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Editorial

In psychoanalytic literature, there is a phenomenon known as the 'return of the repressed'. Put very simply, a trauma suffered in the past uncannily returns in a distorted form in the present. Martin Nakata's Loris Williams Memorial Lecture at the Australian Society of Archivists Symposium held at Luna Park in Sydney on 20 October 2011 brought to our attention a trauma of the past that had afflicted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, but which was uncannily reappearing in the present. The lecture, which appears in edited form in this issue's Reflections section as 'Indigenous Memory, Forgetting, and the Archives', addresses a number of contemporary issues facing Indigenous people in Australia, particularly 'the emergence of a new politics of identity, and who can count today as Indigenous'.

Under past government policies, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identities and lives were regulated under racial laws and policies, which sought to separate 'full bloods' from 'half castes'. The intention was to hasten the disappearance of Australia's Indigenous peoples – an intention that Robert Manne once observed as bringing administrative practice into close proximity of 'genocidal thought'.[1] In light of this past, Nakata observes how strange it is to see Aboriginal people today being induced into policing boundaries of what constitutes legitimate Aboriginal identity. The alternative, which Nakata proposes, is that Aboriginal people move beyond this bizarre re-enactment of past traumas to embrace the full range of stories and identities that constitute the reality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities today. The archival mission towards Australia's Indigenous people should be to continue to support this recovery of complexity, so as to provide the evidence and other resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to ground their lives on a rich, diverse and, ultimately, complicated history.

Writing from a Canadian perspective, Coralee Louko in 'Records Guardianship: Security and Protection in the Workplace' takes us on a comprehensive survey of the risks currently endangering the protection of records in our workplaces. Drawing on examples from North America and elsewhere, Louko argues that security risks within the workplace have generally been underestimated by the profession when compared to the risks associated with 'threats to the conservation and preservation care of records'. With the advent of new technologies adding new complexities to the range of risks that we have to contend with, Louko proposes that 'the discovery of solutions to prevent or mitigate these risks is crucial to guaranteeing the ongoing care and complete protection of records of all types'.

In 'Managing Presidential Records and Archives in Tanzania', Hamisi K Kiyabo and Nathan Mnjama examine the inadequate policies surrounding the capture and preservation of presidential records in Tanzania. Through their analysis of the current situation, Kiyabo and Mnjama propose concrete steps by which Tanzania can move towards a comprehensive regulatory framework for managing presidential records and thereby achieve a more complete record of governance and a more accountable regime for documenting decision-making.

In the Reviews section, Richard Lehane discusses Stan Ruecker, Milena Radzikowska and Stéphan Sinclair's book, *Visual Interface Design for Digital Cultural Heritage: A Guide to Rich-Prospect Browsing*. While archivists have paid attention to the way they play a mediating role in reading rooms, Stan Ruecker et al. provide a way in which archivists can think about the ways that they can mediate online experiences and influence the construction of design interfaces for records access of the future through the creation of rich-prospect browsers. This kind of approach was exemplified by Mitchell Whitelaw in his Visible Archive project, undertaken with a National Archives of Australia Ian Maclean Award in 2008, which he reported on in a recent issue of *Archives and Manuscripts*.[2] Rather than having a single interface, prospect-rich browsers are based on the concept of showing everything at once, thus providing researchers with a 'bird's-eye view of a collection'. Through the development of these kinds of interfaces, researchers will be able to gain 'an immediate sense of the contents, relationships, and structure of collections', rather than being limited to 'posing questions to a black box'. In Lehane's view, a move beyond search functionality in user interfaces has the potential to 'promote fuller engagement with collections'.

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Endnotes

1. Robert Manne, *In Denial: The Stolen Generations and the Right, The Australian Quarterly Essay 1*, Schwartz Publishing, Melbourne, 2001, p. 40. Manne, who has drawn these connections on a number of other occasions, was referring to the architect of child removal policies – the Chief Protector of Aborigines AO Neville.
2. Mitchell Whitelaw, 'Visualising Archival Collections: The Visible Archive Project', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 37, no. 2, November 2009, pp. 22–40.