

not insignificant group of users. If archivists are aware of this group's expectations, of how records enter an archives and how historians wish them to be presented, archivists can be better prepared to manage these expectations in light of archival realities.

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Clio Wired: The Future of the Past in the Digital Age. ROY ROSENZWEIG. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011. xxiv, 309 p. ISBN 978-0-231-52171-0.

Clio Wired: The Future of the Past in the Digital Age is a collection of eleven essays that takes its title from history's muse, Clio, and is authored (some articles are co-authored) by the late American historian Roy Rosenzweig, founding director of the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University in Virginia. The Center uses digital media and technology to advance history education and research and investigates their impact on history education, research, dissemination, and preservation.¹ The essays examine and explore the impact that digital media, in particular the Internet, have had on history – from research and teaching to preservation and access. The collection was originally envisioned by Rosenzweig in 2005 as “a book of essays that would track significant developments in the field of digital history during its earliest years and consider possible directions for its future” (p. xxi).

Clio Wired was published posthumously thanks to Deborah Kaplan, Rosenzweig's widow and an associate professor of English and Cultural Studies at George Mason University. Kaplan organized Rosenzweig's work into three thematic sections to emphasize the ways he “engaged with the new technologies” (p. xxi): Rethinking History in New Media; Practicing History in New Media: Teaching, Researching, Presenting and Collecting; and Surveying History in New Media. The essays span a twelve-year period, 1994 to 2006, and are arranged chronologically within each section; however, nothing will be lost to the reader who randomly peruses the book based solely on interest. While Kaplan admits the categories are “overly neat,” they serve to situate the essays in the broader context of Rosenzweig's research and meditations on history education and research, and how these intersect with digital media and his knowledge of the history of the Internet.

1 Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media: <http://chnm.gmu.edu/about/>

According to Kaplan, “[Rosenzweig] saw digital history as a set of tools rather than a panacea and made clear...neither hymns of praise nor shrieks of fear did justice to the multiple ways they could be employed, as social, economic, and technical contexts determined” (p. xix). This is evident in many of the essays in which Rosenzweig examines both positive and negative influences of new digital media and their potential to inform history education and research. While optimistic about the ability of digital technologies to move toward a more democratic sharing of information that would positively inform history research, education, and dissemination, Rosenzweig also critiques those attempting to control access to the Web and to profit from that control.

Although the intended audience for this book is clearly historians, there are some essays that will likely appeal to an archival audience. Throughout the book, Rosenzweig makes an informed pitch for a co-operative, interdisciplinary, and altruistic approach to the tasks of long-term preservation, and for ongoing access to and dissemination of the historical record. While there is insufficient space here to address the essays in depth, suffice it to say that the opening and closing sections of the book will be of most interest to archivists.

The article that opens the book, “Scarcity or Abundance? Preserving the Past,” addresses the issues associated with digital preservation – familiar terrain to many archivists. Rosenzweig cites many of the archival professionals and literature known to those in the field, but he offers a historian’s perspective and urges those in his discipline – both academic and amateur – to educate themselves and engage in the discussion about digital preservation, which has been ongoing in the archival and library communities for decades. “The stakes are too profound for historians to ignore the future of the past,” he says presciently (p. 7). Rosenzweig suggests that public entities are better suited to preserving the Web than private enterprises, and he encourages historians, both professional and amateur, to move toward public action in advocating “the preservation of the past as a *public* responsibility” (p. 7). As Kaplan observes, “[Rosenzweig] urges historians to make common cause with librarians and archivists, to help in preserving the digital past, in collecting and making accessible historical sources online, and in influencing public policies guiding these efforts” (p. xxiii). Two other essays complete this opening section, including an insightful history of Wikipedia and the consequences of its open source collaborative model for historical practice and accuracy with respect to online data. Rosenzweig suggests that writing history is a complex enterprise; the “‘facts’ of the past and the way those facts are arranged and reported [are] often highly contested” (p. 73).² He does comment, however, that

2 This point has been highlighted by Timothy Messer-Kruse in “The ‘Undue Weight’ of Truth in Wikipedia,” *The Chronicle Review*, 12 February 2012, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, <http://chronicle.com/article/The-Undue-Weight-of-Truth-on/130704/> (accessed 3 April 2012).

historians can learn from Wikipedia's open and democratic distribution and production model, and suggests that such a model could influence historians' practice and the production, sharing, and debate of their scholarly work (p. 78).

