

comprehensive survey of US women's archives at the turn of the century, sum up their position on the location of women's archives:

We believe that woman-centred repositories will continue to flourish and play an important role in the archival landscape. But women's repositories are not enough and they cannot do it all alone. Mainstream repositories still have a responsibility to document the experiences of women and, just as importantly, provide access to their holdings by and about women. (p. 139)

Readers in other countries may not be familiar with the story of the relationship between women's history and the emergence of women's archives in the United States, but there is much to learn in the chapters about how sources for women have been located, how women's archives have been established and how stories of women and archives connect to wider contemporary archival preoccupations. One of these is chapter 8, 'Tacitly the Work of Women: Personal Archives and the Public Memory of Families'. Here Susan Tucker documents how over the centuries women (often, but not exclusively, grandmothers) have been the memory keepers in families, while they have suffered from gender disadvantage in the public world of archives. In chapter 11, "A Culture of Concealment": Revealing the Records of Human Reproduction', Tanya Zanish-Belcher gives a compelling account of the many challenges involved in discovering and documenting the records of a part of everyday life not considered 'a topic for polite society' (p. 252). Zanish-Belcher reviews the scholarly literature and uses search data to illustrate the unevenness of finding aids on different aspects of human reproduction. She then gives an overview of the breadth of records discoverable in many institutions (if you think laterally) and concludes by invoking one of the book's recurring concerns, the need to enhance accessibility through improved description. She writes that:

One can hope that as description or metadata and the linked data structures that provide them become more robust, archivists will be able to share more detailed and accurate information about what is in their collections. This could provide new outlets for collections documenting human reproduction. (p. 256)

Perspectives on Women's Archives is a scholarly addition to the literature about archivists and their partnerships in achieving their professional goals, as well as the past and the present of women's archives in the United States. It is recommended reading for students and for experienced practitioners alike.

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Richard J Cox, *Archival Anxiety and the Vocational Calling*, Litwin Books, Duluth, MN, 2011. xv + 355 pp. ISBN 978 1 936117 49 9. USD\$35.00.

When it comes to the archival profession and its mission, what are you most anxious about? Maybe you do not have any anxieties. After all, we can see many examples of

the value of what we do and the expertise we hold. But maybe, when you step back and reflect more broadly you too, like Richard Cox, have some pretty significant worries about the profession and where it is heading.

Cox's book *Archival Anxiety and the Vocational Calling* is a collection of essays, conference papers and blogs compiled to distil his key anxieties, based on his lengthy career in the archival profession in America, penned with a hope to help strengthen the profession for the future.

Rather than the usual technology issues you may expect, Cox highlights four key issues – archival calling; government secrecy; practical ethical perspectives; and teaching the next generation – to frame his primary concerns.

Archival calling

Cox sees a key issue in the absence of people with a true sense of calling for the profession which results in general apathy, arguing that it is easy for archivists and records managers to assume clerical roles which do not always help further the profession. The fact that many students do not know what else to do with their careers, are driven to the profession by a love of 'old stuff' and just want a job, rather than being called to the profession for a greater good, is a frustration for him, and indeed this may be a challenge when it comes to educating such people. Cox sees the need for archivists to have a vocational calling as pivotal to helping move the profession forward.

The first chapters of the book describe his own career and love of history, dating back to his childhood fascination with Colonial Williamsburg, setting the scene for his calling to the profession to explain what drives him to play an active role in shaping the profession. He tells the stories of the farsightedness of early Virginians who first conceived of a building for the preservation of public records. He laments the missed opportunity for the building to be used as a commemoration to the practice of archiving, saddened by those unable to see how the topic of archiving could be intrinsically interesting to the public and potential future archivists.

It is an interesting question raised during these early chapters – what makes an archivist passionate and committed to moving the profession forward and not content to remain relatively disengaged from the broader challenges faced by the profession?

Government secrecy

In the next chapters, Cox sets out his concerns about the secrecy of government and its threats to the mission and mandate of archivists and records managers, and articulates his key frustrations about the lack of leadership shown to address this issue. To illustrate this, Cox provides an overview of the reclassification program in 2006 whereby the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) agreed it was in its interest to avoid the attention and researcher complaints that may arise from removing federal intelligence agencies' material which had already been made publicly available and documentation of the removal to hide the reclassification program and the individuals working on it. A subsequent audit of the reclassification program revealed nearly one-quarter of the records affected were considered to be inappropriately restricted, and a further 12% questionable.

Cox's deepest anxiety in relation to this remains that neither the national professional body, the Society of American Archivists (SAA), nor a large majority of its members, in his opinion, took a decisive stance opposing NARA, or called for other

means to fundamentally address the core issue associated with a government archive facilitating the trust of today's government. At the heart of his deep-seated anxiety is whether the archives and records management community has any true leadership.

