

*Emerging Trends in Archival Science*. Edited by Karen F. Gracy. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017. 168 pp. Index. Softcover. \$58.00.

*Emerging Trends in Archival Science* gathers six updated chapters based on research presented at the 2016 Archival Education and Research Initiative (AERI) Institute at Kent State University. As editor Karen F. Gracy notes in her introduction, the annual summer weeklong AERI Institutes have “become an important venue for presenting important research projects and pedagogical innovations” in archival studies (p. x). This is clearly reflected in the insightful chapters Gracy has collected here, all of which incorporate interdisciplinary approaches to chart new ground for archival research, practice, and pedagogy, while also examining the application of established and emergent archival concepts to address some of the major societal challenges of the twenty-first century.

While the volume’s six chapters have no formal organization, the theme of archives’ critical importance to the protection and propagation of human rights decidedly anchor the first three. In “Evidence and Exigency: Reconstructing and Reconciling Records for Life after Conflict,” Anne J. Gilliland examines how irregularities in transnational recordkeeping practices can complicate the efforts of refugees and asylum seekers to (re)establish their identities in their countries of resettlement or return. Gilliland identifies the “mounting documentation production challenges . . . that exist in an increasingly ‘post-truth,’ populist, and terrorism risk-driven world” and may jeopardize displaced persons’ resettlement or return efforts (p. 2). She contends that formal asylum proceedings leave little room for considering the exigent circumstances under which asylum seekers may present with record irregularities and further illustrates this point with a detailed account of how the rigid and inconsistent documentation requirements of college admissions processes around the world pose a “major problem facing refugee teens with college aspirations” (p. 12). Gilliland closes the chapter with a discussion of the potential technological, administrative, and advocacy efforts archivists and recordkeeping professionals can undertake in support of a “platform of refugee rights in records” (p. 17).

In “A Case Study in Access to the Archival Records of the Military Courts in the Former Yugoslavia,” Aida Škoro Babić discusses the significantly complex political, legal, and administrative challenges that have persisted in providing access to Slovenian national archival records, specifically the records of military courts, since the country’s independence from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) in 1991. In so doing, Babić emphasizes the importance of archivists developing a fuller understanding of contemporary social issues and scholarly trends, and an appreciation for “the full complexity of the provenance of the archival records under their care so that they can appropriately describe these records for different access needs and conditions” (p. 28). Following a detailed historical overview of the SFRY and its military courts, as well as the evolution of national records legislation in the states that emerged from the dissolution of the SFRY, Babić concludes with a discussion of how adequate descriptive and access tools for scattered Slovenian military court records, based on an informed understanding of diverse user needs and adherence to international archival principles, can mitigate the “access problems created by diverse national laws” (p. 39).

Mario H. Ramirez's "On 'Monstrous' Subjects and Human Rights Documentation" focuses on the extrajudicial violence committed against Salvadoran youths with confirmed or suspected ties to the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang as part of a politically and socially sanctioned effort to eradicate gang violence from El Salvador in the interest of "security, social control, and national coherence" (p. 56). Such violence, seen by critics as a continuation of the "remilitarization of society" and the "repressive tactics from the country's civil war" (pp. 52–56) are driven by the perception of certain Salvadoran youths as being "monstrous," or "outside the parameters of the quantifiably human" (p. 53). Ramirez contends that the work of Salvadoran humanitarian organizations to collect archival evidence and video testimony of the social cleansing perpetrated against official or suspected MS-13 members—even in the face of the reprehensible acts of violence these youths may have themselves committed—is crucial to reconstituting "monstrous" Salvadoran youths as "flesh-and-blood subjects who merit consideration as rights-bearing humans" and to supplying "avenues for accountability and subjectivation" (pp. 63–66).

