

Documenting 20th Century Rural and Regional Australia: Archival Acquisition and Collection Development in Regional University Archives and Special Collections

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A growing interest during the 1960s and 1970s in collecting private records from rural and regional Australia led to the creation of dedicated archives and library special collections in regional higher education institutions. Generally dependent on academic patronage, these collections aimed to support research and teaching, though several also have sought to accommodate the needs of community users. The author traces the impacts of these sometimes conflicting expectations on collecting, and suggests that while several of these ostensibly regional collections are particularly strong in holdings of twentieth-century records, those holdings more effectively document their immediate localities, or the special subject interests of their sponsors, than the experience of their more dispersed collecting regions. This is a refereed article.

The problem

To ask what role archival collecting has played in documenting twentieth-century rural and regional Australia immediately raises difficulties. There clearly are considerable quantities of private, as opposed to public, records¹ from rural and regional locations in archival repositories, but disproportionately little writing about their acquisition, let alone about collection development in specialist collecting institutions. The difficulty is not confined to regional records: we know precious little about the history of

acquisition and collection development in general in this country, as Michael Piggott observes.²

Those studies that have appeared fall into three broad categories. The first of these explores the archival, social and political contexts surrounding the acquisition of a single significant accession. Characteristic examples are Peter Biskup's papers on Macquarie's manuscripts and Cook's *Endeavour* journal, which elucidate the connections between archival collecting and the politics of identity.³ Carol Gistitin appears to follow Biskup's lead when she describes the Mount Morgan Mining Company's records in an article on the Capricornia Central Queensland (CQ) Collection at what is now Central Queensland University (CQU) in Rockhampton.⁴ But she stops short of considering how the records have been used to forge regional identity.

A second, more extensive, type of study traces the collection development history of a single institution in the way John Thompson does for the manuscript collection at the State Library of Victoria.⁵ Unfortunately there is no comparably detailed study of any local or regional collection, though Ray McDonald, Chris Buckley and John Ryan all offer reflections on acquisition and collection development in the University of New England and Regional Archives (UNERA), with Ryan providing the most suggestive account.⁶ Gordon Marrie and John Shipp also provide overviews of collection development in the CQ Collection and the University of Wollongong Archives (UoWA) respectively. However, Marrie is mainly concerned with the acquisition of printed materials.⁷

Still more ambitiously, a third type of study surveys the acquisition of a specific class of records. There are two recent examples of this type: Graeme Powell's 1996 analysis of entries in the *Guide to Collections of Manuscripts Relating to Australia* as a means of identifying holdings of personal papers in the principal collecting institutions; and Terwiel, Ville and Fleming's 1998 survey of the location of business records for Australia's 'top one hundred non-financial companies': that is, companies other than 'asset rich financial institutions' (such as banks and insurance companies), measured by assets using the 'spot years' of 1910, 1930, 1952 and 1964.⁸

To date no one has attempted a study of this third type for holdings of rural and regional records, either in collecting institutions in general, or in specialist collections in regional archives and libraries, particularly those associated with universities. This is hardly surprising, given the dimensions of the task. The online *Register of Australian Archives and Manuscripts (RAAM)* has a total of 2134 entries for holdings in specialist archives and library collections in regional universities: 803 for the University of Newcastle Archives, 508 for

UNERA, 208 for CSURA, 184 for UoWA, 184 for CQU's CQ Collection, and 247 for James Cook University's (JCU) so-called 'Library Archives' (as distinct from its University Archives which has an in-house, but not a collecting, function). How accurately these entries represent the actual extent of their holdings is uncertain. Most of UoWA's holdings are in *RAAM*, but only half of CSURA's, so it seems reasonable to assume that other collections may be under-represented as well. There also are several large archives and manuscript collections maintained by local government agencies in regional cities, with the largest at Geelong Historic Records Centre in Victoria (611 entries) and Newcastle Region Library in New South Wales (218). Then there are historical society collections, many of the largest not even represented by a single *RAAM* entry. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria is a striking exception, with 797 entries, though not all of these are regional or rural records.

When we move to the state collections the difficulty is exacerbated, especially in those states like South Australia or Western Australia, where a lack of regional centres of any significant size appears to have led to the concentration of a majority of the state's private records in metropolitan manuscript collections like Adelaide's Mortlock Library of South Australiana (2882 *RAAM* entries). The extent of their rural and regional holdings remains an imponderable, but a cursory sampling of *RAAM* entries (1171) for the University of Melbourne Archives (UMA) suggests that over 8% of its business and labour collections have a regional character. If personal papers (of which UMA has very large holdings indeed) are included, this figure would almost certainly be higher. It would also seem reasonable to assume that the business and labour collections at the Australian National University's (ANU) Noel Butlin Archives Centre (NBAC, 603 *RAAM* entries) embrace a significant number of regional records. Now both of these are special subject repositories, so it is reasonable to go further and assume that the percentage of rural and regional records in less subject-specific collections like the La Trobe Library's Australian Manuscripts Collection (3041 *RAAM* entries) would be higher. There is a good deal of support for this assumption in any case, because Thompson testifies to the special efforts of historians like Geoffrey Serle and Margaret Kiddle in locating and acquiring 'particularly strong collections of records reflecting the history of landed settlement, not only in the Western District but in north-eastern Victoria and in Gippsland'.⁹

Methodology

In these circumstances we need to find a manageable method for taking a reasonably indicative snapshot of holdings of twentieth-century rural and regional private records. The approach adopted here focuses on the specialist

east coast regional collecting institutions. Together they account for some 3000 RAAM entries, while the manuscript collections associated with the various state libraries account for close to 10,000 entries. The specialist regional institutions thus provide a statistically significant portion of the entire collecting landscape, and (as we shall see) a rather more significant portion of holdings of twentieth-century regional records.

