

Editor's Special Forum on Needs in Archival Research and Publication

Primary Sources & Original Works: A DocuSerialTM Concerning Archives, Documentation, and Scholarship

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IN 1980 HAWORTH PRESS INITIATED a thematic quarterly, *Special Collections* (1981–88), edited by Lee Ash.¹ Ash, a rare-book consultant well known for his reference series, *Directory to Special Collections* (1958–), had planned to profile in each issue four to six special collections devoted to a subject literature.² The quarterly was thus focused primarily on library research collections and rare books, less on manuscripts, and very little on archives as such. Its focus on collecting in all media to create a research collection for given subjects did entail an interdisciplinarity within areas of scholarship and did cut across specializations in reference and secondary collections, rare books and manuscripts, and book arts. The bias was literary, biblio-

graphic, and library oriented, with the exclusion of historical museums and art galleries, archeology and community-integrated local and public history, and archives.

Although *Special Collections* strived for a wide scope, it was not really ecumenical. Its successor, *Primary Sources & Original Works* (PSOW, 1991–), has tried to re-

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¹Lee Ash, ed., *Special Collections* (Binghamton, N.Y.: Haworth Press, 1981–88), 9 vols.

²Lawrence J. McCrank, "From *Special Collections* to *Primary Sources & Original Works*," *Special Collections* 4, no. 2 (1990): 1–5.

tain some of the features of *Special Collections*, but to expand its scope, increase its interdisciplinarity, and achieve a better integration of the curatorial, methodological, and content issues of creating and using information resources in all media that are or contain primary evidence for research.³ The goal was a transition from, but not total replacement of, the traditional bibliographic approach to primary materials, to a more embracing scope such as envisioned by European documentalists like Paul Otlet at the turn of this century.⁴ Although not abandoning what Michael Buckland has called "information-as-thing" for such important issues as internal criticism and conservation, or the acknowledgement of the interplay between medium and message, this notion of document includes values attributed to something from context, proximity to actuality, original intent and use, and subsequent scholarly or other uses.⁵ The 1990 transitional issue closing out *Special Collections* and inaugurating *Primary Sources* was designed as a model or sample of future issues, with its editorial, featured articles, project reports, collection profiles and bibliographies, biographies, and review essays.

The title change sought to refocus attention from traditional library collections to the sources themselves, individually and collectively, in some context for appraisal, interpretation, and evaluation. The bifurcation of "primary sources" and "original works" was an attempt to bridge the terminological gap between the archival and library worlds and the museum community and to invite an intermingling of documentary and artifactual sources in the interdis-

ciplinary and professional ecumenism that was envisioned. Such a multimedia, pan-institutional, and cross-disciplinary vision was inspired by the merging information technology of the past decade and a desire to forge alliances between different types of institutions and to create bridges across divisions between professions, not unlike the more recent argument of W. Boyd Rayward for "the functional integration of libraries, museums, and archives."⁶ The original prospectus for *PSOW* carried the subtitle "A Quarterly Professional Journal for Archives, Museums, and Special Library Collections," and it described itself as "a multi-media, cross-institutional, inter-disciplinary, and inter-national forum for the study of culture." As such, *PSOW* is an invitation to break out of one's own institutional environment, change spectacles and exchange perspectives, break down barriers between professions, defuse the particularism that has accompanied overspecialization, and serve as an antidote for the inbreeding within fields and their association journals that seems to be an unfortunate by-product of modern professionalization. The first issues seem successful in this regard, given preliminary reviewers' comments and the initial round of reviews in journals here and abroad.⁷

⁶W. Boyd Rayward, "Electronic Information and the Functional Integration of Libraries, Museums and Archives," in *Electronic Information Resources and Historians: European Perspectives*, edited by Seamus Ross and Edward Higgs, *Halbgraue Reihe zur historischen Fachinformatik, Serie A: Historische Quellenkunden* (St. Katharinen [Göttingen]: Scripta Mercaturae Verlag for the Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte), Band 20, pp. 227-43.

