

Reviews

ANNE R. KENNEY, editor

American Archival Analysis: The Recent Development of the Archival Profession in the United States. By Richard J. Cox. Metuchen, N.J. and London: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1990. Bibliographic essay, index. xv, 347 pp. ISBN 0-8108-2338-1. (∞)

This book is not merely a product of its time; it might well come to be viewed as the epitome of the American archival profession of the late twentieth century. Beginning with its title, the volume stands as a monument to Bruce Dearstyne's earlier portrayal of the 1980s as the "Age of Archival Analysis." Its author, Richard Cox, has achieved recognition as the most prolific exponent of this "age," and he has properly earned a 1991 SAA Leland Prize co-award for this publication.

Diligent consumers of archival literature will have already read much of *American Archival Analysis* before they open its covers. The book is a compendium of fourteen essays, ten of which are derived from articles that appeared in 1980s issues of the *American Archivist*, *Provenance*, the *Midwestern Archivist*, the *Public Historian*, the *Journal of Library Administration*, and elsewhere. The connecting thread for these writings, as seen by Cox, is spun from a number of broad themes: "the archival mission, the archival community as profession, a basic core of knowledge, relationships with the information and historical professions, and an agenda for change." (p. xi) The main body is prefaced by an interesting self-conscious account aptly subtitled "The Personal

Odyssey of an Archivist," and a concluding bibliographic essay summarizes in thorough fashion the key works from the past decade that have shaped Cox's thinking.

The book's four previously unpublished contributions echo many of the prevailing convictions and assumptions in the reissued pieces, namely that the archival profession has progressed significantly in recent years, that it still faces fundamental problems (e.g. the weakness of graduate-level education, the scarcity of research on archival theory, the inadequacy of traditional methods for selecting archival material, the unfavorable image of archivists held by society at large, the lack of cooperative interaction with allied professionals), and that the impetus and means for resolving these problems must come from within the profession itself. Probably the best of the newer essays is "A Research Agenda for Archival Education in the United States." Informed by a meticulous review of archival and library science literature, Cox presents a series of issues in need of critical assessment as the archival field works to improve its educational infrastructure. The other three additions include an examination of the common ground occupied by archivists and analytical bibliographers, a concise overview and promulgation of documentation strategies, and an exhortation for archivists to take an assertive interest in the development of information policy legislation, a transformation that Cox labels "the missing component of the more proactive archival community." (p. 307)

Cox's effort to bind these essays together as a monograph runs into some difficulties. Given the interrelatedness of the writings and their varied original audiences, a certain amount of redundancy would be expected, but this volume carries more than its share. As a simple illustration, the Bentley Library-Mellon Foundation research fellowship program appears in five separate chapters, introduced each time as though it were the book's first mention. Moreover, the author inserts updates into his reprinted works somewhat inconsistently. For example, although he amends his 1985 essay on the Goals and Priorities (GAP) Report to note SAA's subsequent adoption of certification, he disregards this in his chapter "Professionalism and Archivists in the United States," which identifies certification as a major future need. It is hard to decide what would have constituted a more preferable treatment—a wholesale reconfiguration of these writings into a single, cohesive narrative or a pure assemblage of articles as initially printed, a.k.a. "Cox on Archives." The actual product resides somewhere between these alternatives; the effects are far from disabling, but they do distract attention occasionally from the substance of the publication.

I suspect that many readers will be inclined to judge the worth of this book in accord with their feelings about whether or not the "Age of Archival Analysis" correlates with the path of archival progress. As one who harbors some doubts along these lines, I find myself in direct disagreement with a number of Cox's observations. For instance, while the need to strengthen archival professionalism seems undeniable, I question his view that certification will help clarify the public identity of archivists or sharpen "distinctions between professionals and non-professionals" (p. 46). I also believe he (among others) is misguided in seeking to impose a methodological apparatus, coined "documentation strategy," upon a conceptual paradigm of inquiry for

archival selection. And I think he is dead wrong when he urges archivists not to "squander their energies" in historical research and writing because of persistent gaps in their own profession's literature and theory. (p. 179)

Hobby horses aside, however, it would be completely unfair to dismiss this volume as "much ado about navel gazing." Richard Cox is an extraordinarily thoughtful commentator on the American archival condition. His writings exude an earnest commitment to his profession; unlike other authors, his open criticisms of the field are almost always followed by proposed remedies. Also unlike others, his conclusions are invariably based on painstaking research drawn from an array of disciplines. (I am not aware of another single-volume source on contemporary archives that matches the reference value of this book's footnotes and bibliographic essay.) A number of the articles that reappear in the book have served as prominent weather vanes for the profession. Especially worth revisiting are "Our Disappearing Past: The Precarious Condition of America's Historical Records and the Archival Profession in the 1980s," an expansion of a 1987 Organization of American Historians *Newsletter* article; "Laying a Foundation for Archival Leadership: The SAA Goals and Priorities Task Force Report," taken from the Fall 1985 issue of *Provenance*; and "Archival Research and Writing: Expanding Horizons and Continuing Needs, 1901-1987," originally published in the Summer 1987 issue of the *American Archivist*.

American Archival Analysis certainly merits a space on the bookshelf of any archivist sincerely interested in the profession's development. I would not suggest reading it from end to end, but I do recommend reserving it for moments of quiet, reflective study. Even the most hidebound skeptics of the pursuit of archival theories and axioms will emerge with a clearer, more firmly grounded perspective on their field.

