

## Editorial

Since my first issue as Editor in May 2000, when I responded to a survey of members which was conducted two years before then, I have tried, among other things, to provide more articles about the use of archives, access to archives and about outreach programs, more topical articles, more case studies, and more articles of immediate relevance to practitioners. I've encouraged particular themes: small archives, documentation of society (how well have we documented the 20<sup>th</sup> century?), case studies on the use of Encoded Archival Description and website delivery of archives services, and finally, debate on public access issues. For one issue in that five-year period, guest editor Cassandra Findlay brought us an appraisal theme issue, and the next issue, already commissioned, will be on the theme of standards.

In all, there have been over fifty articles by as many different authors. In a reflection of modern recordkeeping, almost all my dealings with contributors (authors, referees, and section editors) have been by email. The Editorial Board also meets by email, coming face-to-face only once a year at the ASA Conference. The Board in its current form has only been operating for the last two years – its establishment provides support for the Editor in commissioning articles and locating referees, and qualifies the journal for inclusion on the Register of Refereed Journals maintained by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training. This in turn encourages the submission of articles by academics and researchers who benefit from increased government funding to their institution.

In this, my last issue as Editor, my personal prejudices are again apparent. In what I hope will continue as a debate, two archivists respond to Paul Macpherson's article in the May 2002 issue, 'Theory, Standards and Implicit Assumptions: Public Access to Post-current Government Records'. On the one hand, Frank Upward, a senior Australian academic and 'continuum' theorist, and on the other, Matthew Eidson, a young American practitioner from the 'life cycle' school, provide two very different responses to Macpherson's call to action.

Jeremy Cauchi's article on the development of an access standard by Archives New Zealand is also in a way a response to Macpherson. It demonstrates how a general access standard might be developed and implemented in the Australian context.

Tikka Wilson and Lenore Coltheart survey the National Archives' web delivery of public programs over the past ten years, from a time when there was no website to the present. Using the *Australia's Prime Ministers* website as a case study they demonstrate how multiple public audiences are targeted and many different needs for information and for access to documents are met.

For topicality, there's Tony Caravella's exposition of the laws of war and how they apply to the current Iraqi war.

In this issue there are also a number of obituaries for Frank Strahan, a fellow of the Society, and Allan Horton, first editor (with Phyllis Mander Jones) of this journal. As this issue goes to print comes news of the death of Professor Bob Neale, appointed first Director-General of the National Archives in 1975. An obituary will be published in the November 2004 issue.

My special thanks to my Managing Editors, in particular Shauna Hicks, to the Editorial Board, and to section editors Helen Morgan, Adrian Cunningham, Ewan Maidment and lately, Pat Jackson. I am looking forward to being a reader of *Archives and Manuscripts* again and finding time for my own writing.

Maggie Shapley