Essentially this present paper marries the second and third types of study outlined above, combining detailed collection analysis of the entire private records holdings of a single regional collection with a synoptic survey of the private records holdings of a representative sample of regional and local collecting institutions. It begins by profiling the selected collecting institutions, outlining the circumstances of their establishment, the activities their collecting seeks to support, and the consequential impacts on acquisition and collection development. Thereafter, it summarises the results of a comparative survey of private records holdings in three regional archival collections (UNERA, UoWA and CSURA), one regional library special collection (CQU's CQ Collection), and one local historical society collection (the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society's). Finally, it reports detailed collection analysis of the private records holdings at CSURA.

The original intention was to analyse data in the online RAAM. However, this did not prove convenient in the limited time available because of the inability of the database to generate a single list for the total holdings of a given repository with sufficient information at a single view about provenance, occupation, date range and collection size. Instead use was made of finding aids produced by the various collecting institutions themselves, beginning with James Logan's *Regional Records On-Line Guide* for CSURA's acquired and deposited records.¹⁰ It has the advantage of including sufficient information about all of the private records holdings, arranged in fifteen broad subject categories. These categories have provided the basis for classifying and comparing the holdings of the other repositories. The task has been relatively straightforward for UoWA, where all of the archives and manuscripts in the 'D' Collection are listed in online finding aids,¹¹ albeit in different subject categories, but more complicated for UNERA and CQU's CQ Collection. At CQU there are entries for CQ manuscripts in the university library's *Online Public Access Catalogue*. However, the only consolidated guide to any significant portion of the total collection is a September 2000 list of *Major Manuscripts*, containing 86 entries (48% of its RAAM entries). All but two of these comprise private records. UNERA's online guide to private records is a dictionary catalogue in *html* format, predominantly comprising cross-referenced name entries.¹² It is confusing to use, so recourse has been had to a rather more detailed typescript *List of Accessions* [c.1943–10 August

1973], compiled and annotated by Alan Wilkes, who served as university archivist for the period 1963–86. Some 252 of its creating agencies have been analysed in this paper (c. 50% of UNERA's *RAAM* entries). Given its concentration on the earlier years of collecting, the representativeness of this sample can only be conjectured, but since Wilkes was to remain as collection manager for a further thirteen years, it is unlikely there was any radical change in direction so far as collecting was concerned.

Institutional profiles

Of the four regional collecting institutions examined in this paper, UNERA is the only one which belongs to what Powell has described as Australia's first 'upsurge' in private records collecting in the 1960s.¹³ Its academic sponsors in the history department had been acquiring records since at least 1943, and probably since the foundation of the university college in 1938,¹⁴ though the archives did not begin serious collecting under the guidance of a full-time archivist until after it was formally established in 1960. UoWA was not 'officially opened' until 1974, when the university appointed its first archivist, but the collection had been functioning off-campus since 1968–69, in the K-Mart car park at Warrawong, under the direction of two history department members, Jim Hagan and Ross Duncan. By the time it 'opened' it already claimed to hold some 1500 feet of records (embracing both private and university creating agencies).¹⁵ It therefore does not fit neatly into Powell's second collecting 'upsurge', which he identified as occurring in the 1980s. By contrast, CSURA (established as an archives in 1978, though it had functioned as a library special collection since 1973) and CQU's CQ Collection (established in 1976) did much of their collecting during the 1980s upsurge.

All four collecting institutions have enjoyed the patronage of academics, usually historians, even if their establishment can be traced to other professionals, most often librarians with strongly developed historical interests.¹⁶ Thus UNERA acquired its institutional identity through the efforts of the university's librarian, Frank Rogers, who had been archivist at the University of Bristol, while CQU's CQ Collection was inaugurated by the librarian of the then Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education, Bruce Edwards. CSURA in turn began existence as the Riverina Collection at the Riverina College of Advanced Education with the sponsorship of a pioneering academic local historian, Keith Swan, his librarian spouse, Vera Swan, and the College's principal, Cliff Blake, a plant pathologist.¹⁷ Their diverse parentage notwithstanding, all four collections were intended primarily to meet the research and teaching requirements of academics. However, they

also aimed (in varying degrees) to accommodate the needs of various community interests, most immediately local historical societies.

