

own costs. The plan was intended to bring savings when materials were no longer collected for certain selected subject areas, and the funds were to be reallocated to the subjects for which the library assumed responsibility. Along one track, national and university libraries worked together, each selecting subject areas in which it was responsible for extensive collection development. Special libraries formed a second group. They agreed on the division of acquisitions based on the place of publication or language, and focused on four types of material: agricultural and veterinary science, technical, medical, and government documents. The plan was dissolved in 1980.

According to the author, the Scandia Plan failed for several reasons: a lack of strong administration, deficient locating tools, an emphasis on peripheral materials, and the inability to extend into other subject areas. These limitations undermined the high expectations of the plan and ran counter to the trend in information provision that emphasized access to the most needed sources. Ultimately, the Scandia Plan became a political issue. The advantages to the individual holding library were thought to be excessive, providing little benefit to the other libraries. Three other cooperative acquisition projects—the Farmington Plan in the United States, a German plan sponsored by the Library Committee of the Emergency Society for German Scholarship (later the German Research Society), and the Swedish Plan for Cooperative Acquisitions—served as models for the Scandia Plan. Yet, as Hannesdóttir suggests, none addressed or solved the Scandia Plan's dilemmas. It is instructive that the German plan still flourishes, due in significant part to the infusion of funds by the German Research Society. By contrast, the Scandia Plan never received outside monies. Cooperative collection development projects succeed only when each participating library perceives the benefits to outweigh the costs. The benefits and costs may be transparent or hidden, real or imagined, but if the participating libraries lose, then group failure cannot be far away.

The particulars of the Scandia Plan have largely faded from memory in recent years. Hannesdóttir's fine history (an essentially unchanged version of her 1987 doctoral dissertation from the University of Chicago) provides the first thorough discussion of the Plan's intricacies. After the initial euphoria of cooperative plans wears off, the issues remain political and economic at the core. This is the major lesson of the failure of the Scandia Plan, and its ramifications are important and unequivocal.—*Michael P. Olson, University of California, Los Angeles.*

Dearstyne, Bruce W. *The Archival Enterprise: Modern Archival Principles, Practices, and Management Techniques.* Chicago: American Library Assn., 1993. 295p. alk. paper (ISBN 0-8389-0602-8)

In providing both novice and initiate

New From Highsmith Press

Preservation
Of Electronic
Formats



Electronic
Formats For
Preservation

Edited by Louis Mollenhuth

*Preservation
Of Electronic
Formats &
Electronic
Formats For
Preservation*

Edited by Janice
Mollenhuth.

1993 ISBN 0-917846-17-6

144 pp Paper \$25 P42P-95522

Highsmith
P R E S S

PO Box 800

Ft Atkinson, WI 53538

**Answers to Your
Questions About
Electronic Formats
Including the:**

- Durability and longevity of CD-ROM,
- Advantages and disadvantages of microforms vs. electronic storage formats,
- Costs and capabilities of imaging techniques,
- Appropriateness of electronic formats for libraries.

To Order Toll-Free
1-800-558-2110

with a conceptual overview of the history and profession of archives, Bruce W. Dearstyne presents a thoughtful and well-organized discussion of archival theory, practice, procedures, and problems. Dearstyne, an archivist and teacher, summarizes neatly the prevailing state of affairs.

The "enterprise" of the title is really the primary mission of an archivist who, in Dearstyne's view, perpetuates the social memory, transmits cultural heritage, and helps people to learn from the experiences of the past. Dearstyne uses the term historical records to encompass manuscript materials, personal papers, and archival collections. He includes an assortment of examples from these different branches of archival work, and case studies from four hypothetical institutions—a research library, special collections department, public library, and municipal archive—are presented and referred to throughout the book.

Following a helpful explanation of terms often used all too loosely, even by archivists, Dearstyne describes what archivists do and why they do it. He reviews archival theory with its attendant conflicts and limitations, explains the importance of keeping historical records, and distinguishes the work and concerns of archivists from those of librarians and records managers.

Moving from theory to practice, Dearstyne analyzes the archival "enterprise" through a series of chapters describing everything from hands-on work with records to public access: programs and planning, financial needs, the professional nature of the work, administration, identification and selection of records, arrangement and description, preservation, researcher services, marketing and outreach, and electronic records. The text of *The Archival Enterprise* is enhanced by useful examples of typical donor agreements, mission statements, work plans, job descriptions, MARC-AMC cataloging records, finding aids, and guide entries. The mission statements and work plans should prove particularly valuable to archivists new to the field, those working alone, or, indeed, anyone who must produce long-range planning documents

or justify continued or increased funding, or even the very existence of a historical records program.

In general, Dearstyne's advice on the importance of planning, program administration, management, and marketing is practical and insightful. His arguments develop logically, and the articulation of six ways to promote an archival program and repository, in particular, should be required reading for any professional in the field. The more technical chapters on problems of appraisal, description, cataloging, and preservation are, of necessity, sketchy. They summarize current archival practice and give a concise view of questions and problems. Reading these chapters will provide archivists with perspective on their own repositories. These chapters are intended not to supersede but rather to complement the series of technical manuals published by the Society of American Archivists, and *The Archival Experience* would be a useful stepping-stone to those more detailed works.

The weakest chapter of the book concerns the professional nature of archival work and education. Although Dearstyne argues strongly for increased professionalism through education and inserts a considerable amount of recent archival history and politics into this chapter, the result is vague and suggests ambivalence. This may, however, be appropriate when archivists are themselves so divided over issues of certification and definition of their professional role. Any attempt at a summary or conclusion to the volume is noticeably absent, though some problems of the future are mentioned in Dearstyne's final chapter on electronic records.

Despite its problems, this volume is a useful tool not only for archivists but for students and library administrators as well. It is a handy introduction to the field of historical record-keeping and would make an ideal textbook around which a course in the administration of historical records could be structured.—*Jack Eckert, College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.*