

Teaching Archival Studies in an Irish University

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The establishment and operation of graduate programmes in archival studies have represented a significant stage in the development of these studies as a professional discipline since the creation of a chair of archival science in the University of Mainz in 1793. The courses organized by University College Dublin are no exception to this academic recognition or archival professionalism. Some ten years ago the teaching of archival studies began in University College Dublin, a constituent college of the National University of Ireland. This work, in the first instance, was associated with library studies.¹ It has since branched into two important fields, one concerned with the training of the professional archivist, the other concerned with the training of those researchers who make extensive use of archival material.

Although the fortunes of Canada and Ireland bear certain similarities, it is unlikely that the exigencies of Irish archival history were encountered in Canada. Ireland's is a sad history, characterized by neglect, destruction, dispersal and ignorance. It has resulted in almost a complete lack of identity with archives by the Irish government, by most Irish historians and by the Irish people. For this reason, those archivists and researchers trained at University College Dublin (UCD) seek not only the professionalism so essential to their disciplines, but also the official and public recognition of these disciplines. The challenge faced by archivists is perhaps greater and it is with their training that we are mainly concerned here.

IRISH MANUSCRIPT TRADITION

A brief survey of Irish archival history will clarify the nature of the curriculum for the Diploma in Archival Studies and will also detail some of the difficulties faced by archivists. Not surprisingly for a country on the perimeter of western Europe, Ireland has a documentary history extending

¹ In the librarianship courses of both University College Dublin and Queen's University Belfast, an optional course in archives can be sat by library students.

back over more than a thousand years. The Gaelic language is now recognized as a branch of Celtic, having a linguistic history of approximately twenty centuries. The custodians of the folk tradition transmitted this from one generation to the next until it was recorded in the manuscripts of the early Irish Christian communities and resulted in a rich manuscript tradition.

James F. Kenney, formerly of the Public Archives of Canada, published an important study of this material in his *Sources for the Early History of Ireland to 1200*.² In a brilliant introductory essay, Kenney registered a series of disastrous losses of Irish documentary records, commencing with the Scandinavian looting and burning of ecclesiastical and scholarly centres from the eighth century. This depressing picture was partly relieved by his description of the rebirth of the manuscript tradition undertaken by those exiles from their Irish homeland. Established at various centres in Britain and in the Holy Roman Empire, it was possible for them to build up a substantial body of manuscript material, mythological, linguistic, historical, legal and philosophical in content. These sources continue to be a revelation for aspects of ancient Irish culture.

ADMINISTRATIVE SOURCES OUTSIDE OF IRELAND

The extension to Ireland of the Angevin empire of Henry II of England (1154-89) led to the establishment of two systematic administrative systems which linked Ireland to the papal organization of western Europe at Rome, and to the English system at London. Any study of archival material relating to Ireland must lean heavily on the archives assembled by these administrative agencies. By contrast to what has survived in Rome and in London, the material preserved in Ireland has been minimal. From an early stage, administrative officials seemed convinced that their own fortunes and those of their associates depended upon the destruction of documents which they feared might be used against them by hostile or jealous rivals and successors.

ECCLESIASTICAL AND SECULAR SOURCES OUTSIDE OF IRELAND

The Angevin establishment in twelfth-century Ireland was not successful in reducing the whole country to its obedience. On the eve of the sixteenth century it had been confined to a small compass on the eastern coast and to some towns in the south. With the Tudor conquest of the rest of Ireland, there followed a renewed exodus of Irishmen to Europe. This maintained Irish contacts with the Mediterranean world, now largely cut off from the English sphere of influence by the breach between England and the Catholic powers of France and Spain. In both these countries, there developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, important bodies of

² James F. Kenney, *Sources for the Early History of Ireland to 1200* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1929).

material relating to Irishmen, ecclesiastical, official, legal and military in origin.

For these reasons, part of the curriculum of the Diploma in Archival Studies is concerned both with the Irish manuscript tradition and with sources relating to Ireland but located in England and on the Continent. It is a small part of the course but one rich with historical and cultural implications. To an archivist working in Ireland, this knowledge might have little practical application. However, it is important in its implications of national identification with archives, and makes students aware of material of Irish interest in the repositories of other countries. The practical difficulties of teaching this aspect of the course are greatly facilitated by the Overseas Archives section of UCD.³ If at some future date a systematic microfilming programme of Irish material on the Continent is carried out by any of our national repositories on a scale similar to that undertaken by the Public Archives of Canada in Paris and London, some archivists will be equipped with the necessary palaeographical, diplomatic and administrative knowledge to make such a programme fruitful and meaningful.

