

# Editorial

Two of the articles in this issue began life as something else—a conference paper and a seminar paper. A third article tells us that archivists must attend such functions in order to interact profitably with scholars and academics. Why? A brief look at the semantics might help.

Conferences are clearly functions where we *confer*, that is where we exchange thoughts, viewpoints and ideas with the aim of arriving—if not at that over-worked word ‘consensus’—at least an exchange and shared viewpoints. Seminars, on the other hand, are functions for the *dissemination* of ideas, the sharing out or spreading of accepted or authoritative standards and actions.

It becomes clear why both are important to us in our professional lives; it is axiomatic that we need to communicate with each other. Our authors’ arguments and the presence of their papers here are, however, testimony to a wider imperative: the need to communicate with other professions, and with our corporate masters.

This Bicentenary Year provides a perfect opportunity—get out there—confer, disseminate and wave the archival flag!