

ethical activity” (vii). It occurs to me that a similar conference could be held, or a similar volume written, dealing entirely with Canadian episodes involving political pressure and the archival record. Somalia, tainted blood, residential schools, banking records made available to American authorities, and the current flurry of activity in Ontario universities as they are required to comply with provincial access and privacy legislation, all come to mind.

For the professional archivist, the broad range of content in this volume presents a number of different issues and situations in which the record and/or the record-keepers are compromised. Its international focus introduces the reader to events and situations in other countries of which they might not otherwise have heard. Furthermore, reading about the incidents that occurred elsewhere gets the reader thinking about similar or related issues in one’s own environment. The book is also useful as a resource for archival educators, who will find readings suitable for a wide variety of topics, including access to information, privacy protection, records management, professional ethics, and, of course, the importance of recordkeeping and the record in society. In this regard, the presence of an index is helpful. For all these reasons, this book is a useful addition to the professional literature that will be an important means of achieving the conference participants’ desire to increase awareness of these issues in the wider community.

Jean Dryden

Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto

Preserving Digital Materials. ROSS HARVEY. Munich: K.G. Saur, 2005. 246 p. ISBN 3-598-11686-1.

Ross Harvey’s *Preserving Digital Materials* is a single volume guide that concisely summarizes the complex and interrelated technical issues and challenges surrounding long-term digital preservation. In seeking to explore the “single most critical issue” faced by members of the library and record-keeping communities, Harvey outlines valuable digital preservation principles, strategies, and practices by examining significant research initiatives from the last two decades. The necessity and rationale for writing such a book is clearly identified by the author, who acknowledges that “a great deal of information about digital preservation is available in print and on the web ... but most practitioners do not have the time or technical expertise to evaluate or synthesize it” (xi). Consequently, this valuable book provides technical guidance to library and record-keeping professionals, in any institutional setting, interested in the various aspects of long-term digital preservation. Harvey is a professor of Library and Information Management at Charles Sturt University in Australia with extensive research and teaching experience in the fields of

library and archival preservation, print culture, bibliographic organization, librarianship, and education. Drawing on his own expert knowledge, Harvey seeks to enhance “digital preservation practice in libraries and record-keeping environments” (xi).

Harvey structures the book’s ten chapters logically into distinct sections that address four key preservation questions: “Why do we preserve digital material?,” “What digital material do we preserve?,” “How do we preserve digital material?,” and “How do we manage digital preservation?” The opening chapters examine the volatile nature and characteristics of digital material. Harvey positions the problem of ensuring digital integrity and authenticity by identifying the risks associated with technological obsolescence and the degradation of storage media. The second section of the book summarizes traditional appraisal criteria applied in library and archival practice and details the reasons why these established selection methods “do not translate well when applied to digital material” (p. 54). Harvey points out that the preservation of digital material poses many challenges for which pre-digital preservation management paradigms offer little assistance. Extending beyond the problems associated with the application of traditional preservation tools and techniques into the digital realm, organizations must also consider the essential structural characteristics and acceptable minimal level of change or loss to digital attributes.

The third section of this publication provides an overview of the range of principles, strategies, and practices currently available. Harvey emphasizes the fact that no one single preservation activity or recommendation halts the threats posed by digital preservation; in fact, the key lies in the effective combination of multiple approaches. The strength of this publication rests in its classification of digital preservation principles, strategies, and practices. The categories enable readers to understand the different issues deriving from each approach, and explicitly recognize the returns and shortcomings of each strategy.

Numerous library and record-keeping research projects have explored the problems inherent in the long-term preservation of digital material. In the fourth section of his book, Harvey categorizes and illustrates the richness of these digital preservation collaborative initiatives and presents a sensible overview of the field’s existing knowledge. Harvey highlights and explores the essential role collaboration plays at all levels. Digital preservation projects are often expensive and resources are scarce; collaboration activities “enhance the productive capacity of a limited supply of digital preservation funds, by building shared resources, eliminating redundancies, and exploiting economies of scale” (p. 158). Harvey is extremely successful in connecting digital preservation initiatives to corresponding strategies and practices described in earlier chapters.