Cox should indeed take pride in his award-winning work.

JOEL WURL
University of Minnesota

Intellectual Access to Graphic Information. Mark E. Rorvig, issue editor. *Library Trends* 38, no. 4 (Spring 1990).

Library Trends, the quarterly journal of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, has provided archivists, curators, and special collections librarians with another substantial compilation of useful articles. (The journal in 1988 published special issues on "Linking Art Objects & Art Information" and on "Intellectual Access to Archives.") Mark E. Rorvig, editor, introduces the special issue on graphic information by differentiating between the articles concerned with problems of "listing" (constructing thesauri and assigning adequate descriptive terms to graphic materials) and those concerned primarily with efficient ways of "finding" (identifying and retrieving) catalog records and visual surrogates of collection materials. Whichever focus the articles exhibit, they also provide insights into the development of larger information systems. Often the authors detail the hardware, software, formats, thesauri, vendors, and costs of their projects. Some readers will wish for relief from the accompanying acronyms, technical terminology, definitions, and charts. Others will desire even more specifics.

The lead article, written by Toni Petersen, describes the evolution of the *Art and Architecture Thesaurus* (AAT) of the Getty Art History Information Program. Then, Jeanne M. Keefe describes the use of AAT terms to provide sophisticated access to the slide collection of the School of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Small, artificial sets composed of all of the images collected of a single building (in-

teriors, exteriors, details, and so forth) are described in one catalog record per set. The records in USMARC format are accessible throughout the Institute in its main library system.

Next, Gary A. Seloff explains the development of a narrowly specialized thesaurus containing terms derived from the documentation of the U.S. Manned Space Flight Program. This thesaurus was combined with customized software to provide highly sensitive and efficient search routines for the NASA Johnson Space Center image archives. Also emphasizing the need for detailed description is an article about fiber art by Lois F. Lunin, who is an artist as well as an information scientist. Lunin maintains, however, that art history researchers will always want access to visual representations of original art objects (regardless of the specificity of a written catalog record) and to software capable of analyzing graphic patterns. Commenting on the feasibility of automated analysis of graphic patterns in the next article, Harold E. Thiele, Jr., points out that the rules devised over the centuries for describing heraldry are so thorough and systematic that they would adapt well to an automated system for describing and comparing the patterns of modern signs and trademarks.

Moving into the articles about automated retrieval of images, Gerald Stone and Philip Sylvain present a case study from the National Archives of Canada that combines images on digital WORM optical disks, a videodisc version for researchers, and a fourth-generation database language to search the related written descriptions. The new system, known as ArchiVISTA, allows researchers to view images of twenty thousand political cartoons and caricatures. Similarly, Frank L. Walker and George R. Thoma describe in detail a system available through the National Library of Medicine for automated retrieval of digitized images of *documents*, such as medical journal articles. They explain how the enormous size

of the image database influenced the configuration of the retrieval hardware and software.

Howard Besser, in a discussion of a prototype system at the University of California, Berkeley, underlines a theme sounded frequently in this special issue: that written cataloging of graphic collections cannot satisfy researchers without accompanying visual access to the images. A major goal of the system developers at Berkeley is to allow researchers using the campus computer network to narrow their searches with index terms in a relational database and then to browse displays of the images.

Finally, William G. Beazley provides a basic explanation of the U.S. Department of Defense's Computer-aided Acquisition and Logistic Support (CALS) program, particularly in relation to electronic publishing systems. CALS, he argues, is establishing standards that will wield great influence over vendors and shape the automated systems that will be available in the marketplace in the future.

In summary, Rorvig has brought together well-qualified authors who offer remarkably specific statements of the challenges and resources involved in developing visual access systems.

LINDA J. EVANS
Chicago Historical Society

NAGARA GRASP. Guide and Resources for Archival Strategic Preservation Planning. Prepared by Bonnie Rose Curtin. Atlanta, Ga.: National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, 1990. Manual (205 pp.), computer-assisted self-study (3 disks), and resource compendium (646 pp.).

What does the archives of the 1990s need when it comes to preservation? Do we need highly trained staff such as conservators, preservation administrators, and preservation information officers to deliver specialized services? Do we need major financial

investments in equipment and supplies? Or do we need, first and foremost, to assess the future of our collections—the future both as it seems predestined by their current physical condition and by the systems in place to protect and preserve? GRASP, a combination resource compendium and software program, is a down-to-earth and well-focused vehicle that can provide the necessary preservation self-study, needs assessment, and planning. For an archivist outside the preservation field, whose responsibility it is to administer all aspects of a repository, the creation of GRASP is as significant an event as the publication in 1983 of *Archives and Manuscripts, Conservation*. It is a tool that provides a realistic look at preservation needs analysis and implementation at the repository. And although the reality is harsh, GRASP also provides a plan for making things better.

GRASP is comprised of three components: a computer-assisted self-study, a manual, and a resource compendium. It was compiled and created through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The interactive software program leads the user through a series of questions about all aspects of repository management. As an expert system, GRASP's software assumes a commonality of rules. Therefore, direct support for the assessments developed by the computer assisted self-study can be provided by the manual's thorough statements of goals and objectives. The resource compendium is a valuable component that could stand on its own. Besides excellent bibliographies and basic articles, it provides examples of preservation plans at both ends of the repository spectrum. The California State Archives Preservation Plan (August 1988) discusses the needs of a 55,000 cubic feet repository and the Vermont State Archives Preservation Plan (August 1990) focuses on a 2,000 cubic feet repository.