This is not directly reflected in the collecting policies of any of the institutions other than UNERA's 1995 document, which alludes to 'the particular needs and expectations of the regional and local communities' the Archives serves. It nevertheless is implicit in the CQ Collection's very detailed collection development policy, where there is reference to 'the unique partnership between the Central Queensland University and the people of the region' in the 'collection of materials recording all aspects of Central Queensland, past and present'. Just what these 'particular needs and expectations' might be is spelt out most explicitly in a 1995 leaflet promoting UNERA as 'an essential part of the regional community'. It quotes Dr John Atchison, a senior lecturer in history, and chair of the University's Archives Committee, declaring it 'is the responsibility of the Archives to collect a copy of everything written about this region and to know of everything produced about it'.

The impact of these kinds of expectations can be seen in the collections of all four institutions. The CQ Collection has always been a library special collection, with major holdings of local newspapers and some 4000 monograph and serial titles. But the large accumulations of newspapers, publications and ephemera among UNERA's holdings, and the even more extensive holdings of publications, ephemera and artefacts in UoWA's 'A' Collection (924 items, including an 'Andertons and Auste 9-bore flintlock fowling piece, c. 1825') and historical subject files in its 'C' Collection (106 subject headings), offer eloquent testimony to the ways in which the needs of academic historians have driven these collecting archives to function more like library special collections.¹⁸

The case of CSURA is still more complicated because it began as a library special collection, with considerably more printed sources than archival holdings. Even before visiting the United Kingdom and North America in 1977, Keith Swan was contemplating separating the collection of books and serials (mainly the big working library of the local historian and art collector, Margaret Carnegie of 'Kildrummie', Holbrook¹⁹) from the archives and manuscripts. 'My reason,' he explained, 'is that archives everywhere are developing separate from libraries ... and [we] might as well adopt accepted principles from the beginning.'²⁰ Yet, as the diary he kept during his overseas visit reveals, he was strongly attracted by the 'one stop research shop' convenience of the City of Birmingham Library's superb Local Studies Collection.²¹ After some soul searching, he recommended in favour of separation, and this was given effect by Don Brech, the archivist for the period

1979–82. However, Brech's successor, Alan Ives, who served until I succeeded him in 1994, effectively moved back to a library special collection model, partly in line with his own inclinations as a book collector and bibliographer, but also in response to demands from the local historical and family history societies, which at that time were very closely associated with the Archives—the family history society being actually housed in the building. As a consequence, the searchroom shelves groaned under literally thousands of Australian monographs (with particular strengths in genealogy, history, politics and public administration), good runs of several hundred Australasian serial titles, and significant accumulations of newspapers, the majority not directly related to the regions from which CSURA collects.²²

Survey of private records holdings in selected regional collections

Three of the four collecting institutions proclaim their ostensibly regional role in their official titles, with UNERA and CSURA defining their actual collecting areas through reference to the applicable New South Wales Survey and Planning Regions. UNERA's official regions are New England (2) and North Coast (1), and CSURA's are Riverina (6) and Murray (5). The CQ Collection not surprisingly defines its collecting boundaries as Central Queensland, being that part of Queensland from the offshore islands between Bundaberg and Mackay westward to the Northern Territory border. UoWA, on the other hand, has no specific reference to the Illawarra (10) in its 1982 Archives Collection Policy, though the Archives has been designated (since 1979) as an official State Records regional repository for the Illawarra, in the same way as UNERA and CSURA are designated for their respective regions.²³

The role of these three New South Wales regional repositories in acquiring public records created by state and local government agencies within their regions is beyond the scope of the present paper. It nevertheless is pertinent to note that records from local government and health agencies, which were not designated as 'public offices' in the *Archives Act 1960*, were regularly taken into custody by regional repositories, and managed as part of their collections of acquired and deposited private records. CSURA has especially strong and diverse holdings of records from twenty local government agencies, distributed across its two official collecting regions.²⁴ UoWA has holdings from six local government agencies, and UNERA has holdings from four local government agencies. Because these creating agencies have since been designated as 'public offices', under provisions of the *State Records Act 1998*, holdings of their records have been excluded from our survey. However, their exclusion should not be allowed to obscure the fact that, at the point of

acquisition, their *de facto* status as 'private' records almost certainly influenced the way in which they were appraised and selected.²⁵

The concern of collection managers to cast the collecting net as widely as possible, so as to provide abundant quantities of original source material suitable for academic research, is most evident in the UoWA policy document. It enjoins the Archives 'to collect and preserve the records of individuals, and of private and public organisations for use in the present and future teaching and research programs of the University'. During its formative years, UoWA's foundation archivist wrote of its collecting role as involving 'records pertaining to organisations, individuals and events of historical significance, with especial reference to the Illawarra region'. By 1978, the third archivist advised readers of *Archives and Manuscripts* that 'Most, but not all, of the material relates to New South Wales and in particular to the south coast of the State'. The 'main themes of present holdings,' he continued, were 'business and labour, local government, politics, the environment and social welfare'.²⁶ Subject analysis (Table 1) broadly supports this conclusion, and further suggests that there has been tension between the regional collecting function and the research needs of the collection's academic sponsors. UoWA has much stronger holdings of records from trade unions, political parties, and interest and pressure groups than either of the other regional archives, as well as a number of artificial 'research collections' of copies of records, most notably an Australian Council of Trade Unions collection created by Professor Jim Hagan, one of the Archives' founders.²⁷