ANTIQUARIAN AND NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS

Before turning from this aspect of the course to its main features, a further reference to Irish archival development is necessary. In the nineteenth century, stimulated by the western European revival of interest in antiquarianism, bodies in Ireland such as the Royal Academy and the Royal Society of Antiquaries undertook the preservation of archival material, mainly private in origin. A detrimental consequence of the concurrent nationalistic movements in Ireland was that political division emerged in bodies such as these, although they could have profited through common effort. This regrettable aspect of Irish life has not disappeared, making it difficult to carry through any common policy for matters such as the preservation of archives.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The records of the English government in Ireland shared in the general history of neglect and destruction. From the middle of the nineteenth century, the effects of the archival reforms established by the French Revolution slowly took root in Ireland. Concern for the preservation of the records of the nation resulted in the foundation of the national archives. Established in 1867, the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI)⁴ at once

3 Established in 1960, the Overseas Archives contains more than two hundred thousand copies of documents of Irish interest from 170 European repositories. Many publications have been based on its contents including, M. Walsh, *Spanish Knights of Irish Origin*, 3 vols. (Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1960-).

4 Herbert Wood, *A Guide to the Records Deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland* (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1919) was published before its destruction in 1922.

became the model of its English counterpart. The early years of its administration were characterized by a concentration on its earlier record series for publication purposes. Little contact was established with departments of state based in Dublin. Like many European record offices, the records being created in and accumulating in government offices during the nineteenth century were not considered an outstanding priority. If government offices transferred records to the PROI, they were given storage space, but no professional interdependence was established between the record office and government departments. In the modern Irish state, there is, therefore, little recognition by the government for the work of the professional archivist.

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE AFTER 1922

The situation was exacerbated by other factors. After the First World War, Irish nationalist aspirations led to the setting up of a government in Dublin in 1922. Its jurisdiction extended over three-quarters of the country, while Northern Ireland, with Belfast as its capital, remained with the United Kingdom. This new state of affairs did not succeed without substantial destruction of property. This destruction included the burning of the storage area of the Public Record Office in Dublin with its entire contents. Fortunately the former repository for the records of the Chief Secretary, now the State Paper Office, survived. The new government in Dublin displayed minimal interest in caring for the material of the former British administration in Ireland. Such a negative attitude was not entirely the fault of the government. Perhaps greater blame lies with those archivists who, broken in spirit by the loss of the nation's records, could not appreciate the challenge of the records created by the new administration. After 1922, PROI concentrated on the acquisition of court records, following the traditional legal bias of a nineteenth-century record office. Administrative records had not been considered an archival priority before 1922, and it is not surprising that the new Irish government has exercised its functions oblivious of the potentiality of a national archives to the public services.

Recent efforts to improve this situation have been hampered by the very nature of administrative procedure itself. This procedure bears certain similarities to English Common Law practice. Based on precedent to an inordinate degree, the resulting possessiveness of civil servants for their records has created a situation in which public access virtually coincides with the termination of what is considered to be an administratively expedient current period of thirty to fifty years! There is no regular flow of administrative records to the PROI and where these are transferred, selection criteria are very arbitrary.

The only publications relating to its contents after that date have been the reports of the Deputy Keeper of which the last one, the fifty-ninth, was published in 1964.

OTHER REPOSITORIES

In the light of this attitude to archives by central government, it is not surprising that officials at other administrative levels also remain ignorant of the potentiality of professional archivists. Local authority archives in Ireland are limited to one county organization, the Cork Archives Council.⁵ In other areas, the survival of archival material has been due to the personal interest and awareness of individual librarians in the public library service.⁶ At the urban level, there is no functioning corporation or town archives.

