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Editorial

On 2 April 2019, the Victorian Branch of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) and Monash University organised a panel discussion on the relationships between research, education and professional practice in the Australian recordkeeping field. The panellists included Catherine Nicholls, Records Manager at Monash University and part-time doctoral candidate in the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Information Technology at Monash University; Katherine Jarvie, Assistant Director, Information Management and Archives at RMIT and part-time doctoral student at Monash University; Wenting Lyu, PhD student in archival science at the School of Information Management, Nanjing University and visiting PhD student in the Faculty of Information Technology, Monash University; James Hill, recent graduate and 2018 Margaret Jennings Award recipient; and myself as the new General Editor for *Archives and Manuscripts*. Some of the questions presented for discussion included:

- As we approach 2020 what interplays between scholarship in university and professional practice settings should we be fostering and encouraging?
- To what extent should records and archives education be primarily focused on preparing students for the practicalities of practice?
- Do Australian researchers and practitioners have a different understanding of records continuum theory?
- How do we raise the profile of and celebrate the skills of a PhD graduate to change (alleged) preconceptions in the workforce?

It was also an opportunity to discuss how we can encourage practitioners and new professionals to publish in *Archives and Manuscripts*, while continuing to improve the journal standing as a high-quality international archival science journal. Many exciting ideas were put forward, but it was only a beginning and I will be looking forward to pursuing this conversation. As the journal of the ASA, *Archives and Manuscripts* has a key role to play in presenting these new ideas and reflecting the new directions adopted by Australian recordkeeping professionals. As journal editor, I will be pleased to receive contributions on these topics and to discuss ideas for papers or for special issues of the journal.

I am keen to encourage dialogue between researchers and practitioners, and between Australian and international recordkeeping professionals. As a native French speaker who has lived in Australia for 26 years and published in English and in French, I am passionate about breaking the barriers between archival literatures that have developed in silos and about attracting papers which contribute to bridging the gap between archival traditions and to promoting intercultural communication between recordkeeping researchers and practitioners.

Contributions to *Archives and Manuscripts* can take the form of peer-reviewed articles (up to 10,000 words) or of shorter reflections (around 2000–3000 words) which can be less formal and are not subject to peer review. These can be more suited to practitioners who would like to write about a collection they have been working on or about a new technological tool they have used. A good example is the reflection on the Archive of the New South Wales Division of the Red Cross at the State Library of New South Wales by Michael Carney and Alison Wishart, published in this issue.

The editorial team is keen to support Australian practitioners and new professionals who wish to write about the projects they have been working on or about the new perspectives that they would like to bring to the profession. If you are not too sure how to approach this, please get in touch with me at journaleditor@archivists.org.au, with Assistant Editor, Hannah Hibbert (aandmoffice@archivists.org.au) or with our Book Reviews Editor, Annelie de Villiers (reviewseditor@archivists.org.au).

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The present issue showcases the diversity of the work being done in the archival field in Australia. It includes four peer-reviewed articles, all written by authors based in Australia, and one reflection on the Archives of the New South Wales Division of the Red Cross held at the State Library of New South Wales. The first two articles are expanded versions of papers which were presented at the 2018 ASA Conference in Perth. These Australian contributions are complemented by a revised and edited version of Jarrett's Drake closing keynote address at the 2017 ASA Conference in Melbourne.

In the first article, Greg Rolan, Glen Humphries, Lisa Jeffrey, Evanthia Samaras, Tatiana Antsoupova and Katharine Stuart provide a snapshot of the advances made by the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Australian recordkeeping. They present four case studies from Australian archival and government institutions that have embarked on AI initiatives: a machine-assisted email appraisal project at the Public Record Office Victoria, a pilot application of off-the-shelf machine-learning software to the classification of a corpus of unstructured data against a retention and disposal authority at the NSW State Archives and Records, a project investigating how to create retention and disposal authorisations in a format that supports digital business at the National Archives of Australia, and a project to test the application of microservices architecture and linked data technologies to capture data from an agency's email server at the Australian Government Department of Finance. The authors argue that archival professionals need to develop their understanding of AI concepts to ensure that recordkeeping needs are met into the future, and that retraining will be necessary to mitigate the knowledge and skills gap that is emerging between those who are familiar with AI concepts and those who are not.

In 'Memory-Making: A Review of the Community Heritage Grant Program 1994–2018', Leisa Gibbons from Curtin University presents her findings about the projects that have been funded by the Community Heritage Grant (CHG) Program, which is run by the National Library of Australia. The CHG Program makes funds available for not-for-profit organisations to fund significance assessments, preservation needs assessments, conservation activities and collection management, and associated training workshops. Over 23 years, more than 1320 grants have been handed out amounting to a total of more than $6.5 million. Gibbons shows that historical societies and community museums have been the most

successful types of organisations to obtain funding, and that conservation activities and collection management projects were the type of applications that received the most funding. She raises questions about the funding model and its validity and purpose in a changing social and technological environment. Her findings suggest that community memory-making needs are interpreted by the CHG Program in a narrow way, ignoring that from a memory-making perspective, some stories may be of local significance, while also parts of larger and ongoing narratives that provide evidence of social, cultural, political and economic norms and expectations.