A distribution of private records creating agencies by geographical location (Tables 2 and 3) suggests that UNERA and CSURA have generally not collected metropolitan records in pursuit of academics' subject interests in the way that UoWA has done. But both have strayed outside their designated collecting areas into neighbouring regions. It has never been any secret that UNERA originally aspired to collect across a very much wider area than the North Coast and the New England tablelands.²⁸ Its claim to the whole of northern New South Wales was entirely predictable, given that its entry into serious professional collecting coincided with an upsurge in activity by the New England New State Movement, whose campaign for the creation of a Northern State came to an end only in 1967, after an unsuccessful referendum.²⁹ Even so, UNERA's collecting down to 1973 (Table 2) was mainly concentrated in the New England region (centred on Armidale), which accounted for 73% of creating agencies. The North Coast yielded 16% of agencies, followed by 4% of agencies from the Orana region (centred on Dubbo). A further 7% of records came from the Hunter (centred on Newcastle) and the Far Western regions.

Comparing UNERA's collecting with that of CSURA (Table 3) reveals some similarities in that a majority of CSURA's creating agencies (86%) are concentrated in its most proximate region (Riverina, based on Wagga Wagga, where the Archives is located). By contrast, less than 9% of creating agencies are from the Murray region (centred on Albury). More interesting is the high concentration of creating agencies (62.8%) in the City of Wagga Wagga itself (defined by its local government boundaries). A similarly local character has also been observed by Marrie in the CQ Collection. Its holdings, he writes, 'are strongest in relation to this city [Rockhampton] and its immediate district although an attempt is made to obtain material from throughout the region'.³⁰ Whether the holdings of other regional collections more strongly document their immediate localities is something that only close analysis by those familiar with those localities can reveal. But the trend certainly is significant enough to warrant further investigation.

If there is some doubt about the *regional* character of these collections, there is even more reason for wondering how well they document the *rural* experience. Table 1 classifies the various collecting institutions' holdings into broad subject categories, using for sheer convenience the same subject headings as CSURA's *Regional Records On-Line Guide*. Obviously such an exercise is a little arbitrary, and some of the categories (for example, *Agricultural, employer, labour and professional organisations*) are not sufficiently exclusive for our present purposes. But in the main they are reasonably indicative.

Going straight to the *Stations and properties* category, one sees that the strongest holdings are in the UNERA collection, with 94 creating agencies or 37% of the entire UNERA holdings sample. This perhaps is not altogether remarkable, for it is relatively easy to identify possible donors from Rural Lands Protection Board maps, and this is how Alan Wilkes went about collecting, covering 'over 17,000 miles' in the process.³¹ Moreover, in the postwar years many historians, and most other collecting institutions, were preoccupied with the 'origins' of landed settlement, and correspondingly interested in acquiring records relating to pastoralism and gold mining.³² Ryan lends some support to this contention, persuasively suggesting that 'deliberate contacts' with old pastoral families in the New England region 'fitted in very well with "the aims of the self-identified rural university"'.³³ Buckley also notes that this interest extended to public records relating to land settlement, and recounts sharp exchanges over custody of local Lands Board records between staff at the university and the Public Library of New South Wales (which at that time was responsible for management of the State's archives).³⁴

Records relating to pastoral or farming properties account for 4% of CSURA's holdings, despite Brech having targeted them during his first organised collecting drive in April 1979.⁵⁵ Individual collections of station records, however, have considerable research 'depth', and frequently are extensive, with the 70-metre Tubbo Estate Company records being one of the CSURA's best known and well used accessions. Pastoral and property records are proportionately well-represented in the Wagga Wagga and District Historical Society Collection (5%), but (at 1.2%) curiously under-represented in the CQ Collection—having regard to the Rockhampton district's status as a major centre for farming and grazing and the collection development policy targeting them as a priority—and altogether absent from the UoWA collection. Their absence in this case is partly explained by the collection's location in the heavily industrialised City of Wollongong. UoWA nevertheless holds records from several regional pastoral and agricultural show societies in its rural hinterland. But its impressively numerous holdings of interest and pressure groups (mostly categorised in its own *On-Line Guide* under the *Community* subject heading) are mainly urban, and do not embrace any rural pressure groups of the standing of the Murray Valley Development League (now the Murray Darling Association), whose records are held at CSURA.

We can carry this analysis a stage further, to see how well the various collections document life in their collecting areas, by looking more closely at the coverage of subject categories in Table 1. All of the collecting institutions surveyed for this paper have good holdings of personal and family records, though the size of a majority of individual collections (to judge from analysis of CSURA's holdings in Table 6) is generally small. This is very much in line with Powell's finding for personal papers, where 49% of some 3140 collections comprised one box or less. The biggest collections of family records at CSURA and UNERA are those of the more substantial rural families—particularly families active in public life, like the Bulls, the Fitzpatricks, the Gibsons, and the Gormlys (all at CSURA)—though even their collections do not generally extend beyond ten boxes. Station records, by contrast, are more likely to be extensive, as are politicians' collections and those of business and the professions. At CSURA over a third of collections in these latter categories are considerably in excess of twenty boxes.

