

Note from the Editor

Let me start my tenure as general editor of *Archivaria* by outlining plans for the journal over the next two to three years. Members of the Editorial Board had the opportunity to reflect on this question over the summer of 2004 as we developed our application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for renewed support.

The journal's mission remains unchanged. *Archivaria* publishes research reflecting leading archival thinking nationally and internationally which is relevant to the practitioner, engaging to the scholar, and stimulating to the student of archives. We aim to address the major challenges facing the discipline across the archival spectrum.

The range of questions calling for research reflects the vast scope of the domain of archives. To give just some examples: the theoretical – and theological – underpinnings of archives warrant further attention from archival researchers. Similarly, the unique and critical role archives play in documenting for accountability should continue to encourage scholarly investigation. Our discipline needs to develop further conceptual and methodological tools for user studies – as archives serve an ever-wider constituency, we must deepen our knowledge of the information-seeking behaviour of our current and potential users. While archives manage recorded information in all media, there is a particularly pressing need for further research on the preservation and ongoing accessibility of digital records. For records in all media, we need to develop further theoretical and methodological tools for appraisal, notably for non-governmental records. Public debate surrounding privacy, intellectual property rights, and access to information ensures that issues of information law will continue to stimulate research. Also, the professions that thrive in future will be those that recognize their unique strengths and consistently bring these strengths into advantageous partnerships with allied professionals. What are archivists' allied professions? How can we engage with them to develop shared objectives?

This issue contains articles by a range of contributors who help us begin to address many of these questions.

In addition to attracting submissions of original research, *Archivaria* aims to strengthen professional debate by encouraging greater use of the Counterpoint section of the journal; and to respond to the burgeoning international archival literature by enhancing the book review section and making greater use of review articles.

The Editorial Board of *Archivaria* has investigated and debated the question of electronic publication over the past three years. Both the Editorial Board and the ACA Board of Directors have given approval in principle to introducing an electronic version of the journal parallel to the existing paper version and to embarking on the automation of back issues. This scenario will allow considerably greater reach for *Archivaria* while meeting the preference of our current subscribers to read the journal on paper. Our successful grant renewal from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada was based in part on our undertaking to develop *e-Archivaria*. More news on this subject will follow this year.

Archivaria intends to take a different tack on scholarly communication in its next issue, which will feature translations of a selection of articles originally published in French in Canada. This issue will feature an introduction by guest editors Lorraine Gadoury and Robert Nahuet.

Most importantly, *Archivaria* will continue to reflect our shared passion for archives. My hope is that it remains an essential element in the toolkit of the "Compleat Archivist."

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