In 'Metadata as a Machine for Feeling in Germaine Greer's Archive', Millicent Weber and Rachel Buchanan use sentiment analysis to interpret the archival metadata from the finding aid to the print journalism series in the Germaine Greer Archive held at the University of Melbourne Archives. Having been described in details at the item level, the archive provides an unprecedented amount of descriptive metadata, more than one million words. Weber and Buchanan use personal reflection and computational techniques, in particular sentiment analysis, to interrogate the finding aid that describes the 1268 paper items that make up the Print Journalism series. Sentiment analysis is a process that evaluates and classifies text as positive or negative based on the strength of the sentiment that it expresses. Weber and Buchanan argue that, as a method which privileges emotive understandings of content, it is particularly suited to the study of feminist archives like the Germaine Greer Archive. They show that the juxtaposition of a human qualitative analysis of the decisions that went into writing the finding aid and a computerised quantitative analysis can reveal that the metadata contains multiple types of evidence not only of Greer's career as a print journalist, but also of the career and life history of the archivist who created the metadata and the ambient knowledge developed within the team of archivists who worked on the archive.

The fourth article, written by Richard Pennell from the University of Melbourne, presents an historian's perspective on some differences between traditional paper-based archives and collections of born-digital or digitised records. Pennell discusses the process of digitisation of archives of collapsed regimes in the Middle East and North Africa between 1990 and 2011 and the political factors that influenced their release and recall from public view, and contrasts them with the release of born-digital records created in Libya by the revolutionary movement that led to the fall of Mu'ammar Qaddafi in 2011. The archives of collapsed regimes in the Middle East and North Africa, like Libya and Iraq, were made public by the forces that toppled them in a haphazard fashion and without the archives being subjected to appraisal processes. Pennell discusses whether these are archives or just collection of papers and whether the way they have been obtained and released and the way they are stored have implications for the ways in which historians can use them.

In 'An Archive of Humanity: The NSW Division of the Australian Red Cross, 1914–2014', Michael Carney and Alison Wishart describe the content and the accession process of the archive that was donated to the State Library of New South Wales by the NSW Division of the Red Cross as one part of the Australian Red Cross's Gift to the Nation to commemorate its centenary, which also saw the National and the Victorian Divisions of the Red Cross donating their archives to the University of Melbourne.[1] The transfer of the archive to the State Library of NSW took three years to complete as there were many hurdles to be negotiated along the way concerning the selection, the organisation and the transportation of the archive. The archive documents how the Australian Red Cross has grown as a humanitarian organisation

centred around events that have unfolded in the broader socio-political world. It can provide resources to a wide range of researchers including feminist historians and historians of World War I. As the Red Cross is the only ongoing, national society started and initially led by women, its archive offers a rich collection of materials to document volunteer work done by women in Australia over the past century and to bring a new light on a type of work that has traditionally been regarded as 'unproductive' and not contributing to the economy.

Finally, Jarrett Drake's reflection 'Diversity's Discontents: In Search of an Archive of the Oppressed' is a revised and edited version of his closing keynote address at the ASA National Conference in Melbourne on 27 September 2017. This emotive and powerful speech was delivered on one knee to symbolise Drake's solidarity with activists in the USA who have been protesting for years against police brutality and the impunity with which police officers in the USA kill black and brown people and Indigenous people.[2] In his reflection, Drake addresses the question of how archival professional associations can confront the issue of the exclusion of the voices and views of minority, oppressed and poor communities in the archives. He posits that a focus on increasing the diversity of the archival profession is not the solution and he discusses how archivists might transition from a language of diversity towards a language of liberation and the concept of an archive of the oppressed. He argues that 'dismantling white supremacy in archives' requires archivists to adopt 'a cooperative approach in which oppressed peoples are positioned as subjects in [their] liberation' and 'a constant self-reflection by all actors of the ways in which the oppressor manifests itself within each of us, as well as the ways those manifestations impede larger liberation projects'. He concludes that 'an archive of the oppressed requires rethinking and reimagining all dynamics of the archival process alongside oppressed peoples, positioning our collections materials for their usage in a way that aids them in coming into complete consciousness about the contours of their oppressions'.

Before concluding my first editorial for *Archives and Manuscripts*, I would like to thank Katrina Dean for all her efforts in stirring the journal forward and developing the journal content during the past two years. Her support and advice greatly facilitated my first six months as journal editor. She left the journal in very good shape with a healthy number of papers under review or already published online. Planned special issues include 'After the Digital Revolution: Preservation, Access and Use of Born-Digital Records in Literary Archives', guest-edited by Lise Jaillant from the University of Loughborough in the UK for the November 2019 issue, and a special issue on record-keeping, narrating and archiving of World War I records guest-edited by Bart Ziino and Anne-Marie Conde in 2020. More details to come.

Notes

1. Australian Red Cross, 'History and Heritage', available at <*https://www.redcross.org.au/about/history-and-heritage*>, accessed 21 April 2019.
2. <*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjJ1BwMXonc*>, accessed 21 April 2019.

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Viviane Frings-Hessami

General Editor, Archives and Manuscripts

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