

ARCHIVES  
AND  
MANUSCRIPTS

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF ARCHIVISTS

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 1 MAY 2005

### **The Archivist's Mission**

Archivists ensure that records which have value as authentic evidence of administrative, corporate, cultural and intellectual activity are made, kept and used. The work of archivists is vital for ensuring organisational efficiency and accountability and for supporting understandings of Australian life through the management and retention of its personal, corporate and social memory.

*Archives and Manuscripts* is a publication of the Australian Society of Archivists Incorporated, PO Box 77, Dickson, ACT 2602, Australia.

© Copyright in *Archives and Manuscripts* and the articles contained therein is vested in the Australian Society of Archivists Incorporated.

Contributors' opinions and advertisers' claims do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Society of Archivists Incorporated or the Editor.

Printed on permanent paper by Pirion Printing, Canberra.

Cover design by GRiD.

ISSN 0157-6895

# Contents

Volume 33, Number 1

May 2005

Editorial.....	8
Letter to the Editor .....	14

## Articles

<i>Barbara Reed</i>	Reading the Records Continuum: Interpretations and Explorations .....	18
---------------------	--	----

*This article provides multiple parallel readings of the records continuum model in relation to a single case study to illustrate the capacity of the model to support different interpretations, simultaneously, depending on the context. The article demonstrates that the records continuum and model is not a straightjacket for linear application of records theory within a government arena but is a vibrant and dynamic tool and method of thinking.*

<i>Eric Ketelaar</i>	Sharing: Collected Memories in Communities of Records .....	44
----------------------	--	----

*This article explores the notion of a 'community of records', referring to a community both as a record-creating entity and as a memory frame that contextualises the records it created. Could we use the concept of a 'community of records' in making the fourth dimension of the records continuum model more vigorous? Such a view might help in repositioning the archive's (and the archivist's) role in shaping memories and identities.*

<i>Michael Piggott</i>	Building Collective Memory Archives.....	62
------------------------	--	----

*The article's point of departure is archivists' sweeping, uncritical and repeated equating of archives with personal corporate and social memory (despite the*

*continuing use of memory by libraries and museums to explain their own roles), and the records continuum model's approach to 'memory' within its fourth dimension. It argues that memory can be a motive behind the building of certain components of the collective archives.*

<i>Frank Upward</i>	Continuum Mechanics and Memory Banks .....	84
---------------------	---	----

*This article explores models for continuum mechanics that can help spread the stress involved in managing recordkeeping and archiving processes. It looks horizontally (at ground cover level) at four facets of memory within recorded information, each of which has more detailed understandings disappearing vertically below the surface. More synergy between the cognate disciplines concerned with the recording of information is needed. Of that there can be little dispute. Conceptually, however, disciplines are still poles apart and this article will attempt to draw those poles more clearly into a common spacetime distancing framework.*

<i>Chris Hurley</i>	Parallel Provenance: (1) What if Anything is Archival Description? .....	110
---------------------	---	-----

*Archival description tells a story about the formation of records and the activity they document. The stories we tell about provenance reflect a necessary choice to exclude contested narratives. We justify that choice by legitimising our point of view according to archival principles that we claim mandate taking a single view of provenance and depicting a fixed internal structure for the fonds. This article argues that records are linked to a dynamic set of diverse and changing relationships that cannot be properly described under that mandate.*

<i>Sue McKemmish, Anne Gilliland- Swetland &amp; Eric Ketelaar</i>	'Communities of Memory': Pluralising Archival Research and Education Agendas .....	146
--	--	-----

*Global archival frameworks of the kind imagined in the pluralising fourth dimension of the records continuum model face a major challenge: how to build*

*archival systems and associated practices that operate and inter-operate effectively worldwide, but respect and empower the local and indigenous. In this paper we explore the nature of that challenge and the implications for archival research and education agendas, and for archival science itself in an increasingly globalised world.*

*Barbara Reed*                      **Beyond Perceived Boundaries: Imagining the Potential of Pluralised Recordkeeping .....** 176

*This article explores the recordkeeping landscape to challenge traditional archival understandings of the notion of collective memory, thus unlocking the recordkeeping possibilities of the pluralising, fourth dimension of the records continuum. It highlights some of the issues and opportunities that arise from imagining and implementing new ways of viewing recordkeeping roles and responsibilities in the pluralising domain.*

## **Reviews**

**Victoria L Lemieux**, *Managing Risks For Records and Information*  
Reviewed by Stephen Yorke ..... 200

**Maria Brosius (ed.)**, *AncientArchives and Archival Tradition: Concepts of Record-Keeping in the Ancient World*  
Reviewed by Michael Piggott ..... 202

**Wythe, Deborah (ed.)**, *Museum Archives: An Introduction*  
Reviewed by Helen Yoxall ..... 204

**Barry Howarth and Ewan Maidment (eds)**, *Light from the Tunnel*  
Reviewed by Kathryn Dan ..... 208

- Helen Ennis**, *Intersections: Photography, history and the National Library of Australia*  
 Reviewed by Joanna Sassoon ..... 210
- The Society of American Archivists** *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*  
 Reviewed by Barbara Reed ..... 212
- David Black and Lesley Wallace**, *John Curtin*  
 Reviewed by James McKinnon ..... 215
- Betty Joseph**, *Reading the East India Company, 1720-1840: Colonial Currencies of Gender*  
 Reviewed by Evelyn Wareham ..... 217
- Ruchard J Cox**, *No Innocent Deposits Forming Archives by Rethinking Appraisal*  
 Reviewed by Tony Leviston ..... 220
- Richard J Cox (ed.)**, *Lester J Cappon and the Relationship of History*  
 Reviewed by Melissa Sharkey ..... 222
- Frank M Bischoff, Hans Hofman and Seamus Ross (eds)**, *Metadata in Preservation*  
 Reviewed by Joanne Evans ..... 225

**News Notes ..... 228**

**International News Notes ..... 264**

**Feature Articles ..... 272**

*Sam Kaima  
and Widya Paul* Archival Collections of Papua New Guinea  
Institute of Medical Research (PNGIMR) and  
University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG): A  
Work in Progress Report ..... 272

*Ricardo Punzalan* Cultural Diversity and Post-colonial Realities:  
Challenges of archival training in the  
Phillipines ..... 289