

(Volunteering) gave me real world experience in what this career path was going to look like.

# Alumni Profile

### Lizz Birchall

BA Hons '14 History and Religious Studies

#### **Current Career**

**Organization**: Diocese of London **Title**: Archives Assistant

#### **Career Overview**

After graduating from King's with an Honors Specialization in History and a Major in Religious Studies, I attended the University of Toronto's iSchool, graduating from the Masters of Information program in 2016. I specialized in Archives and Records Management, and Knowledge and Information Management. Currently, I work as the Diocese of London's Archives Assistant, the Assistant Archivist with the Ursuline's of the Chatham Union and as an Archival Consultant with Majer Historical Solutions.

#### How did King's prepare you for your current role?

Being able to volunteer really opened doors for me. It also gave me an honest look at what this career path was going to look like, and it helped me decide whether it was a career path I wanted to invest myself in. Juggling both academics and a job is real-world experience that you can only gain by doing. It is hard, but it teaches you organizational skills and balancing your social life.

## What advice would you give a current student looking to enter your field?

Don't be afraid to volunteer while you're in school. Call places such as heritage sites and museums, and just say "This is the field I want to get into; how can I gain some experience?" Ask them to direct you or put you in contact with someone, and start building your network. Volunteering will help you to understand the realities of what you are getting into.

#### **Additional Education:**

MI '16, University of Toronto iSchool