Gender balance in the CSURA collection is heavily weighted to families and men (in that order), with women outnumbered two to one among *Academics* (the most numerous group in this category), *researchers and writers*, three to one among medical practitioners, and seventeen to one among politicians. In the *Business and professions* category, there are six individual male

professionals, but no women.³⁶ To put this in perspective, we can compare Powell's findings in his 1996 survey of personal papers. Of his sample of 3141 creating agencies, 9.4% comprise women, 9.3% families, and 81.3% men.³⁷ The corresponding figures for CSURA's personal papers sample are 21% each for women and families, and 58% for men. Representation of women's organisations among records creators at CSURA, based on analysis of the *Community, Interest and pressure groups, Religious, and Sport, leisure and recreational* categories, is less impressive than its personal and family records holdings. Only the *Community* category embraces a significant number (50%) of female agencies, many of them branches of the Country Women's Association or the Girl Guides Association. Overall, women's organisations account for just 16.4% of agencies.

Facets of life which are poorly represented in the regional collecting institutions in the sample include sporting, leisure and recreational agencies, which are present in insignificant proportions in all collections except for CSURA's. In the case of the CQ Collection this is predictable, given the prohibition in its 1995 collection development policy on acquiring newsletters of sporting or recreational organisations, since these often comprise a significant portion of the organisations' records. Religious organisations are under-represented in UNERA and UoWA's collections, but are present in relatively similar proportions (measured against total holdings) in the CQ Collection and at CSURA. In both of the latter institutions, the acquisition of these records seems to have been driven by the needs of genealogists and family historians for big volumes of personally identifying data: CSURA's acquisition of the records of the Anglican Diocese of Riverina (which comprise a significant part of the total holdings in this category), as well as large holdings of solicitors' client files (in the *Business and professions* category) and additional accessions of hospital patient files (in the *Medical* category) occurring during the period when the Wagga Wagga and District Family History Society was housed at the Archives.

Regional media organisations are not strongly represented in any of the surveyed collections, and coverage of emergency services is thin. Only CSURA has significant holdings in the *Educational and research agencies* category, and these include one of the few agencies external to its two collecting areas—the Australian and South Pacific External Studies Association, and its successor, the Open and Distance Learning Association of Australia. Otherwise, the rest of the agencies in this category are Parents and Citizens Associations, mostly from one-teacher rural schools, the Riverine University League (which could plausibly have been categorised under *Interest and pressure groups*), a community school, and a variety of research organisations, including the now defunct Institute of Riverina Studies.³⁸

Lastly, there is the issue of the date ranges of the various collections. Detailed analysis has been undertaken only for UoWA and CSURA (Tables 4 and 5). It would be helpful if this rather laborious exercise could be repeated for UNERA, the CQ Collection and collecting institutions in other 'old' regions (in terms of European settlement) like the Hunter, which one would expect to be more heavily skewed to early nineteenth plus late nineteenth and early twentieth-century date ranges. As it is, both UoWA and CSURA stand out as unashamedly twentieth-century collections, with over 80% of their holdings created in the last century, and less than 2% in each case of creating agencies' records created wholly in the nineteenth century. In so far as there is any difference between the two institutions, that difference lies in the balance of the collection, with CSURA's twentieth-century holdings rather stronger for the years prior to 1949, and UoWA's for the years after 1950.

Conclusion

The marked bias towards twentieth-century records in these two specialist regional collecting institutions gives some credence to our earlier assumption that institutions of this kind are more likely to have attempted to document the twentieth-century rural and regional experience than some of their less specialised metropolitan counterparts. Their success in doing so nonetheless remains in need of further investigation. That at least one of these ostensibly regional collections (CSURA, and possibly a second, the Capricornia CQ Collection) has been most successful in documenting its immediate *locality* is undoubtedly the most significant finding to emerge from this study.

The other finding of significance relates to the diverse impacts which attempts to accommodate the particular needs of different user groups have had on acquisition and collection development of both records and other source materials. All of these university-based regional collecting institutions are intended primarily to support the needs of academic researchers, most often historians, but sometimes specialists in politics and public administration. The needs of historians, and particularly economic historians, partly explain UNERA's preoccupation (at least in its earliest years) with collecting the records of pastoral properties and rural families. Similarly, at UoWA, the archival collection has the character of a special subject repository for the study of organised labour and left-wing political parties and groups: a character which accurately mirrors the research interests of its principal academic patrons and the history department to which they belong.

The tension between academic and community user expectations is, by contrast, most clearly evident in the collecting of CSURA, where the demand by genealogists for seemingly endless quantities of personally identifying data

encouraged—if it did not actually prompt—the acquisition of client files from professionals like solicitors and medical practitioners, as well as hospital patient records. This collecting may well have served to broaden the markedly local emphasis of CSURA's archival holdings, and give them a more genuinely regional character, whereas the pressure for the acquisition of printed sources, suitable for the support of genealogical research, tended to operate in the opposite direction and diffuse the regional focus. Much the same pattern can be traced at UoWA in the pressure from academics for the acquisition of printed sources to support their labour history interests. Here again the outcome has been to give the collection something of the appearance of a library special collection, while at the same time emphasising its special subject status at the expense of its local or regional character.

