Extra or Essential?: Public Programs in Archives

Dr. Sigrid McCausland has been a part-time lecturer in the School of Information Studies for almost five years. She coordinates the Records and Archives Management specialisations in the Bachelor of Information Studies and Master of Information Studies courses. Before this, she worked as an archivist for 30 years, including several years as University Archivist at the Australian National University.

Sigrid has contributed to the archives profession at local, national and international levels and is currently Secretary of the International Council on Archives Section on Archival Education and Training. Her recent research and publications focus on advocacy, access and community cultural heritage. This Seminar draws on Sigrid’s professional archival experience and her recent research into the relationships between archives and their publics.

Public programs, including exhibitions and education programs for school students, are now integrated into the operations of government archives. Yet until about 20 years ago, government archives in Australia were generally introspective; their emphasis was on serving governments through promoting proper management of current records. This presentation examines the historical background to public programs in archives in North America and Australasia. It charts changes aimed at improving the public image of archives, as well as extending the range of services provided to the public. It concludes with an analysis of the current situation when budgets are tightening and public programs are vulnerable.

The presentation also raises methodological issues arising from the presenter’s dual perspectives as academic researcher and as long term proponent of public programs in archives.

Additional information about Dr. Sigrid McCausland is available at:


EVENT DETAILS
12:00pm-1:00pm
Wednesday 30 April 2014

School of Information Studies Seminar Room, Building 05
Charles Sturt University
Wagga Campus
VC Admin Brisbane CA 745
VC Admin Sydney
Communicator: http://wsww01.csu.edu.au/vcbookings/
Bridgit username: SIS Seminar (no password necessary)

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