



## Editorial

Appended to the obituary of Dr Sigrid McCausland published in this issue is an impressive bibliography of her publications. Among these is a 2012 review article published in this journal surveying its content since the inception of *Archives and Manuscripts* (A&M) in 1955.<sup>1</sup> This provided an informative and insightful context for receiving feedback from readers about A&M in the recent survey of members and readers. I would like to thank all 226 individuals who took the time to complete the survey and provide this valuable feedback. The A&M sub-committee of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) is developing a position paper about the future of the journal for members' consideration informed in part by the results of the recent survey. Members will be consulted once again before any decision is reached. For now, I can report on what some members would like to read in the journal.

Some of the aims and concerns of the journal when it was founded in 1955 remain familiar and relevant; notably the intention to nurture and stimulate a professional community in Australia. In response to the question 'What do you feel is the correct balance of Australian and international content in A&M?', 'Mainly Australia content' is preferred in 44 responses (21%), a mix of Australian and international authors is indicated by 90 (43%) and 49 feel 'articles should be accepted purely on merit without consideration for this kind of balance' (24%), with 22 responses (just under 11%) indicating 'no preference'.

A large number of suggestions about what topics you would like to see addressed in the journal were made by 112 respondents. These ranged across Australian content, case studies and practical studies, conference papers of professional utility, GLAM and museum archives, small archives, personal papers and business archives, standards, minority groups, community archives, information governance and recordkeeping practice, indigenous issues, archives and social justice, appraisal, new professionals, conservation, digital preservation, digitisation and the impact of technology developments in archives. Many of you provided concrete suggestions that will be followed up by the editorial team. Some referred specifically to conference papers at the 2016 ASA conference. In her 2012 article, McCausland noted that since 1977 the journal has published conference proceedings, although sometimes as a matter of chance rather than policy.<sup>2</sup>

The current editorial team aims to publish ASA conference keynotes, papers and contributions. It is worth pointing out that not all contributions (conference or otherwise) need take the form of peer-reviewed papers and the editorial team is revising the guidelines for authors to make this clear. Contributions to the journal can be formatted as shorter reflections (for example, not more than 3000 words) that are not subject to peer review, although all contributions will receive editorial review. The 2017 ASA Conference, *Diverse Worlds*, in cooperation with Information Technologies Indigenous Communities, is coming up in Melbourne, 25–28 September. The deadline for contributions to the March 2018 issue of the journal is 1 October 2017. Why not make your conference deadline your A&M deadline? The closing keynote of the 2016 conference by Laura Millar, 'On the Crest of a Wave: Transforming the Archival Future', is published in the current issue as too is a more developed version of a post-conference digital archives workshop presentation by Ross Spencer about automated methods for analysing and describing relationships in born-digital archives across the records continuum. Electronic publication also gives us the ability to publish articles in the ejournal without waiting for the rest of the print issue.

If any of you are interested in writing for A&M but unsure about whether your contribution is suitable, how to pitch it, or even what to write about, don't hesitate to get in touch (<[journale-ditor@archivists.org.au](mailto:journale-ditor@archivists.org.au)>). As an editorial team we understand it is our job to seek contributions from authors, and will continue to reach out to potential authors and support them through the publication process on topics that are important to members of the ASA and A&M readers. However, we won't be able to move forward without you. As will become clear on reading McCausland's 2012 review article, the journal has been constantly evolving, and always seeking quality content; this has never been a given.

In addition to the articles from Laura Millar and Ross Spencer, we have Annelie de Villiers, Nicola Laurent and Christopher Stueven reporting on their survey of volunteers in Australian archives, and Mike Jones, Kate Darian-Smith, Deborah Tout-Smith and Gavan McCarthy discussing a project using tools for network analysis to represent museum archives as well as the practical challenges of data preparation involved in this data-intensive work. We have a paper from Amanda Oliver, Amanda Jamieson and Anne Daniel in Canada about the tools used by archivists providing reference services in academic archives, which shows how some archivists really find out what is held in the collections they make accessible. There is a good range of reviews shepherded by our Reviews Editor, Annelie de Villiers. An important document is Adrian Cunningham's obituary of Dr Sigrid McCausland, a leader in the profession and author and editorial board member for the journal.

As a postscript, I noted that of 186 responses to the survey, 93 (50%) report knowing how to access the journal from the ASA member site. For the avoidance of doubt, this is how to access member subscriptions to the ejournal:

- Go to the Australian Society of Archivists website home page: <<https://www.archivists.org.au/>>.
- Click on the member centre (link top right below logout button), log in with member email and password if required: <<https://www.archivists.org.au/member-centre/member-centre>>.
- Click on Archives and Manuscripts (bottom left), which should take you directly to the Taylor & Francis *Archives and Manuscripts* journal issues: <<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/RAAM20>>.

Fewer, only 64 (34.41%) of 186 respondents know how to receive alerts when new content is added to the journal. You can elect to receive 'new content alerts' by selecting this tab under the search box on the ejournal home page, <<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/raam20/current>>, when you have registered and logged in to Taylor & Francis online.

## Endnotes

1. S. McCausland, 'Archives and Manuscripts: A Window into Australian Archival Writing, 1955–2011', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 40, no. 3, 2012, pp. 122–35, <<https://doi.org/10.1080/01576895.2012.748631>>.
2. *ibid.*, p. 124.

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