



# The Future of Archives and Recordkeeping: A Reader

Jennie Hill

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## Description

The way in which we view the nature of archives and the role of the archivist has changed significantly in the last few decades. With increasing interest from outside of the profession, the idea of archives as the static, impartial carriers of truth and the archivist as a guardian of records has been questioned: how can society take greater control over its own written memory? There have been a number of other changes which have impacted upon the way archivists conceive of themselves and the way in which they work. Chief among these are the rapid rise of technology and the challenges this poses, and the changing place of archives within related fields, such as records and information management.

It is imperative that archivists engage with these challenges if archives are to emerge as a renewed force in the 21st century. This much-needed book is designed not as a practical guide to professional practice, but rather as a reader addressing these challenges. The chapters are contributed by leaders in the field, and are grouped around the following four core themes:

- defining archives
- shaping a discipline
- Archives 2.0: archives in society
- archives in the information age: is there still a role for the archivist?

Each chapter represents a defined argument in its own right to enable readers to dip in and out of the collection as they wish, and the book is structured to highlight chapters that share a common theme. **Readership:** Archivists and students of archive administration.

## Contents

Introduction: seeing the future of archives and recordkeeping

### PART 1: DEFINING ARCHIVES

1. Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? Situating the archive

and archivists - *Victoria Lane* and *Jennie Hill* 2. Encounters with the self: archives and research - *Sue Breakell* 3. Strangely unfamiliar: ideas of the archive from outside the discipline - *Alexandrina Buchanan*

#### **PART 2: SHAPING A DISCIPLINE**

4. Structural and formal analysis: the contribution of diplomatics to archival appraisal in the digital environment - *Luciana Duranti* 5. Archivistis: science or art? - *Eric Ketelaar*

#### **PART 3: ARCHIVE 2.0: ARCHIVES IN SOCIETY**

6. Archons, aliens and angels: power and politics in the archive - *Verne Harris* 7.

Interactivity, flexibility and transparency: social media and Archives 2.0 - *Kate Theimer* 8.

The impact of independent and community archives on professional archival thinking and practice - *Andrew Flinn*

#### **PART 4: ARCHIVES IN THE INFORMATION AGE: IS THERE STILL A ROLE FOR THE ARCHIVIST?**

9. The postcustodial archive - *Adrian Cunningham* 10. Information management, records management, knowledge management: the place of archives in a digital age - *Nicole Convery* 11.

Appraisal and the future of archives in the digital era - *Richard J Cox*

#### **Author**

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