they say, is more. Instead of identifying "Significant events or developments to which the records relate," (p. 60) let the describing archivist explain why the records were created – the purpose they were supposed to serve and whether they served it. Were the records "good" or "bad" – that is, effective or ineffective. In today's "e-everything" environment, archival description needs to be viewed in terms of knowledge management – information that is short, sharp, and to the point. Too much descriptive information is gratuitous or redundant, and rarely explains why the records exist; we learn far more about the creator of the records than about the creation of them. Yet it is impossible to describe records without understanding the record-keeping system that gave rise to them and makes them what they are. A record is defined by the purpose of its creation and use. In order to describe archival materials, what one needs most is the finding aid by means of which the creator of them controlled and retrieved them, or, failing that, a records-stripping metadata harvester. In order to arrange and describe archival records, the archivist needs to get under the skin and inside the mind of the record-keeper, viewing the records from the perspective of the creator when the records were created. Description, so to speak, is an inside job. Approaching description from the outside as an historian or researcher defeats the entire purpose. As a matter of professional ethics, archival description should never be allowed to serve as the archivist's excuse to do the work of a para- or pseudo-historian.

Barry Cahill
Nova Scotia Archives & Records Management

Metadata in Preservation: Selected Papers from an ERPANET Seminar at the Archives School Marburg, 3 – 5 September 2003. FRANK M. BISCHOFF, HANS HOFMAN, & SEAMUS ROSS, eds. Marburg: Archivschule, 2004. 259 p. ISBN 3-923833-77-6.

In September 2003, the Archivschule at Marburg, Germany hosted an ERPANET[1]-sponsored event on the theme of Metadata in Digital Preservation. Approximately seventy-five people from twenty-one European and North American countries gathered to discuss the important role of metadata in digital preservation and to hear experts from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and Europe representing a wide range of disciplines (library and archival science, records management, government, information technology) present their perspectives and experiences on this topic. The stated goal of the event

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1 Electronic Resource Preservation and Access Network, a European Commission initiative established to act as a virtual clearinghouse for research and development, as well as for best practices dissemination in the digital preservation of cultural heritage and scientific objects.

was to provide information on the latest developments in the area of metadata and to facilitate discussion on the key issues and needs of different communities as they take action to preserve digital objects through time. This publication presents a selection of the papers heard at the seminar.

The collection editors, Frank Bischoff, principal of the Archivschule Marburg, Hans Hofman and Seamus Ross, both directors of ERPANAT, are all acknowledged European experts in digital information management. Hofman's introductory essay "The Realm of Metadata" clearly defines and explains the term "metadata" to mean information describing an object. In the context of archival science, he refines this definition as structured data "about records, which show the interrelationship between different documents and allowing to reconstruct and to follow the process in which they were created and used so we will know what happened, in what order and under whose responsibility" (p. 12). He also highlights the important role that metadata plays in "keeping … preserved information understandable, interpretable and reliable over time and through ongoing technological developments and evolution" (p. 13). Finally, he notes that discussions on metadata are often obscured by experts' focus on building structures and identifying element sets to the detriment of practical considerations around the utility of the structure and elements sets for managing information. To the extent that the papers in this collection redress the balance, and focus on practical issues and solutions, it is a useful tool for those interested in preservation metadata.

Four major themes are examined by the authors: community-specific issues; interoperability; standards, processes, and schemas; and implementation issues. Without doubt, the first paper "Metadata in Digital Preservation: Foundations, Functions and Issues," by Professor Wendy Duff, of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information Studies, provides the key to the discussions that follow. Duff presents an overview of the community issues, identifying and explaining the many definitions of metadata that exist, as well as the different views that individual domains have of metadata and the various purposes and functions that metadata fulfil. She identifies a key concern: the proliferation of metadata schema,[2] a theme that is further examined by Andrew Wilson's "Too Many Metadata Standards," and explains it as a necessary consequence of different business needs surfacing specific metadata requirements within a specific domain, but also as the principal barrier to inter-domain information sharing (interoperability). Although metadata for preservation is important, it is only one of many often overlapping functions for which metadata is used to manage information.

Subsequent papers elaborate on these ideas: Steve Knight's "Preservation:

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2 A schema is a framework that specifies and describes a standard set of metadata elements and
   their interrelationships. Schemas provide a formal structure (syntax) and definitions (seman-
   tics) for the metadata elements.