By contrast, the government of Northern Ireland displayed an interest in records soon after its inception. One of the great influences on the more recent archival developments in Ireland can be attributed to the enthusiasm and dynamism of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

THE HISTORIAN IN IRELAND

The historical profession in Ireland, like that in Britain, gained substantially from the pioneer attitudes of German and French historical scholars. By the beginning of this century, history had acquired a recognized academic position in the Irish universities. Archival developments in other countries can often be attributed to the demands of historians for improved research facilities. Unfortunately historians were not to become the same effective pressure group in Ireland. Apart from a tradition which imparted rigid interpretations of the historical past, the dearth of Irish repositories militated against historical curiosity in primary sources. Until recently, school children and undergraduates had little contact with the raw material on which history is based. More serious has been the tardy approach of many academic historians in realising that their evidence is second-hand where based on printed sources.

FOUNDATION OF THE ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT IN UCD

The decision to set up an Archives Department in UCD which would be responsible for a Diploma in Archival Studies, was a step in establishing a standardized archival system in Ireland. From its foundation, the Department had advantages not often enjoyed by other archives schools. To begin with, its teaching staff is drawn from the combined Departments of History, Legal History, Palaeography and Late Latin. In addition, it has its own full-time staff of teaching archivists. These archivists have attended training courses themselves and they have also worked in the Bundesarchiv in Germany. Obviously in a country such as Ireland which

5 The Cork Archives Council was founded in 1970 and is subsidized by the county council, city corporation, harbour commissioners and University College Cork.

6 Tribute should be paid to the Irish Society for Archives, a society which owes its establishment largely to a group of librarians and which has since become an important forum for discussion among custodians of records in Ireland. It publishes an annual journal, *Irish Archives Bulletin*.

has suffered from its archival tradition and from an absence of working repositories, a modern but sound approach to archival matters is essential. There are few repositories which can compare with the Bundesarchiv for having successfully combined essential aspects of the country's archival tradition with an outstandingly capable approach to modern archival problems. This German connection has proved invaluable to the underlying philosophy of the course. Any parochialism, or inverted concentration on Irish archival problems, is carefully balanced by extraneous matters. The result is a course which produces archivists who can cope with the pressures of the Irish archival situation but whose minds are open to the systems in operation in other countries.

Another advantage of the course lies in the role of the Archives Department as a repository for archival material. Since its foundation in 1970, it has acquired valuable collections of archival material deposited in UCD. The combination of teaching and repository administration in the Department means that students are exposed to practice and theory concurrently. In a country with a large number of experienced archivists and with an archival system of working repositories, these factors might appear less significant. In the Irish context, the course could not succeed without them. It can also be argued that the university location of a practical course such as the Diploma in Archival Studies, makes it proportionately academic and professional.

ADMISSION

Entry to the course is limited to about six students annually. In the early years of any course, a small number of students can be used more effectively in experimentation. There is a second consideration for this small number. In the Irish context, a small number of students may fill the few available archival positions each year. A situation is avoided in which the market for archivists becomes saturated as is now the case in England. The course is a postgraduate course but no restrictions are made about the subjects read at undergraduate level by the students or the faculties from which they graduated. Indeed, it has often been found that aptitude for archival work is more discernible in those students whose knowledge of history is confined to what they learned in school! Although it has not been availed of to date, the course also makes provision for accepting working archivists on a part-time basis if they have no previous archival training. Archivists in this position would be permitted to complete the course in two consecutive sessions.

CURRICULUM

The aim of the curriculum is to train professional archivists. In the specifically Irish context, it also seeks to give them an ability to overcome the scepticism of administrators, both official and business, to encourage

the use of archival material by reluctant researchers and to develop a pioneering and proselytizing spirit. The curriculum is divided into three sections: archival science, covering both archive administration and records management; auxiliary sciences, dealing mainly with palaeography and diplomatic; and history and archival practice. The division of sections is designed to give students the facility to handle archival material at all stages of its formation, use and preservation; the skill to understand its genesis; and lastly, knowledge of the circumstances under which it was created.

ARCHIVAL SCIENCE

Rather than listing in detail the subjects taught in the UCD course, it is probably better to emphasise the points on which particular stress is laid. In archival science, theory and practical work are best considered complementary. A basic grounding is given in the development and general principles of archival science and in the exigencies of definition and terminology. Definition and terminology are considered important if archivists are to communicate effectively with colleagues from other countries. Archive administration covers fundamental aspects of acquisition and accessioning, the processing of archival material and the preparation of finding aids, researcher and public services, staff and budget distribution, automation, repository architecture, storage and conservation. Optional practical classes are taken by students in document repair and bookbinding. Document repair classes are carried out in the Archives Department; bookbinding and paper technology classes have been organized for students by the Vocational College of Technology in Bolton Street.

