

tronic record itself” (p. 98). Both of these need to be migrated into an accessible format.

David Roberts’ “Making Electronic Records Accessible” (Chapter 8) focuses on the issues associated with making electronic records available, both within and beyond the boundaries of the organization. This is one of the weaker essays of the book because of its primary focus on “electronic gateways” as the solution to all access problems – surely there must be other potential solutions? However, Roberts does argue effectively the need for metadata to maintain record accessibility, and the continuing dependence on technology for electronic records.

Chapter 9, “A Case Study” by Tom Hotchin, examines the successes and failures in the implementation of an electronic document and customer contacts system at “the Council” – an organization which is not further identified.

Taken together, *Selected Essays in Electronic Recordkeeping in Australia* offers a good description of the steps to implement an electronic record-keeping system. Little duplication occurs between the essays, except in the explanation of metadata, which is understandable given the importance of this information at various stages of record-keeping. The glossary offers good basic definitions of record-keeping terms, and the bibliography shows a good selection of international sources on electronic record-keeping. The legislation and metadata standards referred to throughout the book are solely Australian, a logical situation given that the collection of essays is intended primarily for an Australian audience.

However, the overall usefulness of this book to some archivists is difficult to determine. If you are an archivist that is responsible for implementing an electronic record system and you are not sure what your steps should be, definitely use this book. If you are an archivist that gives record-keeping advice, you can safely recommend this book to those responsible for implementing an electronic record-keeping system. Yet, if you are an archivist that is not responsible for either of these functions, this book may not offer as much immediately useful information as other sources.

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**Les archives électroniques : une mémoire orpheline ou en mutation?**  
**Actes du 4<sup>ième</sup> symposium du GIRA, Archives nationales du Québec (Montréal), le 22 mars 2002.** GROUPE INTERDISCIPLINAIRE DE RECHERCHE EN ARCHIVISTIQUE. Montréal : Groupe interdisciplinaire de recherche en archivistique, 2002. 157 p. ISBN 2-9807798-0-6.

Since its formation in 1988, le Groupe interdisciplinaire de recherche en

archivistique (GIRA) has actively participated in the development of research in archival studies by way of numerous activities, projects, and symposia. The most recent GIRA symposium, entitled *Les archives électroniques : une mémoire orpheline ou en mutation?*, was held at the Archives nationales du Québec in Montréal on 22 March 2002. The programme and papers given at the symposium have been published together by GIRA. Jacques Grimard of l'École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information à l'Université de Montréal and a member of GIRA, explains that the objectives of GIRA are not to find definitive answers and solutions to the problems that digital materials pose, but instead to provide a forum for professionals to share their experiences, to encourage the exchange of ideas and to venture into the question of electronic records, which has already begun to overwhelm the concerns of archivists and others. Indeed, the published proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> GIRA Symposium reflect GIRA's objectives.

The theme for the 4<sup>th</sup> GIRA Symposium was developed from comments made at the 3<sup>rd</sup> GIRA Symposium held in 1998 by Jean-Pierre Wallot, who reflected on the ways in which technology products and systems are designed and implemented without an eye for the assurance of long-term preservation, the assurance of authenticity, or the assurance of readability over time of electronic records and other digital materials. If records are increasingly being created using electronic technologies, will the documentary traces and memory of societies be orphaned by the very people who create them? Or is the memory of societies being transformed by new and different varieties of the documentary traces that are evidence of the past? Can we speculate on who will adopt these electronic documentary traces and care for our collective memory in the future? Or will memory not be possible because the documentary traces are lost forever? These were the questions that presenters at the 4<sup>th</sup> GIRA Symposium were asked to address.

The papers presented at the Symposium were grouped into four overall themes reflected in the published proceedings. These thematic groupings were: the problems and challenges that electronic records and other digital materials pose to the concretization of memory in society; the need for cooperation among archivists and other professionals to address the problems in a multi-disciplinary way; a review of different institutional approaches to electronic records and other digital materials within their care; and a reflection on research and the use of electronic records and other digital materials by clients and end-users.

The problems and challenges that archivists face in the "digital age" are explored by presenters Louise Gagnon-Arguin and Marie-Anne Chabin. Gagnon-Arguin explores the possibilities of using research that has been conducted in the area of typologies and genre, and while the notion of a "cybergenre" of document types may be questionable, it is clear that the use of information technology tools can provide critical contextual information about

the record's creation, and that combinations of computer technologies and the Internet will greatly affect the nature of the documentary traces we leave behind. Marie-Anne Chabin echoes many of the issues and challenges that Gagnon-Arguin relates; however, Chabin's approach is centred on memory and is very optimistic for the future. Chabin concludes that while information technology tools may evolve and mutate, she believes that archival methods, practices, and theories will remain and that this is the source of our optimism.

Unlike Chabin, Guylaine Beaudry believes that archivists have the right to be skeptical about the viability and opportunity for the long-term preservation of electronic records because the technological bias of creation forces itself upon access and readability after the fact. And indeed in light of past examples of loss, archivists should be wary. Beaudry's paper, presented in the second thematic grouping, relates her experience disseminating and preserving university publications of l'Université de Montréal, such as doctoral dissertations and the review publication, *Érudit*. In this case, Beaudry details co-operation with other professionals in the university context, including authors, in addition to the employment of a variety of different preservation strategies. However, she warns that while co-operation across disciplines is essential, many problems can arise simply from the use of certain vocabulary, and indeed the appropriation of certain words by different professions can cause a host of challenges (think, for example, of "archive" and "record").

