





## Analitic summary

### **Orders of Value: Probing the Theoretical Terms of Archival Practice**

Brien Brothman

The search of alternative forms of speaking and of thinking about the archival theory and the practice might motivate the archivists so that they strengthen the base that supports the current practice, or in order that they change your theories. Nowadays it is necessary to think about the meanings that the archival practices have for the society. The archivist believes values in the same act of preserving a few documents instead of others and the resultant order is of interest more in these values than in the indication of the origin of the documents. The files are not an end but a set of documents that should be analyzed in your historical and cultural contexts by the archivists or by researchers of other disciplines.

*ARCHIVAL SCIENCE, POSTMODERNISM, APPRAISAL, ARCHIVAL PRINCIPLES, MEANINGS*

### **Archival Science and Postmodernism: New Formulations for Old Concepts**

Terry Cook

Process rather than product, becoming rather than being, dynamic rather than static, context rather than text, reflecting time and place rather than universal absolutes - these have become the postmodern watchwords for analyzing and understanding science, society, organizations, and business activity, among others.

They should likewise become the watchwords for archival science in the new century, and thus the foundation for a new conceptual paradigm for the profession. Postmodernism is not the only reason for reformulating the main precepts of archival science. Significant changes in the purpose of archives as institutions and the nature of records are other factors which, combined with postmodern insights, form the basis of the new perception of archives as documents, institutions, and profession in society.

This essay explores the nature of postmodernism and archival science, and suggests links between the two. It outlines two broad changes in archival thinking that underpin the archival paradigm shift, before suggesting new formulations for most traditional archival concepts.

*ARCHIVAL SCIENCE, GOVERNANCE, POSTMODEMISM, SOCIAL MEMORY, NARRATIVES*

## **Fashionable Nonsense or Professional Rebirth: Postmodernism and the Practice of Archives**

Terry Cook

Postmodern ideas have been dismissed as fashionable nonsense demonstrating academia's arrogant incomprehensibility and equally acclaimed as liberating concepts freeing many disciplines from worn-out traditional constraints. This article explores the relevance of postmodern thinking for archival practice. Postmodern thinkers have discussed for several decades topics close to archivists' concerns, and more recently begun to address directly "the archive" itself as record, institution, and function.

This essay looks at the weaknesses and strengths of postmodern analysis, assays some definitions of postmodernism in an archival context, and suggests how postmodern insights might change archivists' daily practice as they work (and live) inescapably in conditions of postmodernity. The principal focus of such changes centres around much greater transparency and accountability by archivists for the archival function itself and much greater awareness of the diversity, ambiguity, and multiple identities of records creators, information systems, and archives users.

*ARCHIVAL SCIENCE, GOVERNANCE, POSTMODEMISM, SOCIAL MEMORY*

## **Claiming Less, Delivering More: a Critique of Positivist Formulations on Archives in South Africa**

Verne Harris

In South Africa the archival discourse is dominated by a positivist paradigm that needs to be checked. This article outlines and questions the positivist formulations

on the term archive, the archive as reflection of the reality, the guardian's role, the archive and the memory of the nation and the euphoric interpretations that have been realized on the transformation of the archives in South Africa.

*POSTMODERNISM, SOUTH AFRICA ARCHIVES, SOCIAL MEMORY, POSITIVISM*

## **A Shaft of Darkness: Derrida in the Archive**

Verne Harris

This text forms a part of a book that compiles a seminar celebrated in the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa in which Jacques Derrida participated and which had a great impact between the archivists. Verne Harris following the thoughts of the French philosopher, of whom he analyzes the works: *Archive fever* and *Memoirs of the blinds* he indicates that every interpretation of the archive is enrichment and consequently the archive is never closed: the archive performs the future more than of the past.

*DECONSTRUCTION, POSTMODERNISM, DERRIDA, SOUTH AFRICA ARCHIVES, DERRIDA*

## **Tacit Narratives: The Meanings of Archives**

Eric Ketelaar

Archivists and historians usually consider archives as repositories of historical sources and the archivist as a neutral custodian. Sociologists and anthropologists see “the archive” also as a system of collecting, categorizing, and exploiting memories. Archivists are hesitantly acknowledging their role in shaping memories. I advocate that archival fonds, archival documents, archival institutions, and archival systems contain tacit narratives which must be deconstructed in order to understand the meanings of archives.

*ARCHIVAL SCIENCE, MEDIATION, NARRATIVES, POSTMODERNISM, SOCIAL MEMORY*

## **“Records of Simple Truth and Precision”: Photography, Archives, and the Illusion of Control**

Joan Schwartz

This introduction to early nineteenth-century critical writing on photography as a constellation of technologically, culturally, and socially constructed practices prompts reflection upon the shared paradigmatic origins of photographic practices and archival practices. In elucidating the role of photographs in the production of social knowledge, it also furnishes insights into the function of photographs in society –in the business of life and in the life of business– and, by extension, sheds new light on the nature of photographs as documents and the

place of photographs in archives. Finally, it invites close consideration of the parallels between the vocabularies of photography and archives, and of the implications of the postmodern destabilization of photographic truth on the intellectual underpinnings of archives.

*HISTORY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY, POSTMODERNISM, ARCHIVAL PRINCIPLES, NARRATIVES*

## **The Power of Meaning: The Mission of Archives in the Postmodern World**

Mark A. Greene

Some archivists at the forefront of writing about the complexities of electronic materials have challenged the traditional U.S. definitions of records, archives, and archivists. Where once those terms were broad enough to encompass virtually all forms of documentary material, these writers, exemplified by Richard Cox and Luciana Duranti, have urged on our profession a narrower conception of records and archives. This challenge threatens to undermine the important socio-cultural meaning of archives and archival material. It is vital that archivists reclaim and reaffirm a broad conception of their professional purpose and an equally broad definition of what constitutes archival material. To do otherwise is to accept a truncated and sterile vision of our profession.