Particular stress is laid on the processing of material and on the preparation of finding aids. Students do a minimum of ten hours practical work weekly in processing Archives Department collections of official records, business, trade union and solicitors records, private papers, family and estate papers, manuscript collections, non-written material and maps. They also produce suitable finding aids for each category. Finding aids are treated as a major aspect of archival work and one of the greatest assets to a researcher in his critical analysis of source material.

Researcher services are also considered very important. Emphasis is laid on the legal aspects of this topic with reference to restrictions on the use of and reproduction of archival material. Publications are another major topic. Students are encouraged to take particular note of the value of guides and sectional lists to researchers. They are taught to produce publications of quality and intellectual interest for the general public. Publication methods are, of course, an essential feature of this aspect of work with reference to publication effectiveness and economy. Exhibition work and educational services receive wide ventilation. One year the class mounted an exhibition of O'Connell papers for the College to mark the

bicentenary of the birth of Daniel O'Connell. It was a greater revelation to the students in problems of organization, publicity, mounting, catalogue production and security than any amount of theory could ever equate. The only drawback to this type of enterprise is the high proportion of time which must be given to it at the expense of other subjects.

Automated data processing and the use of microfilm are becoming increasingly important to any archivist. In theory, the potential uses of ADP and microfilm can be taught with comparative ease. In practice, it is essential that students get first-hand exposure to these subjects. The Computer Laboratory in UCD has been used by students in the past but the result has often left them with uncertainties about the complexities of this field. In the future, the class will spend at least one week in the Computer Laboratory attending a course designed specifically for their interests and requirements. The Archives Department is at the moment considering its own microfilm section which, should it materialize, will also be used by the students for experimentation.

Records management is an important part of archival science, but it is regarded by many archivists as a "bread and butter" function. For this reason in many training courses it is treated rather superficially. In the UCD course it is treated with the dignity due its potentiality and challenge, and is presented to the students as a demanding but rewarding aspect of archival work, particularly with reference to the successful selection of modern archival material for permanent preservation. It is important to make students realise that records management is one of the fundamental duties of the archivist, an earlier form of which became overshadowed by the archival attitudes resulting from the French Revolution.

The subjects covered in the records management course relate to theory and practice at various official levels and within industrial and business administration. It lays emphasis on the organization of registries, levels of record control, the use of intermediate repositories (particularly with reference to integrated records appraisal), scheduling and selection techniques, and stresses the professional integration of administrator and archivist. In the current session, with the help of the Institute of Public Administration, it concluded a series of lectures on administrative procedure and registry organization in government departments in Ireland. This series has been considered of utmost importance as no systematic study has yet been made of Irish official records.

To date practical work in records management has been virtually impossible in a country with no system of records management at any official level. To overcome this essential aspect of training, tentative suggestions have been made for students to undertake a week's practical work on records management in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) during the academic session. Although one might not be

entirely happy with the Grigg system,⁷ firsthand attempts at appraisal work seem very desirable. Ample opportunity to do this can be arranged in PRONI.

AUXILIARY SCIENCES

The section entitled auxiliary sciences deals mainly with palaeography and diplomatic, and with any auxiliary subjects which assist an archivist's processing of material. Palaeography offers a wide number of choices as material created in Ireland or relating to Ireland will of necessity be written in Irish, English, Latin, French and Spanish. Reference has earlier been made to the very practical contribution of the Overseas Archives section for these classes.

