

ARCHIVES
and
MANUSCRIPTS

The Journal of the Australian Society of Archivists

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.

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The ability to meld Koorie culture and technology relies on a relationship of trust with community members and a willingness to listen and hear the voices of Koorie individuals and communities. This paper gives a voice to some of the complexities of this ambition through personal stories about identity, community, and the role technology can play to create a sustainable digital community archive. The stories reflect the need to preserve the rich and diverse culture of Koorie communities, when there exists a history of displacement from land, family and culture; and how pride in who you are and where you come from is connected to sharing cultural history and knowledge.

Leisa Gibbons Cultural film heritage and independent
film production in Australia 34

This article addresses issues of recordkeeping for cultural heritage in the Australian Film Production Industry. The idea of film as a medium for stories, as well as a story itself, introduces the potential friction that exists between commercial assets as also being cultural assets. The Australian film industry's heavy reliance and competition for Government funding has nurtured a particular culture. The nature of this is explored

against the recent developments in digital technologies, giving filmmakers access to new tools and cheaper materials, which potentially sidestep the funding cycle. Issues concerning what these film assets are and who is responsible for preserving them is discussed in relation to the expansion of the use of digital technologies.

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In this article, some of the key paradoxes and riddles of the Information Management and Freedom of Information relationship are explored. Joseph Stiglitz's ideas of information economics are applied to demonstrate why records management and FOI are not only compatible but essential partners in an information age. In the last decade the number of countries with some type of FOI legislation has increased from a small handful to over seventy countries. Yet this outbreak of transparency is bound to disappoint unless records management, FOI, privacy and archives are understood as interplay between several different information systems. The direction, timing and quality of information flows becomes the key issue and the avoidance of stagnancy an important objective.

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