or customer service.

Demonstrates Business Savvy

Uses workload, performance, statutory requirement, and customer satisfaction data to evaluate the costs, benefits, risks and impact when making decisions. Drives program results by planning and prioritizing activities consistent with organizational goals. Promotes ideas that improve performance.

Manages Contracts

Monitors contracts with vendors, including conducting market research, defining work needed, soliciting and evaluating proposals, making recommendations for vendor selection, finalizing the terms of the contract, and initiating contract revisions to meet changing program requirements. Monitors contractor activities, manages related budgets and financial requirements, and ensures that contract requirements are met and all activities through closeout are performed in compliance with contract terms.

Technical Competencies

Conducts Archival Processing

Performs archival processing, demonstrating knowledge required to appraise, transfer, review, arrange, describe, preserve, and establish/maintain physical and intellectual control of archival holdings. This requires applying knowledge of the laws, regulations, and governing authorities affecting access to records (e.g., the Presidential Records Act, the Freedom of Information Act).

Manages Record Life Cycle

Demonstrates and communicates knowledge and understanding of the record lifecycle, including the interrelationship of each stage of the lifecycle. Participates in and/or leads the development and implementation of life cycle management programs, policies, procedures, appraisals, schedules, training, audits, and outreach initiatives. Provides technical assistance and support to others within the agency and other Federal agencies on records creation, maintenance, and disposition in all media and formats. This may include issues related to access and security. Maintains currency in changes in technology and research needs as well as new methods for managing Federal records in all media and formats.

Applies Knowledge of [Subject Area(s)/Disciplines]

Demonstrates expertise in records and related materials pertinent to [Subject Area(s)/Discipline(s)]. Maintains currency in the history, organization, operations, and trends relevant to [Subject Area(s)/Discipline(s)] as well as the applicable Federal laws, authorities, and regulations. Maintains currency in the interrelationship of these subjects with [other key subject area(s)]. Provides technical consultation on [Subject Area(s)/Discipline(s)] to meet the needs of NARA, other Federal agencies, researchers, or others.

Performs [Records Mgmt/Archival Functions]

Uses records and information management principles as well as archival principles and related agency policies to perform [Records Management/Archival Function(s)]. Examines and applies [Subject Area(s)/Discipline(s)] to define the scope, context, purpose, and direction of records management, maintenance, and control processes. Considers the impact and implications of these activities on agency services, customer needs, and customer expectations.

Performs Reference Services (Not for selection)

Provides reference services using knowledge of records and their context. Communicates with stakeholders (e.g., researchers) to determine their areas of interest. Conducts preliminary research and analysis for the purposes of reference. Makes recommendations based on findings, conclusions, resources (e.g., cost, time), organizational goals, and customer goals.

Applies Risk Assessment and Analysis

Demonstrates and communicates knowledge and understanding of the causes and probabilities for records loss or damage. Participates and/or leads the development and implementation of programs, policies, procedures, training and outreach related to issues such as litigation support, records security, risk analysis, vital records protection, business continuity, disaster preparedness/recovery, and maintaining record authenticity/reliability. Provides technical assistance and support to others within the agency and other Federal agencies on these issues.

Conducts Outreach Activities

Plans, implements, or participates in outreach services to groups outside of the agency about its holdings and collections. This includes preparing and giving talks or tours and developing or assisting with programs and events sponsored by the agency (e.g., exhibits, educational, public, and volunteer programs, workshops, open houses, funding, sponsorship).

Conducts Research and Analysis

Conducts research and analysis in [Subject Area(s)/Discipline(s)] for the purposes of [activities (record appraisal, disposition, arrangement, description, preservation, etc.)]. Conceptualizes and defines the condition, value, and significance of the information, and evaluates the potential future use. Recommends appropriate actions based on analytical findings and conclusions, considering properties, resources (e.g., cost, time), and organizational and customer goals.

Applies Knowledge of Information Technology

Demonstrates expertise in information technology applicable to digitization, reformatting, metadata development, digital asset management systems, and archival electronic descriptive systems (e.g., ARC, EAD, ERA/EOP). Provides recommendations for selection of software, hardware, and data delivery systems.

Applies Knowledge of American History and Government

Demonstrates expertise in American history and principles of American government. Demonstrates expertise on cultural, political, and economic history as well as topics of contemporary interest.

Links to Assessments (For Staffing Specialist Use Only):

[Job Analysis Worksheet](#)

[Competency Usage Plan](#)

[Occupational Questionnaire](#)

[Structured Interview Guide](#)