The legal challenges that digital materials pose (especially those disseminated over the Internet) are detailed in the Symposium by Pierre Trudel, a professor of law at l'Université de Montréal. Professionals in the field of law are facing challenges similar to those faced by archivists, in that technology appears to be outpacing our ability to respond to the needs of materials created by it, and to ensure the rights and privileges of others to create, disseminate, and use digital materials now and in the future. Of particular interest to both professions is the redefinition of societies and communities that technology such as the Internet demands. In the sphere of law, the Internet dissolves territorial borders, and this challenges the legitimacy of laws and regulations (or the perception of legitimacy) and their applicability. In a sense, jurists and archivists must redefine the community in terms of users. Trudel's contribution shows us that the challenges of electronic records and digital materials are animating legal, archival, and other professional fields and that this is indeed a question that cuts across many disciplines and widely affects everyone.

The papers offered within the first two thematic sections of the Symposium are generally a good reiteration of many of the same problems, issues, and calls to action that archivists and others have previously read within our professional journals and heard at conferences and symposia. However, one particularly valuable portion of the Symposium's published proceedings is the inclusion of papers that review specific institutional approaches to electronic records and other digital materials within their care. Specifically papers were

presented by: the National Archives of Canada (Normand Fortier); le gouvernement du Québec (Marc-André Leclerc); l'Université de Montréal (Claude Minotto); and la Direction des archives de France (Catherine Dhérent). To summarize briefly, Normand Fortier examined the realities of records management within the Canadian federal government from the viewpoint of the National Archives of Canada and their macro-appraisal methodology. Marc-André Leclerc gave a description of a manual developed by the Archives nationales du Québec and the sous-secretariat à l'Inforoute gouvernementale et aux ressources informationnelles to help provincial government departments implement records management in response to a general lack of records management knowledge and tools. Claude Minotto gave a description of the committee-based projects at l'Université de Montréal to develop their preservation strategy for electronic records that has evolved from one that espoused copying to analog formats. And finally, Catherine Dhérent gave an overview of new laws related to electronic records in France, in addition to an overview of the work of la direction des Archives de France, which includes the creation of a preservation manual, the co-ordination of several different electronic records efforts across government, and the oversight of the first accession of electronic records into their holdings. In general, all four case studies emphasize the need for collaboration within and across organizations; the need for institutionally-supported research in the area of electronic records and digital holdings; and the usefulness of creating manuals, offering guidance, and generally being involved within the sphere of records' creators. As well, the presenters reflected on the problems that arise when technological change blinds records-creating organizations to the need for organizational, operational, and corporate culture change to support basic records management principles and processes.

Although not as fully represented as other thematic sections of the Symposium, one paper was presented on research and the use of electronic records and other digital materials by clients and end-users. The author of this paper, Chad Gaffield, professor of history at the University of Ottawa, credits the active learning model now used in many post-secondary institutions and the popularity of genealogy with an increased use of heritage materials including archival records, library materials and museum objects. Gaffield claims that technology and heritage holdings in both electronic form (born digital and digitized) can be used to enhance the use of holdings by larger communities – ones that are dispersed geographically and ones that are more broadly defined. Gaffield calls for a new research infrastructure that is integrated horizontally across institutions, one that presents historical material according to the user's needs regardless of where and in which form it is found. He warns that in this new research infrastructure, users must be educated to identify the material presented to them, and then to examine and analyze it accordingly. However it is unclear how this can occur pragmatically if such user communities are so

broadly defined and geographically dispersed as Gaffield claims. It could be argued that institutions such as archives, libraries, and museums teach others about the nature of the material in their care by exposing users to the nature of their institutions and the professionals that work within them. Gaffield does, however, offer an opportunity to consider a new way in which we can communicate our holdings. Indeed, technology and access to holdings in electronic form can increase the relevance and participation of heritage institutions in the field of historical research.

The published proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> GIRA Symposium include: the program; introductory and concluding remarks by Jacques Grimard; a welcoming address to the participants by Sylvie Lemieux; a formal presentation of the Symposium by Carol Couture; a list of participants; and, of course, the presented papers including footnotes and bibliography where applicable. All contents of the proceedings are in French, except for the submission by Chad Gaffield, which is published in English. For those readers whose reading comprehension of French is good and perhaps outperforms their oral and written communication skills in French (as is the case for this reviewer), the language used in the proceedings is straightforward and approachable, supported by occasional forays into the French-English dictionary when technical terminology is used. All presenters at the 4<sup>th</sup> GIRA Symposium pointed to the need for co-operation across disciplines if we are to find methods and solutions for the long-term preservation of electronic records and ultimately the assurance of a collective memory as evidenced by all documentary traces including those that are electronic. Specifically, they encourage us to communicate the nature of archival work to information technology standard makers and tool developers; to integrate the needs of users and the resources required into our strategies; and to organize and undertake research within our institutions in concert with technology specialists, users, lawyers, records managers, content administrators, and others.

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**Picturing Place: Photography and the Geographical Imagination.** JOAN M. SCHWARTZ and JAMES R. RYAN, eds. New York: I.B. Tauris and Co. Ltd., 2003. 354 p. ISBN 1-86064-752-9.

*Picturing Place* is an edited volume that marks an important contribution to the complementary fields of photography and geography, but it holds some important insight that has bearing on the archival profession in particular. As joint editors, Joan M. Schwartz and James R. Ryan's perspectives highlight the natural link between geography and photography: Schwartz's background in historical geography and career as a senior photography specialist at the