Rosenzweig's concerns about the increased commercialization of the Web and the need to "protect and strengthen" the public Web are emphasized in the three essays that comprise the final section of the book. In "Brave New World or Blind Alley? American History on the World Wide Web," Rosenzweig examines how the Internet could facilitate greater access to archives and historical resources, which in turn would benefit digital history work. "Wizards, Bureaucrats, Warriors, and Hackers: Writing the History of the Internet" will appeal to anyone interested in the history of the Internet and its larger implications for changes to information and communication technologies. Rosenzweig's excellent research begins with the early days of ARPANET³ and moves on to critique and expand on the seminal literature detailing the development of the Internet. In the final essay, "The Road to Xanadu: Public and Private Pathways on the History Web," Rosenzweig asks, "if the road ahead leads to Xanadu.com rather than Xanadu.edu, what will the future of the past look like?" (p. 205); the implication is that there are two possible paths – one commercial, the other public. This essay was published in 2001, and more than a decade of Web history has accumulated since Rosenzweig wrote it. However, attentive readers will relish tracing his many ideological threads into the 21st century and checking his predictions against fact. For example, the Library of Congress surpassed its goal of making five million items available online by 2000, something Rosenzweig saw as potentially prohibitive due to cost.

At times, the essays read like a pseudo-archaeology of the Web as Rosenzweig discusses the developments and shifts in information production, dissemination, and access to digital historical resources, while underscoring the challenges of writing about this subject. There is, however, a need to cite examples of specific sites, and to situate them within a broader discourse lest they lose meaning as they become dated. Rosenzweig acknowledges oversights (such as the absence of discussion of social media) that are felt more acutely in some essays than in others. In order to benefit from the broader themes of the book, it is important that the reader be mindful of the state of technology at the time the essays were written.

Through the lens of "doing history" on the Net, these essays provide insight into and meditate on the role of the Internet in disseminating, teaching, and constructing digital history and the historical record. They reflect

3 The Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) "was the world's first operational packet switching network and the core of a set of networks that came to compose the global Internet." It was funded by the US Department of Defense. *Wikipedia*, s.v. "ARPANET," last modified 26 June 2012, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ARPANET>.

Rosenzweig's efforts as an early pioneer on projects that explore, experiment with, create, and disseminate history using digital media in attempts to reach new audiences, seek greater participation, and engage wider input. They examine the role of the Web in history education and research, and how making archival holdings accessible to historians via the Internet and through digital media can influence and inform how they practise their craft in the "digital age."

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A Different Kind of Web: New Connections Between Archives and Our Users. KATE THEIMER, ed. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2011. xvii, 369 p. ISBN 1-931666-39-3.

ArchivesNext blogger Kate Theimer is back on the book-publishing scene with a new edited collection of essays. In 2010, her *Web 2.0 Tools and Strategies for Archives and Local History Collections* received accolades for its clear and practical walk-through of "all the major Web 2.0 services – blogs, podcasts, image-sharing sites, video-sharing sites, microblogging, wikis, and social networking."¹ *A Different Kind of Web: New Connections Between Archives and Our Users* extends her examination of how archives employ Web 2.0 and proposes that we are now in the age of Archives 2.0, characterized by a focus on users and utilization of technologies for a wide array of activities, including outreach and archival management.

In her preface, Theimer outlines the aim of the book: "These essays discuss how social media are changing how archivists conduct outreach, how the concept of authority is adapting and evolving, and the opportunities social media present for enhancing and streamlining traditional archival processes" (pp. xi–xii). She hopes that "readers will come away with an understanding of how archives today are using the Web to reach new and exciting users as well as to serve their own management needs" (p. xvi). The book lives up to these ambitious expectations. Short case studies explaining a variety of social media implementation projects are well balanced by framing essays that explore some of the overarching theoretical implications and issues raised by the new tools at our disposal. Another important component of the book is the inclusion of the voices of archives' users themselves – teachers, historians, genealo-

1 Kate Theimer, *Web 2.0 Tools and Strategies for Archives and Local History Collections* (New York: Neal-Schuman, 2010): xi.