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Articles

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Recent decades of globalisation have seen a number of social changes in communication modes in relation to societal risks, including the development of an increasingly critical public, and a growing reliance on public information. Under these conditions, the need for evidence-based public information resources, including archives, focused on societal risks has become more apparent. Published scientific resources are readily available, but the social and political sciences lack resources which provide knowledge about the regulation, perception and public responses to risk, in order to improve the outcomes of risk governance. This article reports on a project which has tested the feasibility of developing such a resource, the International Social Science Risk Database (ISSRD). The recent swine flu outbreak was used as an Australian-focused test case. The underlying structure of the ISSRD is drawn from the informatics articulated in the Australian Commonwealth Record Series (CRS) system for archival documentation and controlling metadata, but is extended to include a wider range of entity and relationship types. It is proposed that the

resultant mapping of risk events as a network, and in particular their visualisation, provides insights that will help archivists identify the most important record creators and appraise records for long-term value. The ISSRD provides broader contextualised understandings and this will contribute to improved societal management of risk.

How can we know what we think we know? Postmodernism insists that we can't. Seekers of historical knowledge have long looked in archives to understand the past but, as has often been discussed in archival literature, even archives are not the still points in a turning world we might have hoped for. It is not just that some records are privileged because they are selected for long-term preservation as archives while others are not. Even the records that do make it into the archives often have multifarious histories, both before and after they cross the threshold. Canadian archivist Tom Nesmith has noted that the processes by which a record is created are complex, and that a record rarely comes to us unchanged from its initial inscription. These processes expand the evidence a record can carry, and he encourages us to understand 'the record we now have'. This article takes up that challenge by examining the diaries and notebooks of Charles Bean, official war correspondent and historian of Australia's part in World War I. Bean's diaries and notebooks offer a particularly rich example of how knowledge of the history of a record expands the evidence it can carry.

This article outlines 10 headline findings from a three-year multidisciplinary project, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, on electronic records management (ERM). It also presents examples of solutions to try, or to avoid, grounded in

experience. A range of strategies and tactics exist and, although their relevance and success is very contextualised, they could be adopted or adapted in many scenarios. The findings highlight the complexity of the ERM challenge, the interrelationship of people, processes and systems/technology, and the predominant and powerful role of people in accelerating positive change, or not. Two strategic conclusions are drawn which are particularly important for records professionals to address: (1) the need to articulate a vision of successful ERM and (2) the need to reinterpret records management principles in the electronic environment.

This article describes the transformation that is taking place in two public municipalities and the information management challenges they are faced with as they engage in e-government developments. In order to enhance transparency, accountability and effective service delivery, the municipalities have invested in citizen-centric websites and hence made information accessible to the wider community. Municipal-level public administrations are slowly transforming from rigid organisations to organisations that are embracing change in order to cope with the increasing demand for high-quality service from citizens. They are also moving away from the 'silo way' of doing things and promoting collaboration among the municipal units and beyond. Information and its management have become crucial to e-government developments since it is looked upon as a national resource.

Social media use by public and private organisations has implications for the usability, reliability, authenticity and evidentiary capacity of their records and poses technological, resource and policy challenges.

It is essential to find ways to ensure social media technologies that are used in organisations and the policy frameworks that support their use are designed to mitigate the risks and address the recordkeeping challenges that organisational use of social media presents. This article argues there is a need for agile and responsive information policy that deals with the emergent recordkeeping challenges related to social media and suggests that elements from public policy models can be utilised in the development of organisational information policies that are well positioned to adapt to new information technologies.

To see how archivists themselves can play a role in the history of their country, and how post-colonial nations can use colonially-produced records in asserting their national identity, this paper looks at the Arsip Nasional (National Archive) of Indonesia, itself a remnant of the Dutch colonial past. Through the detailed study of one letter written by the Indonesian National Archivist shortly after the regime change that brought Suharto to power it is possible to see the change in the archival relationship between former coloniser and colonised. By reversing the strong anti-Dutch policies of the previous government Indonesia was able to engage in a high level of archival cooperation with the Netherlands and successfully reverse the colonial power of archives.

Reflections

This article is the third in a trilogy on the turbulent fortunes of the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) over the last decade. The first, 'A case of mistaken identity' (*Archives & manuscripts*, vol. 30, no. 1, May 2002, pp. 30–46) analysed the 1999 rebranding of the NFSA as 'ScreenSound Australia' and its consequences. The second, 'What's a nice archive like

you doing in a place like this', (*Archives & manuscripts*, vol. 32, no. 2, November 2004, pp. 178–190) covered the subsequent forced takeover of the NFSA in 2003 by the much smaller and dissimilar Australian Film Commission (AFC), and its immediate aftermath. This article covers the final phase of the story up to the attainment of independent statutory authority status for the NFSA in 2008.

Reviews