The promise of long-term digital preservation may at times seem like an idealistic ambition for most practitioners. However, in compiling an appendix

of six case studies from Australian institutions at the forefront of long-term digital preservation practice, Harvey illustrates a range of preservation activities that have been implemented and tested. By providing particular case study examples from organizations of varying size and with varying resources, readers are assured that specific strategies and practices can be applied and lessons can be learned.

My criticism of this work focuses on the book's content and methodological approach. Technical digital preservation issues and solutions are the sole focal point of this publication. Other aspects of digital preservation – cost and financing, education and training, policy development, information security and access, audit and compliance, and the legal issues associated with privacy, confidentiality, intellectual property, and copyright – are not dealt with in great detail in the publication (I recognize that there is less published information available in these related areas). Harvey acknowledges “some of the material in the book is based on interviews with Australian digital preservation experts” (xvi). While interviewing is a key method of data collection, Harvey provides no information on his methodology regarding the selection of participants, how the interviews were constructed or scripted, or how the data from the interviews was analyzed, thus calling into question the interviews' methodological validity and reliability. The Australian “experts” remain anonymous and quoted passages are never formally referenced in a structured manner. In assembling evidence for this work, Harvey draws extensively on other key published secondary resources, specifically Jones and Beagrie's *Preservation Management of Digital Materials*, and the UNESCO *Guidelines for the Preservation of Digital Heritage*.¹

This monograph represents an interpretation of long-term digital preservation based on previously available published resources. Combined, this information presents a very useful summary, however the book does not present a unique account of the subject matter nor does it develop new tools or approaches in this area.

The breadth of Harvey's research and analysis is evidenced by the publication's extensive bibliography. By listing so many resources, the book gives readers access to the most highly regarded research and writing on the topic of long-term digital preservation. There is a wealth of valuable information in this publication. For practitioners or students new to this field of inquiry there is much to be learned, and for the seasoned expert this book will serve as a definitive resource on the technical aspects of digital preservation. Our current knowledge and practical experience in the area of digital preservation is still being expanded and developed. This publication will not be the final word on

1 Maggie Jones and Neil Beagrie, *Preservation Management of Digital Materials: a Handbook* (London, 2001), and <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001300/130071e.pdf> (accessed 30 September 2006).

digital preservation because, as the size and number of repositories with long-term preservation responsibility for the digital material grow, additional volumes of works will be written. Ross Harvey's *Preserving Digital Materials* is an excellent introduction to the long-term preservation of digital materials and is a worthy addition to this field of study's discourse.

Lisa Marie Daulby
Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto

Gender and Petty Violence in London, 1680–1720. JENNINE HURL-EAMON. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2005. 227 p. ISBN 0-8142-0987-4.

The period covered by this book, 1680–1720, was a turbulent one in the history of England. David Underdown aptly entitled his study of England during the period (1603–1660), *Revel, Riot and Rebellion*, and there is sufficient evidence that the years examined by Hurl-Eamon were equally unquiet.¹ After all, this period saw the end of the Popish Plot, the death of Charles II, Monmouth's Rebellion and the so-called Bloodless Revolution, the Williamite wars, the Jacobite risings, and the final shift of the throne from Stuart to Hanover. These events combined with a period of great growth in both population and economy, and its attendant social upheaval in London. It is not surprising that during all this change and disturbance there was some accompanying petty violence, but in the past historians have not had a real way of tracking and documenting this violence. Hurl-Eamon has shown here one vital, overlooked, source.

It must be clear that in referring to petty violence the author is dealing with those issues which were generally considered to be misdemeanours, and which did not warrant resolution in the main courts. Instead, these were those levels of crimes, ranging from verbal assault through to attempted rape, for which the system of punishment was relatively lenient. In fact, for many of the cases Hurl-Eamon is uncertain as to whether they even achieved a judicial hearing or resolution. The level of official intervention into these cases was a "recognizance," a legal mechanism by which the accused was bound to appear and answer the charge. In physical form, this mechanism was represented by a slip of parchment upon which the putative assault was described by the plaintiff. The primary basis for this study is the recognizances that originated with the Westminster Sessions, mainly those created between 1685 (the year of Charles II's death and Monmouth's Rebellion) and 1720. According to Hurl-

1 David Underdown, *Revel, Riot, and Rebellion: Popular Politics and Culture in England, 1603–1660* (Oxford, 1987).