

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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Mark Brogan Clipping Mercury's Wings: The Challenge
 of Email Archiving 12

This article investigates the changing landscape of email archiving. It explores the gap between user behaviours, professional frames of good practice email management and various systems solutions.

The paper argues for alignment of methods, procedures and business solutions with ethnographic and survey evidence of how users respond to the challenge of email management in circumstances of 'information overload'. The term 'information overload' emerged in connection with computer-mediated communication in the 1990s. A significant research literature has since grown up around the causes and implications of information overload, including email induced information overload. The author argues that evidence-based interpretations of end-user email filing behaviour sit uncomfortably with recordkeeping approaches to email management based on 'recordness'. The author concludes that approaches to email archiving based on volition and 'recordness' may need to be abandoned in favour of approaches that make sense in terms of what is known about user behaviour.

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Across the information professions there is a recognition that meeting the challenges and exploiting the potentials of digital and networking technologies require a revolution in thinking and practice, in order to overcome barriers to interoperability in our existing systems. This is most

apparent in attitudes to metadata, particularly recordkeeping metadata and its management. There is a need to shift from systems and tools dominated by the paper paradigm and mindset towards those that are 'born' digital. This article reports on the Clever Recordkeeping Metadata Project, which through prototyping of the 'create once – use many times' concept, tested the capabilities of existing processes, standards and tools to support metadata interoperability. It outlines key findings and outcomes from the project, particularly the need for recordkeeping to be reconceptualised in the light of the emerging service-oriented approach to the architecture of IT systems, and discusses the place of technological innovation in reforming our practices for a digital age.

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The role that television has played in western cultures over the last 50 years has engaged a wide range of researchers in considering its power and influence in society. In addition, the popular belief in the power and influence of television, together with its role as a mirror, reflecting community values and expectations, suggests that it is an important communications medium that should be collected and preserved in a manner that ensures access is available for future researchers. This paper investigates the nature and extent of holdings of Logie Award television programs in the nation's major publicly funded archives. The results suggest that while there are major gaps, overall holdings are generally good, with representative or comprehensive collections being maintained across most genres.

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