Why the Urgency?" and Malcolm Todd's "Metadata: Serving Several Masters,"
discuss the New Zealand and United Kingdom e-government implementation
challenges respectively. Ensuing presenters discuss standards and schemes in
other contexts, notably scientific research. Thomas Severinus discusses "Meta-
data Implementation Issues" and government records management is covered in
Lars-Erik Hansen's "Digital Long Term Archive at the Swedish Social Insur-
ance Administration." Andrea Hänger tackles "Electronic Records Manage-
ment Metadata" and Barbara Hoen discusses "The Development of Interfaces
for Archival Appraisal and Transfer." Perhaps the second most useful contribu-
tion is Michael Day's "Preservation Metadata Initiatives: Practicality, Sustain-
ability, and Interoperability," that provides a comprehensive and compre-
hensible exposition of the OAIS[3] reference model, a common functional frame-
work for describing the components of a system used to preserve information in
a designated community. Day's discussion of costs, sustainability, interopera-
bility, and semantic Web issues remains relevant, even two and one half years
after the seminar. The final paper by James Turner, "The MetaMap: A Tool for
Learning about Metadata Standards," offers a practical step towards addressing
one of the threads woven through all the discussions: the need for a common
understanding of the standards available for the digital preservation context and
an understanding of how they fit together for information-sharing.

These papers provide a useful starting point for neophytes wanting a basic
understanding of the issues related to metadata in digital preservation. How-
ever, only a small subset of the papers is specifically focussed on the archival
perspective. And the quality of the papers is uneven. In contrast to the excel-
lent, wide-ranging presentations of Duff, Day, and Turner, others – particu-
larly those on the German experience – focus too narrowly. Some are poorly
written. From a practical perspective, many of the papers discuss technical
solutions to specific institutional challenges from an information technology
perspective, with little mention of the lead role that archivists should be taking
as experts in the business of managing records. Even granted the possibility
that improvements in this situation have occurred in the period since the semi-
nar took place, one wonders whether archivists' voices may be missing in
technical decisions around digital preservation and appropriate metadata man-
agement. The key papers in this collection can help archivists familiarize
themselves with the issues in order to improve their ability to take the lead.

The principal conclusions of the presentations are: the need to inform deci-
sion-makers of the strategic importance of metadata management as an integral
part of business; the requirement for increased international and cross-domain
co-operation to improve interoperability; and a clear desire in the community
for more information focussed on metadata implementations, providing insight

3 Open Archival Information System. For information, consult the Research Libraries Group
   OAIS Web site: <http://www.rlg.org/longterm/oais.html>.

into practical solution development. Interestingly, these same issues related to the challenges of sharing information across domains and the role that metadata can – and should – play in facilitating this sharing, were also more recently addressed in the Canadian context at the Canadian Metadata Forum[4] held in September 2005 at Library and Archives Canada, in Ottawa. Clearly, the interoperability and convergence challenges inherent in using metadata to manage digital objects for long-term access are a global concern. It is also clear from both the German and Canadian seminars that solutions are most likely to be developed by cross-disciplinary groups. In order to achieve information sharing, we need to work on convergence. This publication, reflecting as it does the state of metadata and digital preservation almost three years ago, does not provide the solutions. However, it certainly offers an overview of the theoretical and practical considerations that participants in the information sphere must address if we are to be able to work together to achieve interoperability allowing information sharing in the digital world.

Deane Zeeman
Library and Archives Canada

Booze: A Distilled History. CRAIG HERON. Toronto: Between the Lines Press, 2003. 497 p. ISBN 1-896-35783-0.

Through Sunshine and Shadow: The Women's Christian Temperance Union, Evangelism and Reform in Ontario 1874-1930. SHARON ANNE COOK. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995. 281p. ISBN 0-7753-1305-1.

Booze: A Distilled History is a social history of alcohol consumption in Canada from pre-industrial times to today. Heron's eager use of illustrations, posters, leaflets, and most often photographs as archival sources that provide unique information that other sources do not or cannot, is refreshing. Simply reproducing photographs does not necessarily indicate that a historian comprehends how to use them as archival documents. Heron, though, integrates photos with textual archival sources into his interpretation of the Canadian use of alcohol and moves effortlessly between the two, rarely if ever demonstrating that he may be biased towards one type of document or another as a valid source of historical information.

The saloon plays the interesting leading role in *Booze*. Overwhelmingly male in clientele, it was perceived as the root of society's alcohol-related problems by temperance advocates. The place to obtain a drink and fritter away a

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4 See <www.collectionscanada.ca/metaforum/>.