

ARCHIVES
and
MANUSCRIPTS

The Journal of the Australian Society of Archivists

The Archivist's Mission

Archivists ensure that records which have value as authentic evidence of administrative, corporate, cultural and intellectual activity are made, kept and used. The work of archivists is vital for ensuring organisational efficiency and accountability and for supporting understandings of Australian life through the management and retention of its personal, corporate and social memory.

Archives and Manuscripts is a publication of the Australian Society of Archivists Incorporated, PO Box 638, Virginia, Qld 4014, Australia.

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Printed on permanent paper by Fineline Printing, Melbourne.

Cover design by GRiD.

ISSN 0157-6895

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The recent establishment and growth of archives or repositories holding purely digital materials has seen an emergence of topic specific archives being created with minimal resources. Many such archives are eschewing traditional archival practices such as appraisal and description. Instead, they are relying upon the users to both donate material and provide the associated descriptive metadata. The result is a growing number of archives managed outside of traditional archival practice using a Web 2.0 approach focusing on user participation. The 9/11 Archive in Washington is one such archive and is used as the case study for this paper. Having been established in 2001, the archive has experienced many of the problems, and successes, this approach implies. This paper considers these and the implications they raise for the future of archiving more broadly.

Sue McKemmish, Shannon Faulkhead, Livia Iacovino and Kirsten Thorpe

Australian Indigenous knowledge and the
archives: embracing multiple ways of
knowing and keeping27

This paper presents the main findings of an Australian Research Council Linkage Research Project, Trust and Technology: Building Archival Systems for Indigenous Oral Memory, against the background

of a renewed national energy for reconciliation in Australia, and with reference to Indigenous human rights and how related charters and protocols relate to archival sources of Indigenous knowledge in Australia. It concludes by proposing an action agenda to guide a response by the Australian archival profession. The paper is based on a presentation to the joint ASA/ARANZ/PARBICA Conference, *Voyaging Together: Memory, Integrity, Sustainability*, held in Brisbane in October 2009.

Segomotso Masegonyana Keakopa

Overview of archival and records management developments in the ESARBICA region51

This article traces archival and records management developments in the Eastern and Southern African Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives (ESARBICA). Using examples from selected countries in the region, the article argues that developments in this region have, ever since the establishment of archival institutions, focused on concerns that have mounted from the independence period. Some of these concerns included: collection and preservation of oral traditions; preservation and conservation of archival materials; congestion of registries; frustrations in retrieval of information; limited budgetary provision; and inadequate staffing levels.

While the article argues that professionals in the region need to reposition themselves to play a new role in the management of electronic records, it recognises the need to also continue addressing the above concerns to ensure that archival institutions remain relevant in their 'traditional' role. To help cope with the challenges faced by archivists and records managers in the region, the article argues that strengthened archival leadership, and forming partnership with stakeholders, would be a good step in the right direction. The article concludes by proposing that the region needs coordinated efforts and detailed research to find better solutions and inform regional policies in archival and records management developments.

Matthew Gordon-Clark and Simon Shurville

‘To take up arms against a sea of troubles’:
finding safe havens for the national archives
of low-elevation Pacific islands and nations
threatened by climate change78

Climate change is not new, and history suggests that low level geographic areas are prone to environmental impacts. The national archives of threatened nations are therefore at risk of damage and/or permanent loss. This article aims to identify many of the issues needing consideration if national archives are moved from potential risk. To achieve the aim, the article discusses the plausibility of transferring national archives from Pacific islands and nations threatened by rising sea levels to safer havens with appropriate cultures, geographies, infrastructures and above all a political will to preserve international archives.

Maryanne Dever, Sally Newman and Ann Vickery

The intimate archive94

This article examines the issues involved in using archival material to research the personal lives of the Australian writers Marjorie Barnard (1897–1987), Aileen Palmer (1915–1988) and Lesbia Harford (1891–1927). The article provides an introduction into the romantic experiences of the three women, based on their private letters, diaries and notebooks held in public institutions, including the National Library of Australia’s Manuscript Collection.

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