TABLES

Sources: University of New England Archives, *List of Accessions* [c. 1943–10 August 1973]; University of Wollongong Archives, *On-Line Guide to Archives and Manuscripts ('D' Collection)*; CSU Regional Archives, *Regional Records On-Line Guide*, (ed.) James Logan, and CSURA Accessions Register; CQU Capricornia Central Queensland Collection, *Major Manuscripts*, September 2000; CSU Regional Archives, Accession List RW5, Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society Archival Collection.

Table 1 UNERA, UoWA, CSURA, CQU Capricornia CQ Collection, Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society Archival Collection: Distribution of Private Records Creating Agencies by Collecting Institution

Creating agencies (by subject categories)	UNERA	UoWA	CSURA	CQU CCQC	WW & DHS
Academics, researchers & writers	4	19	28	5	-
Agricultural, employer, labour & professional	6	42	26	13	-
Artistic & cultural	12	5	20	2	1
Business & professions	32	15	44	11	4
Community	4	8	34	14	1
Educational & research	1	2	30	1	-
Emergency services	1	-	1	1	-
Ephemera, single items of uncertain provenance, etc.	49	See text	See text	1	23
Interest & pressure groups	3	23	17	7	4
Media	1	2	6	-	-
Medical	5	1	10	-	-
Personal & families	32	16	64	18	20
Politicians & political parties	3	27	20		1
Religious	2	1	50	9	1
Sport, leisure & recreational	3	2	27	1	2
Stations & properties	94	-	16	1	3
Totals	252	163	393	84	60

Table 2 UNERA: Distribution of Private Records Creating Agencies by Geographical Location

Creating agencies (by subject categories)	No. of creating agencies	Region 2 New England	Region 1 North Coast	Region 3 Orana	Elsewhere
Academics, researchers & writers	4	4	-	-	-
Agricultural, employer, labour & professional	6	6	-	-	-
Artistic & cultural	12	8	4	-	-
Business & professions	32	19	10	2	1
Community	4	4	-	-	-
Educational & research	1	1	-	-	-
Emergency services	1	1	-	-	-
Ephemera	49	31	13	1	4
Interest & pressure groups	3	1	1	-	1
Media	1	1	-	-	-
Medical	5	5	-	-	-
Personal & families	32	24	5	2	1
Politicians & political parties	3	3	-	-	-
Religious	2	2	-	-	-
Sport, leisure & recreational	3	3	-	-	-
Stations & properties	94	71	7	5	11
Totals	252	184	40	10	18
Per cent	100	73	15.9	4.0	7.1

Table 3 CSURA: Distribution of Private Records Creating Agencies by Geographical Location

Creating agencies (by subject categories)	No. of creating agencies	City of Wagga Wagga	Region 6 Riverina excluding Wagga	Region 5 Murray	Elsewhere
Academics, researchers & writers	28	22	3	-	3
Agricultural, employer, labour & professional	26	19	-	3	4
Artistic & cultural	20	17	2	1	-
Business & professions	44	34	8	2	-
Community	34	27	7	-	-
Educational & research	30	21	7	1	1
Emergency services	1	-	1	-	-
Interest & pressure groups	17	11	4	2	-
Media	6	4	1	1	-
Medical	10	5	4	1	-
Personal & families	64	44	14	2	4
Politicians & political parties	20	6	8	4	2
Religious	50	7	23	16	4
Sport, leisure & recreational	27	27	-	-	-
Stations & properties	16	3	11	1	1
Totals	393	247	93	34	19
Per cent	100	62.8	23.7	8.7	4.8

Table 4 CSURA: Distribution of Private Records Creating Agencies by Date of Records Creation

Creating agencies (by subject categories)	No. of creating agencies	19th and 20th century	Late 19th century	20th century (to1949)	20th century (1950+)
Academics, researchers & writers	28	-	2	4	22
Agricultural, employer, labour & professional	26	-	1	9	16
Artistic & cultural	20	-	1	6	13
Business & professions	44	1	12	27	4
Community	34	-	3	11	20
Educational & research	30	-	-	8	22
Emergency services	1	-	-	1	-
Interest & pressure groups	17	-	-	10	7
Media	6	-	2	1	3
Medical	10	-	2	4	4
Personal & families	64	7	10	30	17
Politicians & political parties	20	-	-	6	14
Religious	50	-	20	26	4
Sport, leisure & recreational	27	-	-	16	11
Stations & properties	16	-	5	10	1
Totals	393	8	58	169	158
Per cent	100	2.0	14.8	43	40.2

Table 5 UoWA: Distribution of Private Records Creating Agencies by Date of Records Creation