⁷Preview issues sent to archivists resulted in these comments, used by Haworth Press in its promotion of the series: George W. Bain of Ohio University commented that "[*PSOW*] explores its broad international theme through the lens of excellent scholars, internationally based, who provide a fully interdisciplinary examination. It will prove instructive for and use to cultural historians, social historians, archivists, literary scholars, librarians, and applied information scientists." And Thomas E. Wier, formerly of NARA's Archives Research and Evaluation staff: "[*PSOW*] of-

³McCrack, "Special Collections," 1-8.

⁴Paul Otlet, *The International Organisation and Dissemination of Knowledge: Selected Papers of Paul Otlet*, edited and translated by W. Boyd Rayward (Amsterdam: Elsevier, 1991).

⁵Michael Buckland, "Information as Thing," *Journal of the American Society of Information Science* 42 (1991): 351-60.

The series is devoted to the following:

1. The definition, authentication, interpretation, analysis, and use of original sources, both textual and visual or verbal and image, that have evidential value as first-hand witnesses, as artifacts and records, which form the basis for primary research.
2. The identification, appraisal, accessioning and acquisition, description and arrangement, cataloging and classification, and preservation of primary source material in all formats that comprise basic evidence and original documentation.
3. The intellectual access and control of primary resources, their physical retrieval and management, exhibition and reproduction, and policy issues governing their use, which comprise curatorial practice in archives, museums, and special library collections.

Features in the journal issues of this series include

- feature-length articles exemplifying research methodology as case studies; synthesis of scholarly research; and the delineation of trends in discipline-based literatures relating theory to professional practice and communicating specialized expertise across disciplines to other, nonspecialized audiences.
- short articles focusing on standards, key issues, problems and solutions; managerial and curatorial practices; and institutional policy, legislation,

and legal decisions affecting primary research.

- profiles of research institutions, their collections, and strengths, with reference to sources of further information, catalogs, and finding aids.
- biographic sketches of collectors, philanthropists, patrons, and sponsors responsible for primary source collections of importance to the scholarly community, and of their curators, archivists, librarians, conservators, and chief interpreters. Such people are themselves information resources, and sometimes their firsthand testimony, retrospective accounts, annotations and additions to the documents in their care, and personal archival records, diaries, and memorials are important both as primary sources themselves and as extensions of original sources into a series.
- reviews of funding programs, research projects, exhibitions, and public programs in archives, museums, and libraries.
- literature reviews of books, serials, and reference tools, preferably offering comparative reviews of a cluster of materials focusing on one theme, rather than isolated reviews of individual works.

Although *PSOW* was conceived as a journal in which scattered thematic double issues would be published separately as monographs and submissions would vary from ten to thirty pages, the series is evolving somewhat differently. Its character is being affected by several influences. The first is an editorial bias against the trend that, influenced by business management, modern journalism, electronic mail, and innocuous airline pastime reading, prefers short ditties to mature and well-developed essays for sustained scholarly discourse; and that is exemplified by the conversion of so many professional, once-scholarly journals into mere magazines. Attendant

fers archivists an opportunity to examine their own field in a broader context of specialized historically oriented libraries because it contains works analyzing several types of repositories. In addition to works on archives and archival methodology, the useful methodological articles based on library studies may provide archivists with models for further, new forms of analysis to be incorporated into archival studies."

with the space limitation on articles in professional literatures is the shortening of sentences and the reduction of complex sentences to simple ones, an impoverishment of vocabulary and conformity of style that is truly stultifying, a substitution of browsing for reading, and an attendant loss of scholarly purpose, content, and effect. The archives, library, museum, and higher education worlds are now replete with such publications; another would add redundancy to the crisis.

