

## Editorial

By accident, rather than design, the articles in this issue come in pairs. Also by chance, assisted by a measure of editorial direction, they cover many facets of archival endeavour: the theory and the implementation, approaches to government and personal recordkeeping, appraisal and use, practitioners and users, the past and the future.

In 1996 Sue McKemmish's article 'Evidence of Me...' was published in the May issue of *Archives and Manuscripts*, and the following year was awarded an ASA Mander Jones Award as the publication by an individual making the greatest contribution to archives in Australia. Five years later, its effect is still felt. In this issue Verne Harris offers a deconstructive reading of it, and this is paired with a response by Frank Upward and Sue McKemmish.

'Are Our Users Being Served?' is the question posed by Andrea Rosenbusch in a report on her research for the National Archives into online archival databases. Her comparative analysis was undertaken in search of a model for an Australian equivalent to the Danish national archival database and in response to the resolutions of the National Scholarly Communications Forum of November 1999. Catherine Nicholl's article arises from her Master's thesis exploring the concept and practice of outreach in Australian archives. Both are welcome additions to the small number of published articles on the Australian experience in the marketing of archives to the wider community.

Two major Australian archives, the National Archives and the State Records Authority of NSW have collaborated in the last couple of years in the development of DIRKS (for the uninitiated, the Designing and Implementing Recordkeeping Systems manual), based on the Australian Standard for Recordkeeping, AS 4390. Russell Kelly charts the new approach to appraisal taken by the National Archives, while Tony Newton of State Records NSW explores the ever-present tension in the implementation.

The two-faced figure of Janus, the guardian of heaven's gate in ancient Roman mythology, represents the archivist as looking both back to the past and forward to the future. Our last pairing has Ted Ling looking back to the missed opportunity of the Commonwealth's first Archives Bill of 1927 and Adrian Cunningham looking forward to the amalgamation of the recordkeeping professions, in a presentation he made to the National Convention of the Records Management Association of Australia in December 2000.

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Finally, do not skip past page 178 for another interesting pair. In what must be a first for archives in Australia (though older and wiser souls may know better), the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, is pictured with Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, acting Director-General of the National Archives and laureate of the Society, at the opening of the Federation Gallery in Canberra in January this year.

Maggie Shapley