From the connections between archives and human rights, the focus of the latter three chapters shifts toward practices that could expand the range of events and experiences traditionally documented in the archival record. Jennifer Jenkins's "Archiving the Ephemeral Experience" argues for the consideration of sense memory in collection and documentation strategies to diversify the archival record and enable users to engage with the past through "nontraditional" sensory means. Finding ways to incorporate the multisensory dimension of lived experience into the archive, Jenkin contends, would capture a uniquely human element of the past that so often eludes official documentation. Jenkins urges archivists to collect materials that evoke sense memory beyond the audiovisual; a practice that would certainly align with other contemporary efforts to "invert, upend, decolonize, decloset" the archive (p. 81). Offering a preliminary example of sense memory archiving, Jenkins discusses a recent experimental project she assigned to graduate students at the University of Arizona involving the collection of materials documenting the multisensory experience of attending an indigenous aerosol art installation.

In "Insights from Archivists to Educate for Advocacy," Sarah Buchanan discusses the rising prevalence of advocacy as a central tenet of the archives field, while also highlighting the current gap in professional knowledge of how advocacy skills can be effectively taught in graduate archival studies programs. Working from her definition of advocacy as "targeted efforts to promote the value of archives and archivists' vital preservation work, with the intended result of positive change for both archival institutions and the archival profession" (p. 96), Buchanan reports on a recent survey she and fellow researchers conducted to gather working archivists' insights on the greatest challenges they face with respect to advocacy and how advocacy skills could be integrated into archival graduate education. From the survey results, Buchanan identifies three central emergent themes of archival advocacy work: "communicating archival identity, developing management skills, and extending public presence" (p. 99). These themes, Buchanan offers, could serve as focus areas for the future integration of advocacy as a standard component of graduate archival teaching and curriculum development, thereby benefiting the archives profession.

Finally, in “Using Scenario Planning and Personas as an Aid to Reducing Uncertainty about Future Users,” Erik A. M. Borglund and Lena-Maria Öberg examine possibilities for systematically mitigating uncertainty surrounding the needs of future archives users. Uncertainty about the near and distant future uses of archives, note Borglund and Öberg, renders the archival appraisal process immensely challenging and presents a clear need for the development of strategies to reduce such uncertainty and “in the long term to provide support for and new input to system design and appraisal” (p. 114). In exploring one such potential strategy, Borglund and Öberg report on their recent case study of the applicability of human experience design methods, including scenario planning (the projection of possible futures based on scenarios) and the development of personas, or “hypothetical archetypes of actual users” (p. 116), to the appraisal of records held by Swedish law enforcement agencies. Borglund and Öberg conclude their chapter with a discussion assessing the overall effectiveness of scenario planning and persona development in appraisal strategies across diverse archival collecting environments.

In line with the spirit of the AERI Institute from which its chapters originate, *Emerging Trends in Archival Science* offers an impressive and compelling body of scholarship concerning future directions in archival studies and pedagogy, particularly with respect to the subjects of human rights, collection development, advocacy, and appraisal. The volume’s six chapters are exceptionally well written and meticulously researched and, through the adroit incorporation of innovative ideas and interdisciplinary connections, they offer truly fresh perspectives on both established and emergent concepts in archival studies packed with a staggering amount of complexity and nuance given their relatively short page lengths. It should be noted, however, that most of the chapters are of a decidedly academic and theoretical bent, and astute but tangential analyses of the historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts surrounding particular archival issues and imperatives more informed by fields such as critical theory and cultural studies occasionally eclipse the purported focus on archival science. While this may be entirely justified from an academic standpoint, it may also largely confine the readership of *Emerging Trends in Archival Science* to scholars of archival studies and related disciplines within the academy. Archivists interested in how to effectively implement the emerging trends discussed here “in the field” will likely find the volume lacking in practical guidance. As editor Karen F. Gracy makes clear in her introduction, however, *Emerging Trends in Archival Science* is concerned with archival research innovation and pedagogical development rather than practical, everyday implementation. To the extent that this volume resoundingly satisfies that aim, it is a most welcome addition to contemporary archival scholarship.

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