Comparable to GRASP in the library profession is the Association of Research

Libraries, Office of Management Services, *Preservation Planning Program: An Assisted Self-Study Manual for Libraries*. (It should also be noted that the Research Libraries Group, Inc., Preservation Program Committee, has developed an instrument to gather data on the condition of collections.) One comes away from completing the Preservation Planning Program (PPP) with the feeling that the real agenda of this tool is to involve the entire staff of a research library in some aspect of a preservation self-study. Staff members who see themselves as not responsible for preservation (a questionable assumption to some) come away from the PPP experience with the feeling that they conducted complicated studies of problems too big to solve. That frustration is balanced in part by the hope that staff benefit generally and learn from this type of preservation activity.

Because of the nature of running a software program, GRASP has a much more introspective feel and here may be its weakness. While introversion may appeal to archivists, one of the dangers of GRASP is that the tremendous educational impact of answering its questions will reach only a few. The secondary goal of delivering educational experiences in preservation thinking to as many staff members as possible should not be overlooked by users of GRASP. One hopes that a special effort will be made, as advised by GRASP's manual, to make planning a group process. It would be interesting to have everyone answer the questions to see how varied are individuals' understanding of the repository's preservation status quo.

The set-up instructions for running GRASP are contained in Appendix B, and are very comprehensive and readable. Using GRASP does not require a high level of computer literacy but a number to call with computer-related questions would have been a welcome addition, as it is in any software package. Also, the questions have a strong public records flavor, even in the manu-

script repository "tract," which is understandable considering the source of the package.

Preservation planning needs to be a repositorywide process because preservation is the "whole earth" issue of the archival profession. Most archivists try to integrate preservation concerns in their processing and reference workflows. Even when funds are limited, we feel that at least the thoughtful handling of collections can solve or prevent some problems. Answering the questions posed by GRASP software make us realize that this is no longer enough. Of course, the even bigger questions of funding at the repository level and planning at the national level are still unanswered, but they are not within the scope of GRASP.

One can only hope that, by the use of assessment tools as outstanding as GRASP, we will find ways to prepare ourselves to meet these challenges. The profession would benefit from the dissemination of case studies about the creation and implementation of preservation plans using GRASP and other tools. The testing and further development of the assumptions made by the developers of GRASP should keep preservation professionals busy for some years to come and will benefit repository managers as standards evolve. Congratulations for a job well done.

CARLA M. KEMP
University of Florida

A Library, Media, and Archival Preservation Handbook. By John N. DePew. Santa Barbara, Denver, and Oxford, England: ABC-CLIO Inc., 1991. Appendixes, glossary, index. xxv, 441 pp. ISBN 0-87436-543-0. (∞)

John N. DePew's new work, *A Library, Media, and Archival Preservation Handbook*, is a valiant effort to create a sort of beginner's one-stop shopping guide to the world of preservation. The author digests and presents the thoughts and findings of

numerous authors of key published preservation works. DePew is able to pack a truly enormous amount of information into this 441-page opus, complete with glossary and index.

The selection and arrangement of chapter topics is both logical and comfortable, although the decision to use an outlining system, that is both hierarchically ordered down to six levels and reminiscent of the most impenetrable of military specifications, is questionable. The first chapter, "Paper and Papermaking," provides a very good explanation of paper manufacture and the various causes for its deterioration. At times the text is quite dense and extremely technical; nevertheless, it remains remarkably easy to comprehend, even when delving into the national standards arena.

The second and eighth chapters, "Environment," and "Disaster Preparedness and Recovery," are both exhaustive in detail and thorough in their approaches to the topics. Clearly, these are both areas in which the author has a keen personal interest. As a result, the chapters reflect healthy balances between lists of facts and figures and discussions of issues and implications. The reader is helped through the vast layers of information by the conceptual hand-holds that make it nearly impossible to get lost. These chapters are among the volume's most successful. They are noteworthy because they represent two areas of preservation with very large bodies of published literature, areas where the novice could have significant difficulty in selecting a subset of key materials.

"Care and Handling of Library Materials" (chapter two) is a concise approach to most of the handling practices that could bear improvement in libraries and archives. Recommendations for proper shelving techniques, routines for cleaning and shifting materials, and suggestions for staff processing procedures are all quite well analyzed and presented. Unfortunately, the three areas that seem to generate the great-

est number of queries these days are not mentioned at all: safe practices and stable materials for ownership marking, barcoding, and spine labeling. It would certainly benefit the preservation initiate (not to mention the experienced among us!) to have these issues laid out for consideration. There is a good (if too brief, particularly from an archivist's perspective) treatment of policies for exhibiting materials. Finally, the security section contains a number of very valuable checklists and policies although his suggestions regarding typical behavior of a staff thief would, I suspect, indict us all!

Chapters four and five ("Binding and In-House Repair" and "Acid Paper and Brittle Books") introduce the reader to the basic approaches to deteriorated materials, covering both in-house programs and external contractors. The section on binding is excellent, collecting and summarizing current thinking on leaf attachment options as well as providing some guidance on selecting and working with a binder. The in-house repair section is less successful, primarily because it attempts to instruct the reader in how to perform repairs. There are several published volumes, videos, and training opportunities that address this need directly. This section would have been put to better use had it addressed the issue of training or hiring staff to perform work in-house versus using contractual services or, better still, the identification of key components of an in-house repair program. Chapter five works rather better in laying out current thought on paper strengthening, deacidification, microfilming, and photocopying as options for dealing with embrittled materials. A few factual errors (silver gelatin is not a film base, but an emulsion; polyester and acetate are film bases) should not materially detract from the overall value of the various checklists and outlines.