The second and more pragmatic influence causing this evolution of *PSOW* is the difficulty in launching a new journal or resuscitating an older title in today's market, with stable or declining institutional budgets, inflation in the cost of publication and distribution (annually two to three times the standard cost of living index), and the marketing problem of selling a cross-disciplinary journal to audiences that are defined by their special interests. Haworth has viable solutions which include the following:

1. Publications that could develop content and quality; include black-and-white illustrations; offer a readable format that was also practical in size and production; and maintain pricing at levels affordable for individuals and a downright bargain for institutions faced with unheralded serial costs.
2. Serial publications that could be flexible in the size of single issues, could combine issues for fuller thematic treatments, and could balance its subscription base by a spin-off hardcover distribution.
3. Through its flexibility, the ability to break from a dogmatic format of a periodical to a multifformat serial including general periodical issues, thematic double issues in paperback as part of the series and as hardbound

books sold separately, and monographs integrated into the series.

4. A remarkable international distribution system through catalogs and promotions, downplaying the expensive cost of conference exhibition, which does more to underwrite professional association budgets than to distribute literatures. At the same time, Haworth Press offers generous selective support of conferences that may produce a thematic issue in *PSOW*.
5. There were also sound business reasons for working with a commercial press with a broad list of publications which does not need to rely on high profit margins for any single title, and which was unallied to a professional association and thereby unencumbered by its organizational politics.

Finally, publisher Bill Cohen has supported his editors by giving them the flexibility to identify guest editors and allowing them to work on thematic issues or to contract with single authors as through they were guest editors to place their monographic work into the series. Royalties are shared with individual editors or associations for whom the editing work is contributed, and an association like the Society of American Archivists wanting to collaborate in a publication can negotiate special prices for distribution to its membership. Thus *PSOW* solicits manuscripts from article to monographic size (ca. 10 to 20 double-spaced pages for reviews, profiles, and bio-sketches; 30 to 40 pages for articles; and 300 to 350 pages for monographs) for its refereed review process for general issues and whole books, and proposals for thematic issues (also ca. 350 pages) resulting from conferences or individually created compilations.

The most recent stage in the evolution of *PSOW* has been its conversion to a

DocuSerial[®], a trademark of Haworth Press, in keeping with the publisher's adoption of modern electronic production technology and means of distribution. Haworth's prototype was released in late 1993; it describes the *DocuSerial* as follows:⁸

This new publication format from the Haworth Press, Inc., combines features of the traditional peer-review scholarly journal; a monograph series; and document delivery service.

Physical Description

Professionals and libraries involved in the subject area covered by a specific Haworth *DocuSerial*[®] are asked to fill out a simple information update card or form. Several times a year, everyone in the database receives a free "Update" sheet describing the contents of the newest volume in the *DocuSerial*.

Upon receipt of the latest "Update" sheet, the recipient may either purchase

- (a) the latest volume in a monographic hardcover edition
- (b) the latest volume in a softbound "journal-like" edition
- (c) individual chapters or articles through the Haworth Document Delivery System

Monographic ('Book') Edition Features

The hardbound monographic edition appears physically like a scholarly book; copies are mailed to appropriate professional journals for review.

The work may be single-authored or multi-authored. The monographic edition appears in all standard bibliographic reference sources for books.^{9]}

DocuSerial[®] ('Journal') Edition Features

The softbound *DocuSerial* or 'journal-like' edition appears physically like a scholarly journal. Each volume is sequentially numbered. Articles/chapters are indexed in all standard bibliographic reference sources which index or abstract journal articles, and which cover the *DocuSerial*.^{10]} These also include online bibliographic databases and CD-ROM databases. Archival-grade microfiche and microfilm are also produced for each volume.

Features Relevant for Both Editions

The *DocuSerial* features an Editorial Advisory Board for peer review of submitted materials.^{11]} Reviews of

⁹All monographs in the series are assigned ISBN numbers and receive prepublication descriptive cataloging for the verso of each title page and for LC-MARC records.

