

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.

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The Heiner Affair has global implications for archivists and records managers. This article examines North American responses to the Heiner Affair and its legacy regarding recordkeeping and political pressure. The events of the Heiner Affair followed earlier recordkeeping scandals in North America, and subsequent scandals in South Africa and the United States showed the extent of improper records destruction. The global legacy of Heiner highlights these problems, including political pressure on archival processes and concerns for protecting whistleblowers. It must be understood in the international context of such issues as accountability, open government, and social justice.

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Rapidly emerging Internet services and tools raise many questions for those of us concerned with memory, with ensuring the retention and future availability of records. This 'think piece' looks at the implications of two prominent developments, WikiLeaks and Web 2.0 services, especially the social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter. Those tools have quickly become the means for self-expression, staying in touch with others and creating business opportunities. Their capabilities have built new online communities and encouraged the sharing and use of much information held by both individuals

and institutions. WikiLeaks has taken the desire for openness to new levels by providing a means for publishing leaked material globally and anonymously. These tools and their use challenge many of our assumptions, including conceptions of privacy and confidentiality, security and integrity, and, at least implicitly, authority.

Paul Dalgleish

The thorniest area: making collections accessible online while respecting individual and community sensitivities 67

New technologies and the Internet now make possible wide access through digital copies to the collections of libraries, archives and museums. This represents an unprecedented opportunity to make their collections accessible and a historic change in the way information is delivered. Archives and libraries are meeting the challenges and using the opportunities presented. Access and disclosure are now no longer narrowly legal concepts encompassing permission to view material in a reading room. Legal permission is only the first step in making material available. The second step is to decide how to make collection material available, whether through original materials in reading rooms, single copies provided to individuals, or online copies available to the world. The space between what can legally be displayed online and what individuals or the community will tolerate online is a complex one for archivists and other professionals in cultural institutions. In this space we encounter issues of privacy in regard to personal information and of community attitudes in relation to material that may be regarded as offensive. There has been little discussion of these issues in the literature. Governments and the public expect greater online access to the collections of cultural institutions. One response is for institutions to develop policies and procedures that reflect community concerns over the sort of material available online and that also result in consistent and defensible decisions in making material available online and reasoned responses to concerns about existing online content.

Mark Brogan and Martin Mase

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In 2009, the School of Computer and Security Science, Edith Cowan University, won an Ian Maclean Award to research the role of computer simulation in the archives online space. The grant was used to build an authentic World War I role-play game called *AE2 Commander*, based on the exploits of the World War I Australian submarine *AE2*. *AE2 Commander* is being used to research the application of serious gaming technologies and methods in the archives online space and to foster understanding of how original sources might be used as part of computer simulation and serious gaming.

In this article, the authors explore the application of computer simulation and gaming technologies to archives online.

*Sue McKemmish, Livia Iacovino, Eric Ketelaar,
Melissa Castan and Lynette Russell*

Resetting relationships: archives and Indigenous human rights in Australia..... 107

This paper provides an analysis of the Indigenous human rights agenda and identifies its relevance to Australian archivists. Based on this analysis and exploration of how far existing archival programs address archives-related Indigenous human rights issues, it presents a road map and action agenda for realising Indigenous cultural rights in records and archives, and embedding Indigenous human rights in the professional responsibilities, culture and practices of the Australian archival and records community. The analysis, road map and action agenda provide guidance for the Australian archival and records community working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The paper is based in part on the findings of the 2004–08 Trust and Technology Project, a collaborative research partnership funded by the Australian Research Council and involving Public Record Office Victoria, Koorie Heritage Trust Inc., Koorie Records Task Force, the Indigenous Issues Special Interest Group of the Australian Society of Archivists, and Monash University. It also draws on analysis and synthesis of the main themes and issues presented and discussed at a pre-conference workshop at the 2010

Australian Society of Archivists Conference in Melbourne, Archives and Indigenous Human Rights (AIHR): Towards an understanding of the archival and recordkeeping implications of Australian and international human rights for Indigenous Australians. The paper also references relevant sections of an Australian guide to implementing the 2007 United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recently issued by the Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). Implementation of an Indigenous human rights action agenda by the Australian archival community would represent a fitting response to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda's rallying call for a resetting of relationships between archival and Indigenous communities, involving the active participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in archive and recordkeeping systems.

Narissa Timbery Archives and Indigenous communities can work together: one Koori's perspective..... 145

The lack of appropriate consultation in research and program development is often a concern for Aboriginal communities. The practices of archival institutions in records access for the purposes of family research are another area of concern. This paper presents the findings of a reflective study of the consultation processes undertaken in three archival initiatives that aimed at improving access and relationships between archival institutions, research and practice, and Indigenous communities. This paper draws upon my own experiences and the findings of my research. The main finding is that one of the biggest mistakes often made in regards to consultation and archives is to apply the idea that 'one size fits all'; that all Aboriginal peoples and communities across Australia are the same, and if something works for one community then it will automatically work elsewhere. What I hope to do through this paper is to encourage readers to get to know the communities that they work with, and then translate that to the delivery of services, programs or research that engage communities and are therefore able to meet particular community needs. I mostly refer to Aboriginal peoples of the Australian mainland as these groups were the main target audiences for the initiatives that are the focus of this article. In so doing, it was not my intention to exclude Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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Kim Eberhard and Colleen McEwen

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This paper outlines the events which inspired the creation of the *Universal declaration on archives*, a statement of archival purpose and solidarity which was adopted by the International Council on Archives (ICA) in September 2010. The development process spanned a three-year period, during which a team of people from diverse backgrounds, archival traditions and languages came together to write a statement about the importance and value of archives. The intended audience for the declaration is the general public: those not immersed in the archival endeavour. The declaration stresses the link between archives (on the one hand) and basic human rights and government accountability (on the other), and indicates that archives are a valuable inheritance passed from one generation to another. The declaration was always intended to be used as a powerful promotional tool for archives, archivists and the ICA itself, and is currently in the process of being adopted by UNESCO as one of that organisation's standard-setting instruments.

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