The preservation needs of nonbook, non-print materials are addressed in chapter six, "Photographic, Audio, and Magnetic Media." This chapter gives the reader a solid

understanding of the physical natures of the media, their primary vulnerabilities, and guidelines for their proper storage and handling. It is not clear why, in a volume geared to the novice, it is deemed necessary to provide instructions on how to perform delicate treatments such as fungus removal. On the other hand, this chapter, perhaps more than any other, maintains an admirable balance between the often conflicting requirements of use and preservation.

"Surveying the Building and Collection" (chapter seven) brings together work by SOLINET, NEDCC, and the Smithsonian Institution, to assist the reader in understanding the goals and means of conducting surveys. This is a particularly useful chapter for its discussion of sampling methodologies applicable to a multitude of situations in libraries and archival repositories. For archivists, inclusion of a discussion of the NAGARA GRASP (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) would have been quite useful. The final (ninth) chapter, "Preservation Services, Suppliers, and Educational Opportunities," is a complex, yet very important vehicle for helping the reader to identify appropriate sources for information, services, and materials.

The fundamental weakness of DePew's work is his quite deliberate choice to exclude "the administration and organization of preservation activities" (p. xxiv). The result of this surprising decision is that the reader is left with no context for this wealth of information, few underlying philosophies to guide him or her in selecting one option over another when choices must be made, and only spotty practical assistance in how to implement any of the procedures and policies described.

As a preservation primer, therefore, the volume lacks a key ingredient: strategies for implementation. As a kind of functional dictionary, it succeeds quite well and should be added to both personal and institutional preservation reference collections.

NANCY E. ELKINGTON
Research Libraries Group, Inc.

"Dually & Constantly Kept," A History of the New York Supreme Court, 1691-1847, and An Inventory of Its Records (Albany, Utica, and Geneva Offices), 1797-1847. By James D. Folts. Albany, N.Y.: New York State Court of Appeals and the New York State Archives and Records Administration, 1991. Appendixes, bibliography, and index. 128 pp.

This volume traces the history of the New York Supreme Court and describes the records it created until adoption of the 1848 code of procedure. The author, James D. Folts, sought not only to describe the court's history and records, but also to educate researchers regarding common law court records created by the state prior to 1848. The volume celebrates the tricentennial of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. It also provides a fitting culmination for the work that Folts and other staff at the New York State Archives and Records Administration devoted to appraisal, arrangement, and description of the court's records. At the 1991 SAA annual meeting James Folts, Larry Hackman, and Judy Hohmann of the New York State Archives and Records Administration were recipients of the Philip M. Hamer-Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award for the program of activities they initiated to increase public awareness of the records of the New York Supreme Court.

James Folts succeeds in his stated purposes to describe and educate. The volume includes a concise history of the court's evolution and responsibilities. The largest single section consists of more than one hundred descriptions of record series created by the court prior to 1848. These are well-stocked with concise information regarding the court's activities and the records created to document them. The appendixes include explanations of forms

of action at common law, suggestions for locating case papers, and lists of court officials with their dates of service. Most of the book's illustrations are examples of legal documents described in the text. *"Duly & Constantly Kept"* will provide a useful reference tool for archivists, historians, attorneys, and genealogists. Other states would do well to emulate this work.

The volume is disappointing in one respect. The court history and record series descriptions provide little flavor of the economic and social forces that surely are reflected in the court's history and records. This may not belong within a traditional series description, but certainly it could have been included in the court history. Ironically, most of the source material cited in the court history comes from statutes and other printed documents.

DWAYNE COX
Auburn University

Harmonization of Education and Training Programmes for Library, Information and Archival Personnel. Proceedings of an International Colloquium, London, August 9-15, 1987. Volumes 1 and 2. Edited by Ian M. Johnson et al. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Publications 49 and 50. Munich, London, New York, Paris: K. G. Saur, 1989. 374 pp.

In 1987 the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), the Federation Internationale de Documentation (FID), and the International Congress of Archives (ICA) sponsored a colloquium in London to examine the harmonization, or bringing together, of curricula for the training and education of archivists, librarians, and information personnel. Fifty-seven information professionals and educators, representing thirty-seven nations and the three sponsoring organiza-

tions, considered a five-point agenda: education and training in developing nations; trends in the teaching of management, preservation, and conservation; technology and archival studies; equivalence and reciprocity of professional qualifications; and mechanisms for harmonizing education and training programs in information studies.

This two-volume work, published two years after the colloquium, contains the papers, resumes of discussions, conference summary, and resolutions of the colloquium. Each complete text is published in its original language (English, Spanish, or French); most are in English. The introduction, paper abstracts, discussion summaries, and resolutions are presented in all three languages.

The preliminary paper by Russell Bowden (United Kingdom) outlines the origins of the conference in previous IFLA and UNESCO meetings (Manila, 1980; Montreal, 1982; Vienna, 1983 and 1986; Nairobi, 1984; and Luxembourg, 1984). Bowden's balanced overview of these conferences and the appended resolutions, reports, and recommendations comprise a valuable summary of activities in the 1980s. His bibliography of relevant RAMP and other documents is helpful.

