

Follow-up to SIA 2011 Fall Workshop - Nuts and Bolts: Archives Basics

I would like to thank the Society of Indiana Archivists for providing the John Newman – Professional Development Scholarship! When one finds herself in the role of an “accidental archivist,” the challenges can be daunting. I think there is added pressure to make sure one does things “right,” because we know people have placed into our hands their treasured papers, artifacts, records, etc. We value the fact that they have shared a part of themselves and or their organizations, and we want to take care of these treasures the proper way. This workshop; *Nuts and Bolts: Archives Basics* helped me to see that key components are in place, those nut and bolts are holding together a great foundation on which to build. One just has to jump in and continue to build, and make things accessible to the public at large, so those treasures entrusted to us can be shared for generations to come. Having the opportunity to go over the basics, meet others working in the field and listening to their stories over a shared cinnamon roll, small groups or lunch, reinforces my confidence in how I have handled collections up to this point. I want to thank my colleagues at Purdue University for suggesting I attend the workshop and for helping me to continue to build upon my archival skills as a paraprofessional. I get enjoyment everyday knowing I might help in some small way to make accessible the great collections Purdue has to offer future generations of *Boilermakers* and the public at large.

Mary Sego
Archives Assistant
Purdue University, West Lafayette