I weary, a bit, of the public debates that reflect that most members of the profession are too busy tending to their own gardens to care about questioning the role, leadership, and activities of either NARA or SAA. I can hear the voices of the others in the lifeboat telling me to sit down. (p. 204)

Practical ethical perspectives

Cox continues the leadership theme in the following chapters, which highlight challenges in professional ethics. He discusses his anxieties about professional ethics through a number of examples. He tells the story of the SAA's announcement in 2007 to dispose of the online archive of the association's listserv and the subsequent reaction and action. While the decision was rescinded, he despairs that when faced with adversity (for example, on account of technological changes and financial challenges), the profession often seems to be unable to practise what it preaches.

Cox also articulates the need for greater discussion about the ethical issues facing the profession when he tells the story of the reaction from business archivists to the publication of a political poster in an SAA publication, raising the ethical issues associated with being a business archivist and the tension in their role between capturing evidence and facilitating accountability, and making their organisation look good. This tension in missions is also discussed in a chapter which presents a series of blog posts about a scholar's experience using the services of the presidential libraries.

Not knowing much about the American presidential libraries, I found this an interesting insight into the system and its challenges, particularly in relation to the activities to interpret and give meaning to public records. Cox also includes essays in the book about archival finding aids and appraisal, and suggests the challenges archivists face in describing or conceptualising the act of description and appraising archives may have as much to do with how archivists perceive their calling to the field.

Teaching the next generation

As an educator, Cox also has concerns about students's flawed perceptions of archival work and the lack of alignment with the critical advocacy and engagement skills that are required by a contemporary archivist. He acknowledges there are a lot of archival courses available in the United States (which is not the case in Australia – is this something the Australian community should be anxious about?) so the numbers wanting to enter the profession are not dwindling. His experience in balancing the teaching of the practical and the more conceptual/theoretical issues, and in building resilience for the effort and tough-mindedness that many never anticipated when they responded to a call to enter the field, remains a significant concern.

Cox concludes with some ideas for what archivists need to do to eliminate their anxiety which seem sound and appropriate, ultimately ending the book on a positive note.

I enjoyed this book, both because of its engaging and clear way of illustrating the issues through stories and because of its thought-provoking premise which challenges you to think about the archival anxieties you may have. Whether he is exaggerating these issues, Cox acknowledges himself, is a matter for debate, but if nothing else it

helps to get issues on the table and open up conversations. While the book was published in 2011 and describes challenges in America, the anxieties he describes still remain topical today, although I do wonder whether the Australian community may have differing views on the priority of issues or indeed may be less inclined to view them ridden with such significant anxiety!

So am I more or less anxious after reading the book? As an archivist, trying to balance raising children, being a good friend, family member, partner and citizen, and making a professional contribution, I must admit to some feelings of guilt for complacency and my lack of doing my bit to address some of the significant concerns raised by Cox. But, like any feelings of guilt, it is best to articulate it, and get on with the business of doing something about it.

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Kim Eberhard, *In Good Faith: Waverley College and the Great War 1914–1918*, Waverley College, Waverley, NSW, 2014. 164 pp. ISBN 978 0 992463 16 8. AUD\$45.00.

Numerous publications have appeared to mark the 1914–18 centenaries. Many, like Kim Eberhard's *In Good Faith: Waverley College and the Great War 1914–1918*, commemorate those who served and died in that war to end all wars. This is an excellent example of that genre. In honouring the 200 former students of Waverley College who served in WWI – including the 19 who lost their lives – *In Good Faith* makes an important contribution to the history of Waverley College. As most of these former students also had links with Sydney's eastern suburbs, it is a valuable biographical resource for the area's local historians. The success of publications of this kind depends on two key things – the extensive research necessary to identify those being commemorated and an engaging and informative presentation of the findings. Kim Eberhard has accomplished both.

In Good Faith begins by outlining the research process and the challenges posed in identifying the former Waverley College students who served in WWI. After discussing the history of the college before WWI and the First Australian Imperial Force and the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force, Eberhard turns her attention to the 19 former students who lost their lives on active service in WWI. The bulk of the publication deals with the histories of these men, with chapters on Gallipoli, the Somme, the Western Front and Palestine. This approach helps in understanding and mapping the progress of the war and is a welcome addition to the biographical summaries. Each soldier's name, details and the battle or event that took his life are described within the chronological context of the war. In addition, there is a useful summary listing: each man's year of admission to Waverley College; address while at school; date of birth; service number; rank; date enlisted; division and service; grave or memorial; and, whereabouts on the Australian War Memorial Roll of Honour. There is a separate chapter on TJ Bede Kenny, who was awarded a Victoria Cross in 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and bravery.