In the keynote address, "Curriculum Development: The Core—Common Trunk or Satellites?" Wilfred L. Saunders (United Kingdom) examines the structure of a harmonized curriculum. He identifies shared concerns of librarianship, archives, and information science, and reviews a model curriculum for each. Saunders admits he has no direct experience with archival education and relies primarily on writings by Michael Cook and UNESCO publications; he mentions only one archival education program in the U.S. and does not consider history department-based programs. Although supportive of cooperative education in information studies, Saunders cautions that each area must continue to develop

specialized activities. Two short papers by UNESCO representatives, echoing past calls for harmonization and summarizing post-1974 UNESCO publications on the topic, complete the introductory essays.

Most of the papers focus on aspects of teaching in four areas considered most suitable for harmonization: management, preservation and conservation, user studies, and technology. Some primarily review previous conferences, while others comment on research activities and offer substantive recommendations.

Miriam Tees (Canada) explains actions in the area of management, analyzing papers and recommendations from previous UNESCO conferences and proposing a harmonized management curriculum. Rosa M. Vallejo (the Philippines) reports about the 1986 Vienna Conference, "Preservation and Conservation Teaching."

Three papers examine educating information professionals to meet the needs of users in developing nations. James Mwangi Ng'ang'a (Kenya) suggests guidelines for a core curriculum designed to prepare professionals to be intermediaries. Kingo J. Mchombu (Botswana) explains the components of a course entitled "Identification of User Information Needs." M. Pedraza Robayo (Colombia) focuses on training information professionals to teach users about the benefits of using information. Together, these papers offer interesting perspectives on library users and the training of librarians in developing nations, but they say nothing specifically about archival users and training archivists.

Similarly, there are three papers on educating information professionals about information technology. Michael Cook (United Kingdom), the only archivist on the colloquium program, explains the 1984 RAMP guidelines on harmonized curriculum development in information technology (IT), which he wrote, and relates this document to the colloquium themes. As one

would expect, he speaks more directly to archivists and records managers than do other authors. Cook identifies information retrieval as the area of greatest potential cooperation, but argues that the three areas of information studies should continue to be taught separately. He concludes by lamenting the lack of progress made toward attaining the goals set forth in the RAMP guidelines.

Two papers examine the design and use of databases. A. Neelameghan (India) discusses a course in which students design and use local bibliographic and nonbibliographic databases; several of the suggested design projects involve archives. Laydia Machr (Morocco) describes the Moroccan information system and its use. The papers on IT and users highlight the pervasive theme of deprivation—a lack of books and resources, little access to technology, and poorly educated users.

Four papers address broader issues of professional education and training. Antonio L. Varvalho de Miranda (Brazil) argues that in developing nations, which lack strong traditions of libraries, information is an agent of social change and information professionals should be significant social and political activists. In an essay discussing the teaching of a course on research methods, W. Olabode Aiyepoku (Nigeria) offers interesting ideas about the advantages of team teaching in a harmonized curriculum. Antoinette Fall Correa (Senegal) examines eleven training programs in French-speaking library schools in Africa, Europe, and Canada, in order to suggest guidelines for equivalent qualifications and reciprocity and ultimately to facilitate exchanges of personnel, students, and instructors. In an essay of value to anyone involved in the training and education of information professionals, Daphne Douglas (Jamaica) offers sound advice about the training of information educators, the qualities and requirements of a good educator, staff re-

cruitment and retention problems, the role of mentors, and continuing education.

As with any publication, improvements could have been made. Some of the weaknesses are inherent because it is a compilation of conference presentations. The quality is uneven, with some topics treated more thoroughly, creatively, and/or provocatively than others. A tighter focus on the conference agenda would have provided more continuity from paper to paper and a more unified examination of the issues.

The most glaring weaknesses, however, are directly attributable to the editors. Easily accomplished additions and corrections would have significantly improved this work. The papers are pocked with an embarrassing abundance of typographical errors, misspellings, embedded hyphens, and word omissions. An overview of the conference format and topics discussed, presented in the "Summing Up" at the end of Volume II, would have been a helpful inclusion in the editor's too-brief foreword in Volume I.

The 1987 Colloquium was based on the premise that harmonization was advantageous, especially in nations whose resources, population, and educational institutions are inadequate to support specialized professional training and education. The papers presented at the colloquium also raise significant issues for information professionals in larger, more developed nations who are grappling with the structure of professional education and the rapidly evolving information professions. The essays are relevant for archivists, often because of what is not said and what this implies about the perception of archives and archival education.

No archivist, library science educator, or information scientist from the United States contributed to this publication or even attended the colloquium. This absence is a humbling, sobering reminder of the unful-

filled role of U.S. information professionals in the world.

JULIA MARKS YOUNG
Arlington, Texas

Curriculum Development for the Training of Personnel in Moving Image and Recorded Sound Archives. Paris: UNESCO, 1990. 104 pp. PGI-90/WS/9.

This study is the result of joint initiatives and efforts by UNESCO and various international associations involved in the preserving of audiovisual material, including the International Council on Archives (ICA), the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), the Federation Internationale des Archives du Film (FIAF), the International Association of Sound Archives (IASA), and the International Federation of Television Archives (IFTA). In 1980, the General UNESCO Conference passed the recommendation "For the Safeguarding and the Preservation of Moving Images." A year later, representatives of international organizations engaged in the care of audiovisual materials met for the first time and resolved to hold annual roundtable meetings. Education and training of audiovisual archivists has been recurring on the agenda of their meetings ever since. It became evident quite early in these meetings that although in-house training, summer schools, seminars, and symposia can impart knowledge to participants and also the skills and knowledge needed for specific jobs, they will never substitute for professional education based on scientific methods.