¹⁰*PSOW* is currently indexed and abstracted in *Abstracts in Anthropology, America: History and Life, GEO Abstracts/GEObase, Index to Periodical Articles Related to Law, Information Science Abstracts, International Zeitschrift für Bibelwissenschaft und Grenz, Library and Information Science Abstracts (LISA), Library Hi Tech News, Library Information Service (China), Sage Urban Studies Abstracts, Social Work Research & Abstracts, and The Informed Librarian.*

¹¹*PSOW's* initial advisory board in alphabetic order consists of David Bearman, Archives and Museum Informatics; Frank G. Burke, College of Library and Information Services, University of Maryland; Richard J. Cox, Department of Library Science, University of Pittsburgh; Terry Eastwood, School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies, University of British Columbia; J. M. Edelstein, Getty Center for the History of Art and Humanities; Andrea Hinding, YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota, St. Paul; Kathleen Roe, New York State Archives; Frederick Stielow, director, Amistad Research Center, Tulane University; Larry E. Sullivan, chief of Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of

⁸Frontal materials to Jay A. Goldstein, "Chronic Fatigue Syndromes: The Limbic Hypothesis," in *Haworth Library of the Medical Neurobiology of Somatic Disorders* (Binghamton, NY: Haworth Medical Press, 1993), ISBN 1-56024-433-X, hardbound; 1-56024-904-8, softbound.

the work as a whole are published in prefatory pages.

Features Relevant for Library Collections

Libraries which stress comprehensive ownership of scholarly works in the exact area covered by the DocuSerial may elect to purchase the softbound version on standing order. Libraries serving users who are only partially concerned with the subject area can utilize their approval plan instead for selected hardcover volumes and not encumber an ongoing subscription commitment. Libraries with least emphasis in the subject area can elect to receive the free information update sheets and provide any customized information service for interested faculty/research users, utilizing the document delivery service when needed.^[12]

Apart from the transitional general issue in 1990, the following releases illustrate *PSOW*'s interests. The first double issue (*PSOW* 1, nos. 1–2, [1991], 255 pp.), which was also released in hardback, was *The Bibliographical Foundations of French Historical Studies* containing fourteen articles and five commentaries from the conference organized by the Association for the Bibliography of History for the American Historical Association annual meeting in San Francisco, December 1989, celebrating the Bicentennial of the French Revolution and the Declaration of the

Rights of Man (1789–1989).¹³ Its sections were devoted to (1) bibliographic methods (reference access, bibliometrics, historical bibliography and filmography); (2) historical perspectives of and research possibilities in French archives and libraries; (3) French bibliographic connections between the Old and New Worlds; and (4) a discussion of the French Bibliothèque Nationale and transition and relocation to the new Library of France at Tolbiac.¹⁴

The first guest-edited double issue was *Bibliographic Access to Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts: A Survey of Computerized Data Bases and Information Services* by Professor Wesley Stevens of the University of Winnipeg (*PSOW* 1, nos. 3–4, [1991], 196 pp.), eleven papers resulting from 1989 conferences in Hamburg and Munich on the history of science. A sequel is being planned by the editor and

¹³Of eight reviews, all but two have been favorable; the review from England, although not negative, had reservations, including Haworth's multiple-format publishing. The one negative review came from Australia. Both were true to their genre. Of the positive reviews, on the basis of this volume some have generalized about the series as "a valuable asset," as did Jean-Pierre V. M. Hérubel in *Collection Management* 18, nos. 1–2 (1993): 156–58. "This new journal promised to be an exceptional scholarly vehicle judging from its first issue. Unique in its mission—the publishing of bibliographic studies in support of the broadly-based historical enterprise, is both fitting as it is especially conducive to the enrichment of historical studies. The quality evident in the editorial process and in the uniform strength and well-written essays are to be commended." He concludes, "This issue and the promise of such quality issues in the future bibliographic life of *Primary Sources & Original Works* is something to look forward to. . . . Indeed, this is a very important contribution and one which will become indispensable to historians and scholars in diverse disciplines."

¹⁴Valérie Basques of the Archives Nationales, Paris, reviewed the book for the *American Archivist* 55 (Summer 1992): 631–32. One of three reasons for welcoming this publication relates to the overall purpose of the series, namely "that this volume, by grouping the contributions of librarians, archivists, and researchers, reflects a French preoccupation with encouraging collaboration among people involved in the preservation of patrimony."

