

functions, which do not refer to theoretical opinions and institutional references, would be beneficial.

Additionally, is the prime purpose of functional appraisal to determine the archival value of a record (p. 73)? When undertaking a top-down approach to appraisal to rank and determine the important functions, wouldn't the value of most records be determined, not just ones with archival value? For example, a prime goal for a transport agency is to license drivers and issue vehicle registration. These records have a high value to the agency, individuals and community services (such as police) and feed into other key functions such as road safety and infrastructure. Does this function have archival value? If so, what are its components? My question is driven by a change in work practices, technology, a plethora of information, and a push for efficient and accountable practices; undertaking a functional analysis has far greater value than determining just the archival value of records.

Throughout this book, Robyns has demonstrated his passion for the archival profession and has written a really good resource on archival appraisal. It is a tool that will provide readers with a well-articulated account on the evolution of appraisal and a simplified, implementable model of functional analysis that does not compromise the profession or lose the importance of appraisal.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01576895.2015.1088436>

Maja Kominko (ed.), *From Dust to Digital: Ten Years of the Endangered Archives Programme*, Open Book Publishers, Cambridge, 2015. lxviii + 654 pp. ISBN 978 1 783740 64 2 (digital version). GBP£29.95 (paperback). (<<http://www.openbookpublishers.com/reader/283#page/1/mode/1up>>) doi:10.11647/OBP.0052

This book is a celebration of 10 years of the Endangered Archives Programme (EAP), administered by the British Library. It showcases the historical importance and research potential of the digitised collections the programme has made possible. The EAP is funded by a generous grant by Hans Rausing and the broad objectives of the programme are to copy and preserve neglected, vulnerable or inaccessible archives and to make them freely accessible in the international domain for perpetuity.

Although 10 years have passed, the introduction highlights the ongoing need for such a programme: 'The keepers of fragile, at-risk archives often do not have the means of preserving them. Faced with conflicts and their aftermath, natural disasters, [war, climate change, neglect, planned or accidental destruction] and epidemics, not even governments can afford to secure the survival of their archival heritage ... We cannot expect them to shoulder the burden alone'.

The EAP encourages professional archivists and academics, researchers and amateur enthusiasts to apply for grants which are assessed by an international panel of experts. Over GBP£6 million and 240 grants have been awarded for the digital preservation of archives including manuscripts and audio recordings, with over four million digital

archive files now available through the British Library EAP website: <<http://eap.bl.uk/index.a4d>>.

The book is available free online, as free downloadable chapter PDFs or for purchase. It includes over 650 pages, 230 colour illustrations and 28 audio files (in MP3 format) and is divided into five main sections (Part 1: Inscriptions, Part 2: Manuscripts, Part 3: Documentary archives, Part 4: Photographic archives and Part 5: Sound archives). Essays by 33 contributors show the breadth and quality of the scholarly activity of the EAP. Although the book is long, the essays are absorbing as the story of the significance of a particular collection, including the provenance and context in which it was found, is described. Also included is the physical materiality of the archives as well as the challenges of the practicalities and logistics of working with vulnerable archives. These include working in difficult conditions, dark and dusty spaces, and places without adequate electricity, and negotiating with custodians.

Making a captivating read are the manuscripts in Timbuktu's twin city of Djenne, 'Tifinagh' rock inscriptions of the Tadrart Acacus mountains in southwest Libya, Yao manuscripts from Yunnan province in southern China, Ottoman Turkish periodicals in Bulgaria, traditional music recordings from Burma and newspapers from Peru.

Most disappointing is the lack of any Australasian or Pacific content in the book. I was surprised to discover that only three grants have ever been awarded by the EAP to Pacific projects: the Tuvalu National Archives preservation pilot project (EAP005) followed by the Tuvalu National Archives major project (EAP110), undertaken between 2006 and 2010; and the Preservation of Solomon Islands analogue recordings (EAP693), awarded in 2014. Surely it is time more collections from the Australasian and Pacific regions be preserved and made accessible using funding from the Endangered Archives Programme.

The importance of considering the historical context of the creation of the archive, when interpreting the content, is highlighted. The authors also refer to the potential use these collections could have for the present day, including supporting political reconciliation, inspiring cultural revival and assisting in language revitalisation.

The impact that the digitised collections have had, not only on academics and researchers, but more importantly on local and diaspora communities throughout the world, is discussed. It is pleasing to read that local communities benefit from the EAP during and beyond the life of the project through training and the digitisation equipment that is deposited with archival partners at the completion of the project. The EAP has also helped small archives by bringing them to the attention of universities and governments which often commit to further funding and resources.

The digitised EAP collections contain a wealth of historical knowledge. The impact of this book is yet to be realised, but it is a realistic expectation of the editor that 'the articles in this volume will open new debates and encourage scholars to explore the archives preserved by the EAP with the spirit of discovery (and without the dust) ...' (p. lxxv).

Apart from some conference papers and the occasional journal article on archives at risk, this is the most extensive contemporary publication highlighting the success of a programme that aims to preserve and make endangered archives accessible.

Archivists, as well as the general public who care about the preservation and accessibility of archives and history 'at risk', will find this book absorbing and interesting. Through publishing such a book, the editor and contributors have assisted in the

promotion and accessibility of the EAP collections. The stories in this book will inspire readers to search for more; they can do just that by logging on to the British Library's EAP website.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01576895.2015.1088481>