Recent innovations in this section included an introductory course in bibliography and works of reference. A second addition resulted from the course started by the Archives Department this session for the post-graduate students of Modern Irish History on historical methodology and the research analysis of archival material. Diploma in Archival Studies students are encouraged to attend these lectures in order to see their professional interests in the light of the researcher. It is hoped that the ventilation of research interests and requirements not only will make archival students more alert about the standard of finding aids and publications, but also will give them insight into the research value of certain controversial categories of material such as Particular Instance Papers.⁸

HISTORY AND ARCHIVAL PRACTICE

The third section of the course deals with administrative history and structure, legal and constitutional history, and archival history and practice. Administrative history is being treated as a subject of increasing

7 The Grigg system takes its name from the Chairman of the Committee on Departmental Records, Sir James Grigg. The Committee's report, published in 1954, laid the basis of the system of records management operated by the PRO, London. The system aims at "coordinated selection procedure." Both administrators and archivists share responsibility for selection work but there is an unfortunate administrative bias in the method by which this is carried out.

8 The method of registry organization in British and Irish administration creates two main categories of file—case files and policy files. Particular Instance Papers belong to this first type. They are characterized by physical similarity in format and in the type of information they contain, although relating to individual cases. As they form extensive series, the tendency in selecting them for permanent preservation has been to reduce them to a sample. The research use of these files can be difficult both for social and economic historians and for social scientists, as the method of reduction does not always produce evidence adequate for their research requirements.

importance to the work of the archivist. Without a knowledge of this subject, success in much archival work is virtually impossible. Research into Irish administrative history has been limited to date—a factor which is hardly surprising in a country with few administrative records from before 1922 and with a virtual government embargo on those created thereafter. The Institute of Public Administration has attempted to fill the lacunae in our knowledge of Irish administrative history and their forthcoming publication of a history of the Department of Finance⁹ will prove a welcome reference work for many future generations of archivists in Ireland.

Archival history and practice comprehends Ireland, Great Britain and other European countries in some detail. It also deals with the relative merits of centralized and decentralized archival systems, with the emerging systems of developing countries, and with federal systems. One result of this course is that students in reading periodical literature are much more aware of the archival tradition of the country in which it has been produced and can make allowances for the bias of much archival theory and thought.

WORK IN REPOSITORIES

Mention must now be made of practical work carried out by students in recognized repositories. At the moment, students undertake two weeks of work at an advanced stage in the academic session on the staff of a repository outside of Ireland. There are obvious reasons for this last stipulation. Despite its location and due to its congenial atmosphere, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has proven to be the most popular choice among students. Other repositories chosen for practical work include the Scottish Record Office, the House of Lords Record Office and English county record offices—many of which offer a wide variety of archival experience.

Recently, the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records of Ireland made the generous offer of taking students accepted for the Diploma in Archival Studies for two weeks of practical work before the academic session commences. In view of the staff shortage in PROI and the pressure of work under which the existing staff operates, this proposal more than compensates for many shortcomings of the Irish archival situation.

Although students undertake a substantial amount of practical work during the year, it is important that they see experienced colleagues dealing with the archival problems about which they have heard theoretically. Any extended visit to a repository will make theory seem more realistic. As an extension of practical work, weekly visits are arranged to a variety of archival repositories and record holding institutions. These include the

9 J.R. Fanning, *A History of the Department of Finance*, to be published by the Institute of Public Administration, Dublin, in 1977.

national archival institutions, manuscript libraries, conservation laboratories, some government offices, the national broadcasting company, Cork Archives Council and some specialized institutions.

EXAMINATIONS

In a course in which such a steady balance is maintained between theory and practice, it is not surprising that a comparable balance is maintained for examination purposes. Practical work undertaken during the year both under Department supervision and in various repositories is assessed, as is seminar and essay work. In the final term of the course, each student undertakes the production of a finding aid to a major collection as part of the examination. It is unlikely that the Archives Department could function as effectively without these examination projects which add greatly to the processing programme undertaken annually on material deposited in UCD.

The written part of the examination consists of six theoretical papers, each three hours in duration. Three relate to archival science, two to history and archival practice and one to auxiliary sciences. An oral examination based on both theoretical papers and practical work is held in the presence of the extern examiner. To date the extern examiner has been a member of the Bundesarchiv.

DISTRIBUTION OF TIME

In Ireland the academic session runs from the beginning of October to the middle of May. Normally the greater part of lectures and practical classes are confined to the first two terms. This leaves the final term (usually five weeks in duration) fairly free for students to prepare their examination projects and to study for the theoretical examination. The first two terms are quite intense and amount to about twenty working weeks, excluding the Christmas and Easter vacations which the students devote to the preparation of seminars and to repository work.

