

of past and present. Examples of chapter titles may provide a sense of this: ‘DRACULArchiv’, ‘From Louis XIV to Big Brother: Monitoring’, ‘The Mechanisation of the Archive’ or ‘The Gaps Are the Archives’. Similarly, the use of metaphor is intriguing and thought-provoking – ‘archives may be regarded as hallucinogenic substances’ (p. 17), ‘the archival container is a coffin’ (p. 26), ‘data filters at the site of the shelf list, catalog [sic], or inventory’ (p. 84). The presence of literature and film is ubiquitous in these essays, as should be expected from a cultural theorist. Here we find reference to Günter Grass (‘We from the archive’), Jorge Luis Borges, Gustave Flaubert, Dante, along with film-makers Stanley Kubrick, Oliver Stone, Ridley Scott and Wim Wenders.

Would I recommend you buy this book? Possibly not. But I would certainly encourage you to dip into it should you find it in a library – and libraries supporting archives and records studies should definitely have a copy. Some of Ernst’s work is available on the Internet, and I would recommend that you read *Digital Memory and the Archive*, available at <http://melhogan.com/website/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Ernst-Wolfgang-Digital-Memory-and-the-Archive.pdf>. The publication of *Stirrings in the Archives: Order from Disorder* and the emergence of media archaeology as part of ‘the archival turn’ should quite appropriately be a continuation of the wake-up call to our profession – most obviously issued by Michael Piggott in raising our professional attention to such issues. Maryanne Dever at the University of Technology Sydney is perhaps our most prominent scholar working in this field, and has notably edited a special edition of *Archives & Manuscripts* (vol. 42, no. 3). But generally speaking, Ernst is a standalone in his understanding of archival theory. Engagement with these scholars is not obvious from the archives community – for example, the British/Finnish scholar Jussi Parikka was a Distinguished Scholar at the University of New South Wales School of Arts and Media in February last year. How engaged are archivists in the conversations that are seeking to frame our discipline?

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Is digital different? How information creation, capture and discovery are being transformed, edited by Michael Moss, Barbara Endicott-Popovsky and Marc J.

Dupuis, London, Facet Publishing, 2015, xvi + 217 pp., GBP £49.95 (paperback), ISBN 978 1 856048 54 5

The editors’ stated purpose for this book is to introduce students to issues surrounding the transition from an analogue to a digital environment. The various contributors examine whether analogue practices and procedures are still valid and if they shape or distort practices and procedures in the digital world.

The contributors are an impressive group, very clearly subject-matter experts in their relevant areas. They seek to offer differing perspectives on the role of information professionals in the rapidly changing digital landscape, which, the editors state, is ‘challenging the very existence of the traditional library and archive’ (p. xvi), largely through changing user expectations of an ‘online’ experience. Working within a state archive in Australia, these are very real challenges for us and I approached the book with interest from a professional practitioner perspective rather than that of a student.

Reading the book from a professional perspective, looking for an introduction into the subject, I was somewhat disappointed. I probably was looking for a coherent argument presented through the book with a definitive conclusion. Unfortunately for me, that was not the case. Each standalone chapter is well written, however they are very much standalone contributions with specific subject-matter focus, rather than the development of a central discussion around the book's title. My own interests were only piqued by certain chapters. I think this is very much a result of my own background and particular needs at this point of time. I am sure that for others different chapters would resonate. I was perhaps selfishly looking for a practical bias in the book which was only met on occasion.

From my perspective, several sections of the book were difficult to engage with. From a professional perspective, rather than read the whole book it is perhaps far more appropriate to select individual chapters to read as standalone contributions, than read this as a book based around a connected theme. Many of the chapters were specialised and really only of interest to those studying specific topics or those in the professions with subject-matter expertise in those areas.

Chapters 3, 'RDF, the Semantic Web, Jordan, Jordan and Jordan' (Gray), and 5, 'Pathways to Integrating Technical, Legal and Economic Considerations in the Design, Development and Deployment of Trusted IM Systems' (David and Endicott-Popovsky), were dry technological discussions which failed to engage my interest.

Our own challenges at Queensland State Archives at present relate to a certain degree to the reinvention of our organisation in a digital world. In chapter 1, Michael Moss makes a key point which is very much for me our reality. 'No longer will it be necessary to visit an archive or library to access material. This does not mean archives and libraries as we know them will cease to exist, this will not be the case ... but there will be fewer of them and they will have to reinvent themselves so as to deliver a range of online offerings and services' (p. 13). For me this is a point well made and why chapter 2, 'Finding Stuff' (Nicholas and Clark), which focused on digital search tools, chapter 4, 'Crowdsourcing' (Berglund Prytz) and chapter 6, 'Finding Archived Records in a Digital Age' (Gollins and Bayne) were strong contributions from my perspective.

Chapter 6 was a standout for me. I consider the National Archives in the UK to be a world leader in this area and I had great interest in this chapter. The authors make an important point: 'what real value does an archival collection have if it cannot be effectively used and interpreted?' (p. 129).

The discussion of how the National Archives moved from very much a stereotypical user of archives perspective to one focused on ALL users was extremely interesting.

Chapter 7, 'Security: Managing Online Risk' (Endicott-Popovsky), focused on the issues of cybersecurity, and chapter 8, 'Rights and Commons' (McCarthy and Morgan), on the issues of restricted access in a digital world and the higher expectations of open access. Both are interesting and relevant contributions of the practical challenges we face today in a digital world.

The editors state that this book is for the students of information science. The topics will be of interest to them, I have no doubt. Individual chapters will also have strong relevance and interest to professionals working in archives and libraries. Overall, however, as a book of practical relevance outside of academic circles, it is a little hit and miss from my perspective.

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