

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

Elizabeth Yakel, associate professor of information, with tenure, School of Information, is recommended for promotion to professor of information, with tenure, School of Information.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1997	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
A.M.L.S.	1982	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
A.B.	1980	Brown University

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Associate Professor of Information, with tenure, School of Information, University of Michigan
2006 – present	Editor, <i>Archival Science</i>
2000-2005	Assistant Professor of Information, School of Information, University of Michigan
1997 – 2000	Assistant Professor of Information, School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Yakel has made important contributions to the instructional mission at the School of Information, including co-teaching a required introductory master's degree course in two of the last three years; developing and teaching required courses in the Preservation of Information specialization; and teaching a core doctoral methods course. Overall, since her promotion to associate professor, with tenure, in 2005, Professor Yakel has taught or co-taught 20 sections of nine different courses (Records and Archives, Access Systems for Archives Materials, Preserving Information, Qualitative Methods, Advanced Preservation Administration, Digitization for Preservation, Information in Social Systems, Workshop in Digital Preservation, Digital Preservation). In 2007, Professor Yakel led the effort to launch the Preservation of Information (PI) master's specialization and she has contributed significantly to maintaining and strengthening the PI specialization through development of new courses; implementation of an internship program (supported through an award obtained by Professor Yakel from the Institute of Museum and Library Services); and involvement of PI doctoral students in the teaching and mentoring of master's students. In 2010, Professor Yakel and her colleagues received an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities to develop the Preservation and Access Virtual Education Laboratory, which is allowing Professor Yakel to introduce and use innovative technologies in the classroom, therefore keeping School of Information students at the forefront of practice and instruction in archives and preservation.

Professor Yakel has been a committed and effective instructor in the classroom. Across the 19 course sections she has taught or co-taught (for which evaluation data are available), Professor Yakel had course ratings that are nearly always good to excellent. In every section taught, her instructor ratings were 3.5 or higher (10 were 4 or higher). Professor Yakel's courses have been

central in the Preservation of Information master's degree specialization and her courses are also important to the doctoral curriculum.

Professor Yakel has chaired the dissertation committees of three doctoral students who successfully defended their dissertation and serves as chair for three current doctoral students. In addition, Professor Yakel serves or has served on 14 dissertation committees for students in the fields of education, information science, and nursing. She leads the Archives Research Group in which doctoral students and faculty present research and provide feedback on articles, posters, and presentations. Finally, Professor Yakel has advised two master's thesis projects.

Research: Professor Yakel's research addresses complex issues that arise from the application of information technology to records production and archival capture. Her areas of focus include: human information behavior and archives; archival representation; development and use of archival metrics; and the use of social media to create and sustain communities of users around archival resources. In each of these areas, Professor Yakel's external reviewers place her among the top archival scholars in the world. In more than one highly influential study she has demonstrated the importance of users, their perspectives, capabilities and information behavior for designing and assessing the effectiveness of archives.

Professor Yakel has had excellent success obtaining funding to support her research program. Since her promotion to associate professor, with tenure, in 2005, Professor Yakel has received \$2.9 million through 11 awards from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the John Evans Foundation, the Rackham Graduate School, and the National Archives and Records Administration. This is an unusually high level of funding for archives research. More significant, Professor Yakel has used this support to launch a broad array of activities, ranging from basic research to professional development.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Duff, W.M., Yakel, E., Tibbo, H.R., Cherry, J.M., McKay, A., Krause, M.G., and Sheffield, R. (2010). The development, testing, and evaluation of archival metrics toolkits. *American Archivist*, 73, 569-599.

Yakel, E. and Tibbo, H.R. (2010). Standardized survey tools for assessment in archives and special collections. *Performance Measurement and Metrics*, 11, 211-222.

Yakel, E., Rieh, S.Y., St. Jean, B., Markey, K., and Kim, J. (2008). Institutional repositories and the institutional repository. *American Archivist*, 71, 323-249.

Yakel, E. (2003). Archival representation. *Archival Science*, 3, 1-25.

Yakel, E. and Torres, D.A. (2003). AI: Archival intelligence and user expertise. *American Archivist*, 66, 51-78.

Krause, M.G. and Yakel, E. (2007). Interaction in the virtual archives: The Polar Bear Expedition digital collections. *American Archivist*, 70, 282-314.

Yakel, E. (2002). Listening to users. *Archival Issues*, 26, 111-128.

Service: Throughout her academic career, Professor Yakel has actively engaged in and sought service appointments at the University of Michigan, the School of Information, and within her broader professional community.