At the sixth Roundtable held at UNESCO headquarters, in March 1986, representatives of ICA, IFLA, FIAF, IASA, and IFTA recommended conducting a special meeting related to training aspects of audiovisual archivists. UNESCO adopted the proposal coming out of this meeting and then supported the convening of a subsequent meet-

ing in West Berlin in May of 1987. This convening body directed the formation of a working group consisting of one representative each from IFLA, CILECT (Centre Internationale de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinema et de Television), FIAF, IASA, FIAT (Federation Internationale des Archives de Television), and the UNESCO-contracted agency, the Stiftung Deutsche Kinemathek of West Berlin. The working group held three meetings in West Berlin from October 1988 to September 1989. The final result of its efforts is this 104-page report.

The body of the report itself takes up just fifty-eight pages and is divided into six distinct chapters. The introductory first chapter gives an overview of the organizational structure that led to the creation of this book. Chapter Two, "Training Needs for AV Archivists," begins the study by presenting a most succinct and logical reasoning for the development of such a curriculum. The study takes as its premise that a successful preservation program cannot be initiated or maintained without proper education and training of archives personnel.

The third chapter, "General Principles of Audiovisual Archiving," briefly describes the working procedures of an audiovisual archives, including discussions in the safeguarding or preservation of materials, proper documentation of holdings, and the use of such materials.

The backbone of the volume is found in Chapter Four's lengthy and detailed strategic plan for recommended training standards. The first portion includes a description of minimum qualifications expected of audiovisual archivists, including administrative heads; division heads of cataloging, acquisition, publications, technical services, and public relations; and specialist workers such as technicians and engineers. The second section details specific coursework to be accomplished, divided by level of needed expertise, including instruction in the history of audiovisual archives, terminology, standards, organization and struc-

ture, accessioning, acquisition and appraisal, arrangement and description, computers and micrographics, user education and public relations, and technical expertise.

The final two chapters deal with the education programs themselves and their implementation: how they should be organized; if they can be integrated into existing programs of training and, if so, which existing programs are the most appropriate; and the resources that will be required, both human and material/financial. The working party has appropriately identified the related disciplines that should be considered as major supporters of this grand scheme, including archival science, library science, information/documentation science, film/sound/video engineering, and photographic. A questionnaire on the development of such a course of study was distributed by the working group to 565 institutions listed in the IFLA *International Guide to Library and Information Science Education* (1985). The 211 respondents expressed a mild but not overwhelming interest in the proposal, citing economic restraint, a limited number of interested students, and the ability to conduct a wholly inclusive curriculum that would incorporate all phases of the proposed coursework.

The volume concludes with four appendixes: a proposal and guidelines for "Distance Learning Methods," i.e., correspondence classes; course curricula, in outline form, for seminars, symposia, and summer schools, including a syllabus and suggested hours of required class time; documentation related to the questionnaire previously mentioned; and a select bibliography subdivided into such groupings as handbooks, guides and directories, bibliographies, glossaries, laws, copyright, legal deposit, conservation, computerization, and selection and appraisal.

A renewed and sustained effort to establish standards for preserving recorded sound and moving image artifacts can best be achieved through appropriate education of

personnel to carry out these tasks. This slim volume brings together a modest, yet detailed plan of action.

WILLIAM L. SCHURK
Bowling Green State University

Editor's note: The following reviews of international archival journals were coordinated in part with the editors of the "International Scene."

ala: [Journal of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos.] Currently publishes two issues per year. Founded in 1986.

ala, a journal of interest to U.S. archivists for the insight it provides to Latin American archival conditions and practices, began publication in fall 1986 with a "promotional number," and was published quarterly (although with increasing delays) until fall 1988, at which time it temporarily ceased publication, re-emerging in June 1990 on a semi-annual publication schedule that continues to the present. The publication difficulties experienced by the journal are lamentable, but not altogether unfamiliar to North American archivists. Many archival associations in the United States have discovered over the years that their intellectual and professional ambitions exceed their members' available time and sponsoring institutions' resources. If one magnifies this problem by extending it across two continents, twenty-one countries and two languages (Spanish and Portuguese), one begins to have a clear view of the obstacles facing the Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos when it embarked upon publication of its journal. It is an exemplary achievement, therefore, that, in spite of all the obstacles, the Asociación has persevered.

From the initial issue, editor Leonor Ortiz Monasterio, then director of the Asociación and director of the General Archive

of Mexico, established a format that includes regular columns on archival problems (Archival Reflections), archival tools and techniques (Work Instruments), preservation and conservation (From the Laboratory), professional training (All About Training), information on archival institutions and collections in Latin America (Profiles), a pictorial feature on archival events in the past quarter (Archival Panorama), a regular feature on historically significant documents held by member archives (In Search of Treasure), book reviews (Books Read), members activities (*ala* Scene), and letters to the editor.

The premier issue of *ala* announced, with more than its words, that the journal intends to be something new, different, and forward-looking. The "Numero Promocional" features a slick, smartly-designed cover, and ultramodern graphics and typeface. Layout of the articles throughout follows a "new age" rather than scholarly format: the text is broken for graphics, which tend to be highly stylized and are presented for their visual interest, as opposed to their informational content. The resulting visual impression reinforces the verbal content nicely. Authors in the premier issue emphasize the importance of archival work for modern Latin American institutions (Celso Rodríguez, "Working Toward a Better Archival Future") and the connection between successful government and private enterprise and strong, modern archival programs (Luz Alba Chacón, "The National Archive of Costa Rica and the Training of Personnel in the Service of the Public Administration [of Costa Rica]").