*ARCHIVAL SCIENCE, SOCIAL MEMORY, POSTMODERNISM, ARCHIVAL PARADIGMS, RECORDKEEPING*

## **Seeing Archives: Postmodernism and the Changing Intellectual Place of Archives**

Tom Nesmith

Archivists have begun to outline the general application of a postmodern perspective to archival work. Postmodernists emphasize the idea that there is no way to avoid or neutralize the limits of the mediating influences that shape our understandings of our worlds. This postmodern outlook suggests an important new intellectual place for archives in the formation of records, knowledge, culture, and societies. This article aims to contribute more fully to an understanding of how the postmodern view of communication and language throws light on the role of archivists in mediating, and thus shaping, the knowledge available in archives. It concludes with the suggestion that this understanding of the role archivists' play will be pivotal in archiving the computerized record.

*ARCHIVAL SCIENCE, HISTORY OF THE ARCHIVES, POSTMODERNISM, MEANINGS OF THE ARCHIVES, SOCIAL MEMORY*

## **Embracing the Power of Archives**

Randall C. Jimerson

This article is a paper given at the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in New Orleans, on August 18, 2005. The author invites to see the archives as sites of power like a temple, a prison, a restaurant. He discards the image apparent neutrality of archives and he alludes to the necessity to know the power concept and the importance to be conscious of the social responsibility of archives.

*POSTMODERNISM, ARCHIVES, POWER, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF ARCHIVES*

## **Spanish archival legislation: current regime and future challenges**

Dionisio Fernández de Gatta Sánchez

The article analyzes the legislation relating to the archives and documents from the end of Old Regime to the present time. It is centred in problematic the legal one provoked by the dismemberment of the Archive of the Spanish Civil War.

*ARCHIVAL LEGISLATION, ARCHIVO DE LA GUERRA CIVIL ESPAÑOLA*

## **Current problematics of the regulation of the military courts archives**

Joaquín Gil Hondurilla

The archives of the Spanish military courts have great importance in order to know the historical period of Spanish Civil War. In this article is analyzed the legislation to the creation, access, use and preservation of those archives with the goal to detect the possible legal emptiness.

*ARCHIVES OF SPANISH MILITARY COURTS, LEGISLATION OF SPANISH MILITARY COURTS*

## **The archival infractions in the Administrative Law**

Luis Hernández Olivera

In this article there are studied the conducts harmful to the records and archives that turn out to be typified as infractions in the Act of Historical Spanish Heritage and in the regional laws of archives and cultural heritage. Likewise the consequent repressive measures are analyzed foreseen for those who do not observe the protective measures of the archival heritage.

*ARCHIVAL INFRACTIONS, ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, PROTECTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE, SANCTIONS*

## **Of the ISAF, International Standard on Activities/Functions of Corporate Bodies, to the ISDF, International Standard for Describing Functions**

Antonia Heredia Herrera

The ISAF, provisional text that has evolved the ISDF, for the first version, is the international Standard on Activities/Functions and comes to complete the Standard set for the archival description. It is a complementary of the ISAD (G), since it is the ISAAR (CPF). Her structure, equivalent to the latter, does not claim but identify the functions / activities of the producers of archival documents and normalize your denominations from a record of authority. The second text will be presented in the next International Congress of Archives, to celebrating in 2008.

In this article there have been analyzed the first text and the changes that have interfered.

From the personal point of view of the authoress, this norm is it fewer archival of three mentioned standards. Your analysis is important, before your application and it makes necessary a Spanish translation realized by archivists, which does not turn fundamental archival concepts and facilitates your suitable use.

*ISAF, ISDF, NORMALIZATION, ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION, IDENTIFICATION, ARCHIVAL CLASSIFICATION, ISAD(G), ARCHIVAL VOCABULARY*

## **Come to know us! The project of diffusion of the Administration of Asturias**

Alicia Hernández Martín y Fátima Rodríguez Coya

In the framework of the Public Administration modernization, apart from improvements in technology and in internal administration of departments, it is also forecast to develop diffusion strategies for citizens, in order to share this breakthrough with citizens and train them in the use of new services. Following this approach, the Government of Asturias has started the project '¡Ven a conocernos!' (Come to Meet Us!), aimed at regional primary school students. Through a guided visited to the Government's facilities, students are shown some departments, such as the Citizen Care Service, the Registry Office and the Archive, while they learn how to use the services provided by them.

*GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, INFORMATION LITERACY, ARCHIVES, ASTURIAS, CITIZEN CARE SERVICE, DIFFUSION, USERS EDUCATION.*

## **Proposals of organization for ecclesiastic archives (2): the classification scheme of the fonds of the diocesan curia of Ciudad Rodrigo (episcopal archives)**

**Pedro José Gómez González**

Continuing with the series of studies relative to the organization of different types of ecclesiastic archives, in this occasion we do some offers for the fonds produced or accumulated by the diocesan curias (or episcopal archives). The present initiative places, as the previous case of parochial, in the project of initiated treatment some years ago for the ecclesiastic files of Ciudad Rodrigo (Salamanca). In the article there is done an proposal of classification scheme for the fonds of the diocesan administration, simultaneously that give themselves a few concrete guidelines of organization of this type of archives, and learns on the experience of the above mentioned project. With these proposals we want to contribute ideas for the conciliation of organizational structures for the rest of archives of this type.

*ECCLESIASTIC ARCHIVES, CLASSIFICATION, CLASSIFICATION SCHEME, DIOCESAN CURIAS, CIUDAD RODRIGO*