Within the School of Information, Professor Yakel has served on the Curriculum Committee three times (twice as chair) the Doctoral Committee two times; the Search Committee two times (once as chair); the Master's Committee; the Dean's Advisory Committee (elected position); and the ALA Accreditation Committee (where she wrote the chapter on the faculty). Also, Professor Yakel developed and was the first coordinator for the Preservation of Information specialization. This is a very high level of service and is marked by several highlights, including a major evaluation and re-design of the School's core curriculum during her first term as curriculum chair.

Within the University of Michigan, Professor Yakel has been selected by the Provost to serve on three influential committees: the Interdisciplinary Junior Faculty Initiative Proposal Review Committee (2010); the Search Committee for the Director of the William L. Clements Library (2007 – 2008); and the William L. Clements Library, Building Committee (2007 – present). In addition, Professor Yakel applied for and was selected at both the school level and the university level to participate in the Committee on Institutional Cooperation's Academic Leadership Program (2008 – 2009). Also, Professor Yakel has served as the School of Information representative to the Faculty Senate (2000 – 2002) and is currently the School's member of the University of Michigan Faculty Grievance Review Board (2009 – 2011). Finally, in cooperation with colleagues in Communications, English, and American Culture, Professor Yakel led a successful effort to fund an Interdisciplinary Junior Faculty cluster in the area of digital environments.

Externally, Professor Yakel has served in numerous roles within her professional community. Notably, she is the editor of *Archival Science*, the premier journal in the archive field. She was an elected member of the governing council of the Society of American Archivists and currently serves on the education committee of that organization – where she has also been selected as a fellow. Professor Yakel does reviewing for numerous journals, conferences, and funding agencies. Professor Yakel gives numerous invited talks and keynote speeches each year. Finally, Professor Yakel has been a leader in defining guidelines for graduate programs in archival studies, including her participation in (and, in 2010, serving as program chair and host for) the Archival Education and Research Institute.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "As to whether Dr. Yakel would be promoted to a full professor position at my school, I believe she would be a slam-dunk."

Reviewer B: "Her contributions to scholarship in scholarly journal peer review committees, her presentations to international conferences, and the high quality of her numerous research publications warrant promotion to full professor and I believe her file would be so ranked at [my] university."

Reviewer C: "I have no hesitation in stating that [her] work would certainly be comparable to what we would anticipate for a faculty member advancing to Full Professor at [my institution]."

Reviewer D: "Her work and scholarly reputation would certainly meet the requirements for someone being considered for an appointment of full professor and tenure at [my institution]."

Reviewer E: “Dr. Yakel’s research trajectory has progressed methodically and consistently over time and at its core tries to bring information, technology, and community together. Her writings have had a broad impact through such as American Archivist and Performance Measurement and Metrics.”

Reviewer F: “Professor Yakel’s work meets the requirements for [someone] being considered for a full professor position...”

Reviewer G: “Professor Yakel meets the criteria for promotion to full professor.... Her achievements are comparable with those of others appointed to Chairs in similar UK [United Kingdom] Departments.”

Reviewer H: “Her article on ‘Professionalism and the Development of an Archival Core Curriculum,’ is a particularly important assessment of archival education programs. The conclusions drawn about core curriculum have influenced the expectations of hiring officials like me for applicant education and shaped the individual development plans of professional archivists at all stages of their career.”

Reviewer I: “...I would place Dr. Yakel as one of the top eight archival researchers in North America.”

Internal Review: The promotion and tenure subcommittee that produced Professor Yakel’s casebook unanimously recommended her promotion to professor. The full promotion and tenure committee of the School, consisting of all governing faculty at the rank of professor also voted unanimously for promotion.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Yakel has been a strong classroom teacher and successful Ph.D. mentor. She has also served as an educational leader, helping to draft guidelines for graduate education and securing funding to support forums for the advancement and dissemination of cutting-edge pedagogy in archives and preservation. Professor Yakel’s research has been highly influential for other leading scholars in this field, and has had important practical impact for the development of digital archives and for preservation practices. Finally, Professor Yakel’s record of service to the School, the University, and her broader professional community is exemplary. With the overwhelming support of the promotion and tenure committee of the School of Information, I enthusiastically recommend that she be promoted to professor of information, with tenure, School of Information.



Jeffrey K. MacKie-Mason
Arthur W. Burks Collegiate Professor of Information and Computer Science,
Professor of Economics and Public Policy, and Dean, School of Information

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