Congress; and Larry Tise, director of the Benjamin Franklin Institute. Anyone interested in participating on the *PSOW* board should contact the editor.

¹²Order forms for this document delivery service are included in all Haworth DocuSerial hardcover and softcover editions or may be obtained from the publisher at 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580.

Professor Jacqueline Hamesse of Louvain University as the guest editor.

Two larger international projects were begun for 1992 release, but because of their scope and size their publications have been delayed until 1994. They illustrate the versatility of the editorial policy and *PSOW*'s wide scope, as well as the flexibility of the DocuSerial formats and customized distribution.

The first project is a set of twenty-one essays celebrating the Quincentennial by focusing on the archives and documentation of Spain and Portugal from their medieval formations through the early modern era or so-called Age of Exploration. The title of the 590-page volume plays on the controversy between Euro- and Native Americans over the nomenclature *Discovery* or *Encounter: Discovering Documents and Encountering History in the Archives: Quincentenary Essays, 1492–1992* (*PSOW* 1994: 2 [1/2, 3/4] or hardbound as one volume).¹⁵ It features sections reviewing the Quincentennial, on the origins of peninsular archives, historical and bibliographic research pertaining to Columbus and the

events of 1492, experiences in and analyses of records in the archives of Spain and Portugal that document late medieval and early modern European expansionism.

The second special project is a two-volume work, *The Shroud of Turin*. Subtitled *Case Study in Source Authentication* and edited by Paul C. Maloney of the ASSIST investigations group (Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin, Ltd.), the first volume includes more than eighteen essays by scholars from around the world ("Shroudies," as they are called!). Volume two will consist of a bibliographic guide (essay and two thousand entries) and index to Shroud scholarship. This project has outgrown in scope and size the normal parameters of *PSOW*, and consequently is being handled as a special monographic publication to include black-and-white as well as color illustrations and numerous graphs and tables. Shroud research is interesting in its own right, but the project should have significance to archivists apart from its subject because it is a case study representing all aspects of ASSIST standing committees: forensic anthropology; archeology and numismatics; art analysis, history, and techniques; bibliography; botany; Carbon-14 dating; chemistry of oxides and textiles; geology; computer applications and holography; history; information science; medical archeohematology, forensics, and pathology; palynology and physics; microscopy, photomicrography, and documentary and scientific/technical photography; sindondology; and textile technology. Although highly interdisciplinary and scholarly, the compilation's scientific focus may unfortunately ignore aspects of faith, cult, and the psychology of immanency in religion, which this source evokes. The issue is the Shroud's authenticity as the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, but whether it is or not, it is still a primary source, if not as a physical witness to Christ's death and resurrection, then as tes-

¹⁵Several prepublication reviewers choose to carry on such word play, picking up the title's metaphor and altering it slightly to make the connection between the history of early-modern exploration and exploration of late medieval and early-modern history in the archives. Donald Davis and Adán Benavides of the University of Texas rightly emphasized this aspect in their comments on Ursula Lamb's "evocative remembrance of Alice Gould and Irene Wright—discoverers who went before, led the way, and helped and inspired many by their determination for historical accuracy. That is what this book is about: Encouraging new research, leading the way, building on what others have done before." Helen Tibbo of the University of North Carolina notes that, "Many of the authors have been able to find sources where earlier scholars have failed and they share their search strategies for locating other treasures." UCLA's distinguished historian Robert I. Burns called the book "an enlightening and eminently practical tour of resources, opportunities, problems and strategies." And scholar-librarian David Henige from the University of Wisconsin remarks, "The chapters are not only solid but substantial, and most of them chart—as Columbus did—new seas."

timony to the enduring faith in the historicity of events documented only textually. The topic, interplay with disciplines and theory as well as practicality, represents the ultimate synergistic goal of *Primary Sources & Original Works*.