The issue is determinedly upbeat, and seems to target as its market the recalcitrant governments and other sponsoring institutions that have not yet realized the importance of their archives and the professionalism of their archivists. In this issue, Celso Rodríguez reminds his colleagues that they all need each other ("there is strength in union") and that they all face

a future of less money and greater need of their unique professional services. Gunnar Mendoza of the General Archives of Bolivia writes in "Problems of Arrangement and Description in the Historical Archives of Latin America" that one of the profession's biggest problems is fighting the image that archives are useless "document graveyards." He suggests that archivists in Latin America must communicate the idea that it is the historical record, preserved by archives, that communicates a national identity to a people and to the people's leaders.

It is no accident that the featured documents in the premier issue's "In Search of Treasure" column are personal letters of Simón Bolívar, the great Latin American liberator. The issue proclaims in every possible way that Latin American archivists are significant, that they are modern thinkers, that their collections are important, and that their goals are worthy of attention and support.

Later issues of *ala* continue and expand upon these initial themes, so much so that this reader was left with the distinct impression that Latin American archivists are, to a degree not experienced by their U.S. counterparts, an embattled minority, fighting for the survival of their archives in a climate they feel is hostile to their goals and indifferent to the historical importance of documents. The legion of problems facing United States archivists pales in comparison to the evidence *ala* provides of this Latin American dilemma. When, in a letter to the editor (issue number 5) Luis Morales Castro of Mexico states, "archives are to administrators what roots are to trees: without roots trees fall when storms attack them; without good documentation and archives, administrators fall when they are shaken by the gales of life and of need for information," and, further, "when a nation loses its documentary wealth, it begins to wander through history like a shipwrecked sailor," he seems to be speaking directly to his own

administration, pleading for the continuation of his collections and programs.

In issue number 6, which features the archives of Brazil, much is made of the longevity and professionalism of the National Archives of Brazil, which celebrated its one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary in 1988. The "Profiles" column, by Norma de Góes Monteiro, director of the Publications Division of the National Archives of Brazil, describes in glowing detail the career and achievements of Professor José Honório Rodrigues, former director of the Brazilian National Archives, in an account that is both a chronicle of success and an obvious challenge to other Latin American archivists to meet or exceed the achievements described. However, elsewhere in the same issue, de Góes Monteiro reveals that perfection, despite some very real achievements, has actually not yet been reached in the archival profession in Brazil.

In "The Challenge to Archives in Federated Countries: The Example of Brazil," she expresses concern for the continued survival of sixteenth- through nineteenth-century federal archival documents held by state and local governments or by small private repositories where underfunded, undertrained curators attempt to deal in their own idiosyncratic way with the ravages of time and a tropical climate on archival documents. Amateur mistreatment and climatic duress have been faced by archivists in the United States as well, but, judging from de Góes Monteiro's account, our problems have never been as severe.

This same article includes a further "challenge" that also provides an interesting comparison to the United States' archival experience. Records and information management in the Brazilian government are divided administratively between the National Archives repository system (Sistema Nacional de Arquivos, SINAR) and the Government Information Service System (Sistema de Informação de Serviços Gubernamental, SISG). SINAR repositories

are answerable to the National Archives of Brazil and curate the country's archives. However, SISG has day-to-day control over, among other things, standardizing and regulating public archives. SISG is aggressively pursuing the microfilming of federal documents and the disposal of the originals, regardless of the documents' SINAR-established appraisal and retention schedule, or the quality of the completed microfilming. Góes Monteiro states that there is no communication at all between these two parallel government agencies, which are clearly working at cross purposes, and she uses her article to make a strong case for bringing the two under the control of a new cabinet-level administration that would reconcile their conflicting programs and preserve the now-endangered recent documentary legacy of Brazil.

Article after article in *ala* attests to the daily struggles of the typical Latin American archivist. In a sense, archival administration is a young profession in Latin America, even though the age and value of the historical records there rival that of any country on the planet. Given this fact, and given the necessary priority of the individual archivist or archives' battles for survival, one can only applaud the almost superhuman achievement of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Archivos' members in publishing *ala* at all, and encourage them to do everything in their power to continue this very fine publishing effort.

JEAN MARIE DEKEN
National Personnel Records Center
St. Louis, Missouri

ARHIVI. Ljubljana: Arhivsko drustvo Slovenije. Jugoslavija. Published annually in two issues in one volume. Founded in 1978.

ARHIVI (The Archives) is the main journal of the Society of Slovene Archivists, sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Cultural Af-

fairs, The Society of Slovene Archivists, and various Slovene archival institutions. Its purpose is to document developments and events relating to archival practice in Slovenia and abroad.

The initiative for creating a Slovene journal was promoted at the Seventh Meeting of the Society of Slovene Archivists in 1974 on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of its existence. The need for such a journal was evidenced by the numerous special editions issued by various archival institutions such as the Association of Slovene Record Offices, the Society of Slovene Archivists, the National Archives of the Republic of Slovenia, and the Regional Record Offices. These publications reported on the results of research in various archival institutions on archival theory, the history of archival practice and institutions, archival and related legislation, reports of conferences, archival finding aids, new acquisitions by institutions, and chronicles of archival initiatives and achievements in Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and in other countries.