Creating agencies (by subject categories)	No. of creating agencies	19th and 20th century	Late 19th century	20th century (to1949)	20th century (1950+)
Academics, researchers & writers	19	-	-	4	15
Agricultural, employer, labour & professional	42	-	2	19	21
Artistic & cultural	5	-	1	1	3
Business & professions	15	-	3	8	4
Community	8	-	2	1	5
Educational & research	2	1	-	1	-
Emergency services	-	-	-	-	-
Interest & pressure groups	23	-	-	4	19
Media	2	-	-	-	2
Medical	1	-	1	-	-
Personal & families	16	2	7	5	2
Politicians & political parties	27	-	-	6	21
Religious	1	-	-	1	-
Sport, leisure & recreational	2	-	-	-	2
Stations & properties	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	163	3	16	50	94
Per cent	100	1.8	9.8	30.7	57.7

Table 6 CSURA: Distribution of Private Records Creating Agencies by Collection Size

Creating agencies (by subject categories)	No. of creating agencies	1 box or less	2-5 boxes	6-10 boxes	11-20 boxes	>20 boxes
Academics, researchers & writers	28	8	12	4	1	3
Agricultural, employer, labour & professional	26	15	4	3	4	-
Artistic & cultural	20	4	12	1	1	2
Business & professions	44	16	12	2	1	13
Community	34	17	6	5	5	1
Educational & research	30	14	10	4	2	-
Emergency services	1	1	-	-	-	-
Interest & pressure groups	17	14	1	-	1	1
Media	6	-	1	-	-	5
Medical	10	2	1	-	-	7
Personal & families	64	49	9	4	-	2
Politicians & political parties	20	5	3	2	3	7
Religious	50	36	12	1	-	1
Sport, leisure & recreational	27	12	11	3	1	-
Stations & properties	16	5	5	1	-	5
Totals	393	198	99	30	19	47
Per cent	100	50.4	25.2	7.6	4.8	12.0

ENDNOTES

My thanks to James Logan (CSU Regional Archives), Michael Organ (University of Wollongong Archives) and Leo Tidey (CQU Capricornia CQ Collection).

1 In defining *private* records as records of non-governmental provenance I am following Lewis J Bellardo and Lynn Lady Bellardo (eds), *A Glossary for Archivists, Manuscript Curators, and Records Managers*, Society of American Archivists, Chicago, 1992, p. 27. Michael Piggott, 'A National Approach to Archival Appraisal and Collecting', National Scholarly Communications Forum Round Table no. 10 (November 1999), Archives in the National Research Infrastructure, www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/nscf/roundtables/r10/r10_piggott.html, suggests a more sophisticated conceptualisation, dividing recordkeeping into four broad domains, 'government, business, non-profit/non-government, and private'. *Private* in the sense it is used in the present paper embraces all but the first of these. My definition is broader than that of Graeme Powell in, 'The Collecting of Personal and Private Papers in Australia', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 24, no. 1, May 1996, pp. 62-77, which focuses primarily on the private records of individuals and families, including 'collections which comprise a mixture of personal papers and business or official records such as the archives of some politicians, solicitors, small businessmen and pastoralists', but excluding collections which are classified as business or professional because they consist 'entirely of ledgers, case files or stock returns'.

2 Michael Piggott, 'The History of Australian Recordkeeping: A Framework for Research' in BJ McMullen (ed.), *Coming Together: Papers from the Seventh Australian Library History Forum*, Ancora Press, Melbourne, 1997, pp. 33-5.

3 Peter Biskup, 'The National Library and the Mitchell Library: The Strange Case of the Manuscripts of Major-General Lachlan Macquarie, Governor of New South Wales', *Proceedings of the 5th Biennial Conference of the Australian Society of Archivists, Canberra 5-8*

July 1985, Australian Society of Archivists, Canberra, 1986, pp. 109–34; Peter Biskup, 'Captain Cook's *Endeavour* Journal and Australian Libraries', *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, vol. 18, no. 3, 1987, pp. 137–49. The reciprocal relationship between archival collecting and the construction of ethnic identity is explored in Elisabeth Kaplan, 'We Are What We Collect, We Collect What We Are: Archives and the Construction of Identity', *American Archivist*, vol. 63, no. 1, 2000, pp. 126–51.

4 Carol Gistutin, 'The Capricornia Central Queensland Collection', *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, vol. 17, no. 1, 1985, pp. 47–50.

5 John Thompson, 'The Australian Manuscripts Collection in the State Library of Victoria: Its Growth, Development and Future Prospects', *La Trobe Library Journal*, vol. 6, no. 21, 1978, pp. 8–14 and Tony Marshall, 'The Australian Manuscript Collection', *La Trobe Library Journal*, vol. 12, nos 47/48, 1991, pp. 76–80, also a paper by Jock Murphy, 'The Development of the Australian Manuscripts Collection at the State Library of Victoria' in McMullin, pp. 23–31, about the collecting relationship (or lack of it) between the Royal Victorian Historical Society and the Library's Australian manuscripts collection.

6 RJ McDonald, 'Archives in New England (NSW, Australia)', *Bulletin of the Business Archives Council of Australia*, vol. 1, no. 9, 1961, pp. 87–8 and 'University Archives in New England', *Australian Library Journal*, vol. 12, no. 1, 1963, pp. 26–7; Christopher Buckley, 'History of the University of New England Archives', *Armidale and District Historical Society Journal*, no. 40, 1997, pp. 117–34; JS Ryan, 'Early University Responses to the Matter of Collecting and Using Archives in New England', *Armidale and District Historical Society Journal*, no. 41, 1998, pp. 27–43.