The first monographic volume contracted for 1994 release is by Richard J. Cox, a revision of his doctoral dissertation, which appraises graduate archival studies programs and charts directions for archives education relating to electronic records. Future thematic volumes under consideration would explore (1) the documentation for the island archipelago of the South Pacific and Australia; (2) the impact of the cultural meanings, personal senses, scientific measurements, and popular notions of time as these relate to records creation, information access, and the interpretation of documents; (3) commercial enterprise and the dissemination of documentary information, exemplified by the experiences of Chadwyck-Healey, Inc., and Research Publications, Inc., in microfilming and digitizing archival records, or of G. K. Hall & Co. in the retrospective conversion of card catalogs into multivolume book catalogs and CD-ROM image and text libraries; (4) the interplay between historical sites, museums, archives, libraries, tourism, public history, and popular culture in such places as Rome or historic Alexandria, Virginia; or (5) the history industry and cultural complexes, like the Ford establishment at Dearborn or colonial Williamsburg, which incorporate traditional museums and galleries, outdoor experiential museums, research libraries, etc. Meanwhile, general issues will be interspersed in the heterogeneous series.

Submissions of proposals for special projects and thematic double issues should be sent to the editor, and should consist of a letter describing the project, a proposed table of contents and list of potential authors, a résumé of the person applying for a guest editorship (or coeditorship with the

series editor or organizer of a volume to be edited by the *PSOW* editor), and target date for final submission. Guest editors are responsible for peer review of contributions to their projects and submission to the editor, who has final approval for the volume. Authors of monographic manuscripts should include a cover letter containing a proposal identifying a target audience, a list of possible expert referees, and two copies of the work. Articles may be submitted anytime (two copies required) and will be subject to peer review; cover letters should identify sections of general issues for which the article might be appropriate. Manuscripts may be submitted double-spaced, professionally formatted with a complete critical apparatus, in any nationally accepted style, with black-and-white copies of photos, graphs, and maps. If a submission is accepted, authors should be willing to prepare one revision based on reviewers' comments or a returned marked-up manuscript; provide final copy in the APA (American Psychological Association) style used predominantly in the social sciences; include camera-ready artwork; enclose one paper copy and an exactly corresponding electronic version on diskette or cassette (all major word-processing software is acceptable) identifying the directory title and the software used; and submit a signed copyright release and permission-to-publish form for the publisher.

Ninety percent of submissions prearranged by editors for special thematic issues have been accepted; 50 percent of unsolicited submissions for general and thematic issues have been accepted, all with required revision; but only 10 percent of solicited conference papers have been accepted (a lamentable commentary on the formalization of quality conference presentations).

The review process takes anywhere from four to ten weeks, depending on the season and prompt response of readers. The flow of manuscripts and proposals has been sporadic, resulting in a quick turnaround of six

months or a delay of two years between acceptance and publication. The editor's backlog of submissions and proposals in process has ranged from a lean file of five manuscripts to a thick pile of thirty; and about 1,500 pages are read annually to yield a third of these for publication. Currently a circle of twelve board members and another twenty readers have served in the blind referee process; others are tapped for special issues. Anyone interested in serving as a reader, member of the editorial board, or possibly as a section editor (especially arranging for institutional and collection profiles, biographies, and review essays) should contact the editor by letter and enclose a résumé for consideration. Archivists and manuscript curators are encouraged to contribute to *PSOW* in any capacity—as project editors, authors submitting their own work, profiles promoting use of their collections and insti-

tutions, and submissions of publications for possible review.

PSOW welcomes longer works of scholarship about archives, by archivists, and from conference proceedings and collaborations which may make a good thematic issue or double issue. We are especially interested in intriguing sources and good reading—e.g., in multidisciplinary interplay; analytic, speculative, and even provocative studies; treatments of new methodologies and technologies; revisionism and new ideas; problem solving, and critical thinking; and well-crafted syntheses. The scope is purposefully broad, the content highly syndetic and syncretic, and consideration regarding length is very flexible, from short essays to large, monographic treatments.

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