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SI 580 Understanding Records and Archives: Principles and Practices

Week 13 – The Future of the Past
Themes of this presentation

- Assignments due
  - One page abstract (4/11)
  - Paper (4/12)
  - Presentation (5 minutes)
  - Final Exam (4/17)
- Current debates
- Predictions
- Professional development
- Evaluations
Current issues & debates …1

- **Appraisal**
  - many models…which one to choose…who gets to choose?
  - assigning value…whose values…whose memory?
  - appraisal through litigation?

- **Description**
  - standards development
  - creating……collecting……integrating……sharing
  - metadata management across lifecycle
  - more product, less process?

- **Access**
  - in times of political / social transformation
  - privacy
  - legal regimes: implementation, operation, evaluation
Current issues & debates ...2

- **Electronic records**
  - biggest challenge...greatest opportunity
  - preservation
    - obsolescence; media deterioration; proactive attention
  - recordkeeping (born digital)
    - software for working v. software for recordkeeping; role of arm in constructing rks; evolving legal contexts
  - collections (born digital and reformatted)

- **Custody**
  - centralized...distributed ; chains of

- **Access systems**
  - serving content, context, and structure

- **Continuing and New Roles / Skills**
Reinventing archives: existing model

Survey records
Schedule records
Appraise records
Dispose / Accession records
Describe records
Preserve records
Access Records
Reinventing archives: reinvented model

Analyze organizational functions

Define business transactions

Define record metadata

Identify control tactics

Establish RK regime

Predictions …1

- **Direct delivery of content**
  - both born digital and digitized over the www - hypertext linkages between access tools and records / archives; Web 2.0; metadata management; Web Services

- **Direct access to ARM literature over the web**
  - research (arm / multidisciplinary); conference papers; policy instruments; projects; project reports; technical specifications; standards; current awareness
Predictions ...2

- Increasing “currency” of archival thought
- Increasing collaboration with a wider array of professions; communities; generations
- Wider placement of ARM function in organizations
- Richer use:
  - create new historical narratives;
  - attempt/enable direct linkages between analyses and supporting documentation
  - accountability; claim rights....
  - analysis of contents in archives as reflective of ideology and power relationships & struggles
Predictions …3

- **Electronic records**
  - Record keeping, preservation, volume management, genre evolution issues predominant

- **Intellectual property**
  - darkness before the light; resolution of orphaned works; commercial encroachment on archival collections

Time of challenge and promise….
in other words a great time to be an archivist / records manager!
Professional development after SI

- professional reading on a regular basis
- be professionally active
- participate in advanced continuing education opportunities (workshops / symposia)
- visit other repositories
- consult
- research, write, publish
- …and for *ethical dilemmas* – turn to literature, colleagues, cases
- And finally……continuously feed your mind to stay engaged, stimulated, and committed
Thank you!

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