7 Gordon W Marrie, Development of the Capricornia Central Queensland Collection at the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education Library. Case Study of the Building of a Library Collection of Local and Regional Materials. Graduate Diploma in Librarianship Dissertation, Riverina College of Advanced Education, 1981 (copy held by CQU Library). John Shipp, 'University of Wollongong Archives', *Labour History*, no. 45, 1983, pp. 96–9.

8 Powell, pp. 62–77; D Terwiel, SP Ville & GA Fleming, *Australian Business Records: An Archival Guide*, Dept of Economic History, Australian National University, Canberra, 1998.

9 Thompson, p. 13.

10 www.db.csu.edu.au/division/lib/archives/archives-n34.htm.

11 www-library.uow.edu.au/archives/arccoll.htm.

12 Guides to all of UNERA's collections are at www.une.edu.au/archives/collection.html.

13 Powell, pp. 63–4.

14 Ryan, p. 27.

15 Baiba Irving, 'The Wollongong University Archives Unit', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 6, no. 2, 1975, p. 51.

16 Not sufficiently appreciated by many writers on Australian university archives and special collections as I argue in my article 'Australian University Archives and their Prospects', *Australian Academic and Research Libraries*, vol. 30, no. 3, 1999, pp. 162–3.

17 Nancy Blacklow, 'Development: The Faculty of Arts' in Nancy Blacklow, Don Boadle, Fred Goldsworthy, *CDB A Tribute from the Faculty of Arts*, Bobby Graham Publishers for Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, 2001, pp. 66–8.

18 See Tables 1 and 2; www-library.uow.edu.au/archives/arcoll.htm, parts 1 and 2; www-library.uow.edu.au/archives/arcoll.htm. McDonald, 'Archives in New England', p. 88, draws particular attention to the need for preserving local newspapers to meet the needs of 'research workers', and Irving, p. 51 refers to the rich eclecticism of the UoWA collection.

- 19 Edward Reid-Smith, *Margaret Francis Carnegie, the Writer: An Examination of Materials in the Carnegie Collection at the Wagga Campus Library of Charles Sturt University*, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, 1997.
- 20 See Don Boadle, 'Riverina Studies—Retrospect and Prospect', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, vol. 80, nos 3/4, 1994, pp. 143–7.
- 21 My thanks to Vera Swan for allowing me to consult this diary.
- 22 These collections have since been dispersed, but not without controversy. The *Wagga Wagga Daily Advertiser* led the campaign against dispersion with a front-page story on 9 February 1994 under the headline 'London Times on Death Row'!
- 23 Don Boadle, 'Origins and Development of the New South Wales Regional Repositories System', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 23, no. 2, 1995, pp. 274–88.
- 24 wwwdb.csu.edu.au/division/lib/archives/archives-n43.htm.
- 25 It was not until 1988 that the then Archives Authority of New South Wales published a *General Records Disposal Schedule for Local Government*, approved for use under the provisions of Ordinance 1, cl. 55(3) of the *Local Government Act* 'and commended to all Councils'. Its use was not mandatory. A new, mandatory, functional *GDA* for local government records was published in 2000 by the State Records Authority, pursuant to the *State Records Act 1998*. The new *GDA* adopts the appraisal methodology described in AS4390.5–1996, Australian Standard *Records Management*. There is scope for a study that surveys the appraisal methodologies adopted by archivists in the regional repositories prior to promulgation of the new *GDA*, and the consequential impacts on the documentation of the state's rural and regional communities.
- 26 Irving, p. 51; LT D[illon], 'University of Wollongong Archives', *Archives and Manuscripts*, vol. 7, no. 3, 1978, p. 147.
- 27 Accessioned as D159. Hagan's ALP collection is at D68.
- 28 McDonald, 'Archives in New England', p. 87.
- 29 Ulrich Ellis, 'The New State Movement in Action', *Politics*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1966, pp. 17–20.
- 30 Marrie, p. 11.
- 31 [Alan Wilkes], 'The Archives Division'; single item in file labelled 'Brief History of the Archives Division, 1959–66'. I am indebted to the late Chris Buckley for this reference.
- 32 Thompson, p. 12.
- 33 Ryan, p. 40.
- 34 Buckley, pp. 117–18.
- 35 Undated holograph notes by DC Brech, 'Acquisitions—Riverina Archives', Riverina College Archives and Records Service—Policy, RCA79/2, CSURA: CSU1923/2. 'ANU Archives', he wrote, 'may secure these if we do not take action.'
- 36 To facilitate comparisons with Powell, these figures are based on 100 selected creating agencies, comprising individuals and families. Associations among individuals (partnerships, incorporated bodies, private companies, etc.) have been excluded. Uncertainty about provenance has complicated the classification of some creating agencies in the *Personal and Families* category; 20 (out of 64) agencies have been excluded for this reason.
- 37 Powell, p. 75.
- 38 Set up by Keith Swan from 1966 to c. 1978. See Boadle, 'Riverina Studies', pp. 144–5.