

Editorial

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In November last year, Dagmar Parer passed away after a long career in archives. Her contribution to the profession spans three decades, and is most notable for her role in promoting the uptake of electronic recordkeeping and metadata standards in the 1990s within the Australian Government. Dagmar's influence was also felt in international forums in the 1990s, a period in which the Australian profession made a significant contribution to international standards in recordkeeping, most notably as chair of the Australian Society of Archivists/Australian Council of Archives committee on descriptive standards and through her work on the International Council on Archives committee on descriptive standards from 1996 to 1998. These and many other achievements are recognised in an obituary for Dagmar written by former National Archives of Australia colleagues Stephen Ellis and Adrian Cunningham, with which this July issue of the journal opens.

Jinfang Niu's article 'Transforming Archival Education' argues that the Australian Series System could be more influential in the international sphere than it is at present, observing that it has had little impact on the widely used Encoded Archival Description (EAD) standard, nor on the American Describe Archives: A Content Standard (DACS). Niu proposes that EAD could be improved through its modification to accommodate aspects of the Australian Series System's entity relationship model. This would make it more consistent with a records continuum approach whereby archival description inherits recordkeeping metadata, and would also make EAD more interoperable with other metadata schema. Going further, Niu suggests that greater flexibility and a more profound transformation of archival description is offered by the Open Archives Initiative Object Reuse and Exchange (OAI-ORE). Such an approach would retain the Australian Series System's entity relationship model but no longer rely on a single metadata schema for all archival description.

Brendan Luyt and Natalie Pang, in their article 'For the Record: Document and Record Sensibilities of Art Conservators in the Philippines', examine the role of documentary evidence among art conservators in the Philippines, looking beyond the primary purpose of the recordkeeping system for managing the conservation of precious objects. Undertaking an ethnographic approach, they consider the way in which documents inform the professional identities of a relatively small professional group and mediate organisational tensions that arise from the conflict between the craftsmanship of their practice and the bureaucracies they work within.

In his article on the rapid expansion of archival education on the African continent, 'The Development of Archives and Records Management Education and Training in Africa', Shadrack Katuu discusses the challenges and opportunities for the profession that have emerged in recent times. Exploring the diversity that has developed in archival education in Africa using the case study of Kenya, Katuu urges that more attention needs to be given to the impact on quality, in particular through encouraging graduate-level education and greater participation in global research initiatives.

In her meditative review of Susan Howe's *Spontaneous Particulars*, Maryanne Dever continues a line of thinking about the tactile nature of archived paper that has featured in some of her recent contributions to this journal, such as 'Provocations on the pleasures of archived paper', Volume 41, Issue 3, 2013. In this review she suggests that it is the 'spontaneous reflections' that Howe experiences when in contact with the tactile weave of archived papers, and in stumbling upon serendipitous connections, that are lacking from the experience of the same collection in digitised form.