Since 1978, thirteen volumes of the journal have been issued. Volume I, 1978 (88 pages), relates information on archival sources of special value to Slovene history found in archival institutions outside of the Republic of Slovenia. Volume II, 1979 (122 pages), contains reports from the Ninth Meeting of the Society of Slovene Archivists. The theme of the meeting was "State Administration and the Archives for the Territory of Slovenia from the Middle of the Eighteenth Century to the Present."

Volume III, 1981 (92 pages), deals mainly with topics on appraisal, care of records prior to accessioning, and legislation pertaining to their protection. Volume IV, 1982 (240 pages), is devoted to new legislation concerning archival institutions, their services, and protection of the archives as well as reports from the Tenth Meeting of the Society of Slovene Archivists, which focused on problems of documentary mate-

rials in business enterprises from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. Volume V, 1982 (140 pages), includes research work on records classification and lists which considers basic methodology, the evaluation of documentary material, and some instructions for the weeding of the records. Volume VI, 1983 (198 pages), contains papers read at the Eleventh Meeting of the Society of Slovene Archivists concerning the problems of professional treatment of documentary material of the socio-political organizations in state and regional archives that originated from 1941 to the present. Volume VII, 1984 (118 pages), deals with a variety of technological topics, from the application of automated data processing, computer-microfilm linkages in records keeping, and the problems associated with the evaluation of automated records. Volume VIII, 1985 (188 pages), presents papers read at the Twelfth Meeting of the Society of Slovene Archivists concerning the archival records in the fields of social activities such as social security, education, health, and culture in its broadest sense (museums, theaters, natural and cultural heritage efforts, publishing activities, and the film, radio, and television industries). It also contains an overview of the programs and problems of the Regional Archival Institutions in Slovenia.

Volume IX, 1986 (100 pages), was a special volume dedicated to the problems of technical documentation, its concept, archival value, evaluation, listing and weeding, its protection and related concerns. The issue covered the Society of Slovene Archivists' special conference on "Technical Documentation as a Constituent Part of a Cultural Inheritance." The participants included members of the Society as well as creators of such documentation, both within the region and abroad.

Volume X, 1987 (136 pages), and Volume XI, 1988 (168 pages), contain papers read at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Society of Slovene Archivists on the theme,

"The Evaluation of the Archives in the Fields of Administration: Self-Management Communities of Interests, Banks, Trade, Education, Neighborhood Communities, and Associations."

Volume XII, 1989 (140 pages), covers the Society's Roundtable, held in Ljubljana, concerning the development and organization of archival institutions, archival services, and education in Yugoslavia, with special emphasis on Slovenia. Volume XIII, 1990 (206 pp.), contains the papers read at the Fourteenth regular meeting of the Society of Slovene Archivists. The leading motif was a very current one: "The Archives Referring to Confiscation, Nationalization, and Compulsory Private Property Dispossession in Slovenia in the Post-Second World War Period." Each of the fourteen papers deals with a different region of Slovenia and a different administrative organ in charge of enforcing the law.

Each of the thirteen issues also contains a number of special departments:

- Presentations on archives of special value to Slovene history in national or regional archives in Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and abroad.
- Practical, technical notes concerning automatic data processing, restoration and preservation of documents, reference service, appraisal, and archival holdings.
- "Working in Archives," which presents annual reports of Slovene Record Offices, reports on international exchanges; archival education abroad; foreign experiences in archival theory; professional excursions; exhibitions; national, state, and international professional conferences; and so on.
- Reviews of professional publications and papers issued in Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and other European and non-European countries. (Special editions of native and foreign authors concerning archival theory and practice are also presented in this section.)

- Archival legislation, which became a special regular department beginning with Volume XI.
- Accessions in archival repositories (items and collections as well as the record groups).
- Biographies of archivists and others employed in archival institutions.

Even though the journal *The Archives* is published in Slovene, it has special significance to all researchers interested in comparing different approaches to the application of archival theory to practice in different parts of the world. Each volume contains

abstracts or summaries of all papers in English, German, and Italian. English translations of entire articles may be obtained upon request from the journal.

Sales and subscriptions: Ministrstvo za kulturo. Arhiv Republike Slovenije. 61000 Ljubljana. Zvezdarska 1. Slovenija. Yugoslavia. Managing Editor: Vladimir Zumer, Advisor to Directress of the Archives of the Republic of Slovenia. Tel. (011)-38-61-151-222.

MILICA TREBSE-STOLFA
Regional Archives KOPER
Slovenija, Yugoslavia



P U B L I C A T I O N

Canadian Archival Studies and the Rediscovery of Provenance

edited by Terry Cook

The best thinking and debate in Canada are reflected in this selection of previously published essays from *Archivaria*, arranged in four broad areas: the overall history and evolution of Canadian archives; major theoretical statements concerning the nature of archives and archival work; systematic analyses of archival records and media; and highlights of Canadian contributions to archival practice. This book presents formative aspects of the emergence of the study of archives in English-speaking Canada—a field marked by an increasing awareness of the fundamental significance of provenance information about records in all aspects of archival administration.

Co-published by SAA,
Association of Canadian
Archivists, Scarecrow Press
(1993)

500 pp., hard cover

\$55 SAA members

\$59.50 nonmembers

plus \$6.50 shipping/handling

**Contact SAA Publications
(312) 922-0140**

Society of American Archivists • 600 S. Federal, Suite 504 • Chicago, IL 60605