A convenient breakdown of time allocated to the main sections will give some idea of the timetable as it stands at present and of the projected additions being aimed at in the coming sessions. Essay and seminar work is not included in this breakdown (see facing table).

The predominance of practical work may alarm some archival theorists. The reason for this emphasis is simple. Many Irish archivists work in understaffed repositories; many others are working as pioneers in areas or in institutions in which no professional archivist has ever been employed. For these reasons, it is essential that archivists not only know the theory but also are capable of putting it into practice speedily and effectively. Sheer bulk of material and complexity of content can be bewildering to inexperienced archivists unless they have learned to take these factors in stride. It must be remembered that since very often there are no senior archivists or experienced colleagues to whom they can turn

SECTION OF COURSE	THEORY		PRACTICE	
	<i>Present allocations</i>	<i>Projected additions</i>	<i>Present allocations</i>	<i>Projected additions</i>
<i>Archival science</i> <i>(excluding records management)</i>	30 hours	20 hours	150 hours in Department Two weeks in repository	Two pre-course weeks in repository One week ADP course
<i>Records management</i>	15 hours	10 hours		One week in repository
<i>History and archival practice</i>	32 hours	10 hours		
<i>Auxiliary sciences</i>	25 hours		55 hours	

for help and advice, a training course must provide them with an alternative.

It is impossible to gauge the merits and defects of any training course within a decade of its foundation. The Diploma in Archival Studies does attempt to grapple with some of the points which Posner found noteworthy in his survey of European training courses nearly forty years ago and which still seem essential to any modern course:

Archival schools should not confine their curricula to strictly archival matters but should combine them with broad training in advanced methods of research in history and related fields.

Study of and instruction in the history of recordmaking and record administration are as necessary for the archivist of our times as was diplomacy for our predecessors.

Archival training should include laboratory work and, in order to make this possible, the schools should be established in or near an archives building.

Teaching should be carried on in cooperation with a university in order to promote the maintenance of high scholarly standards.¹⁰

In the very first edition of this journal, an article appeared which questioned the relative merits of professional archival courses and training resulting from apprenticeship in a repository.¹¹ There is no opportunity in

10 Ernst Posner, "European Experiences in Training Archivists," in *Archives and the Public Interest: Selected Essays by Ernst Posner*, ed. Ken Munden (Washington: Public Affairs Press, 1967), pp. 56-57.

11 Terry Eastwood, "Education and the Profession," *Archivaria* 1 (Winter 1975-76): 106-108.

this article to consider the points raised concerning professional status and its relation to training courses (although surely professional status is as dependent on experience and ability as mere qualification?). Suffice it to say that an independent training course will ensure a standard in archival practice which will help to balance major discrepancies in the administration of individual repositories. It is also essential in ensuring that a common archival policy can be pursued by archivists in the hope of achieving a better national archival system. This last advantage is of the essence in Ireland today.

Perhaps the most important achievement of any course is to produce archivists who can work effectively in their own country. In addition, it is also important that their own national requirements do not prevent them developing a cosmopolitan attitude to archives. If archivists are beset by parochialism, international dialogue at meetings of bodies such as the International Council on Archives will become restricted to surveying current archival practice and will achieve less meaningful developments in archival science.¹² In this regard, we are particularly grateful for the breadth of vision given our students by their contacts with archivists in repositories outside of Ireland. Indeed, it is likely that without the encouragement of archivists in repositories like the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Bundesarchiv, the Diploma in Archival Studies might never have achieved anything worthwhile.

¹² This remark arises from the standard of papers read at the Eighth International Congress on Archives in Washington last year which contrasted greatly with the professionalism of the papers read to the Society of American Archivists meeting concurrently.

Résumé

Après un bref historique du développement de l'archivistique en Irlande, les auteurs décrivent les traits dominants du programme d'études en archivistique du University College Dublin qui, depuis une dizaine d'années, prépare des professionnels à une carrière d'archiviste. Ce programme couvre non seulement l'administration d'archives et la gestion de documents, mais aussi un certain nombre de sciences auxiliaires comme la paléographie et la diplomatique ainsi que l'histoire et les pratiques de l'archivistique. Les auteurs concluent en insistant sur l'importance de former des archivistes capables de travailler efficacement dans leur pays.