AERI 2010

Recordkeeping Realities

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Where: Great Lakes North

When: Thursday, 6/24, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Abstracts:

Cushing, Amber. Investigating Individuals' Conscious Decisions to Maintain Digital Possessions
My research investigates the maintaining behavior of personal information, by examining the influence of sense of self on conscious decisions to maintaining digital objects n personal computers. An individual's sense of self may motivate how or why individuals maintain one digital object over another digital object. Sense of self may also be related to an individual's concept of the "importance" of an item. Information about individual's maintaining behavior can be of use to developers of personal information management tools and archivists who practice pre-custodial intervention in association with personal papers collections. To investigate this area, I have developed a two-part study involving the use of q methodology, a sorting activity and qualitative interviews. In my presentation I will discuss why I chose these methods to conduct my research and how previous research in social psychology, compulsive hoarding and the study of possession has influenced the design of my study.

Mihelcic, Joanne. The Storyline Project: Determining a therapeutic use for the personal archive.
There is a direct relationship between quality of life and our ability to maintain a coherent sense of self. In light of evidence that memory loss, particularly in the aged, will become more commonplace, the issues raised are not only for the potential sufferers but also to the family, friends and extended carers who will be responsible for their wellbeing.

Findings suggest that there are a number of common themes emerging across multidisciplinary research particularly in regard to the nature of memory, and the triggers which constitute the record. The convergence of these findings creates the opportunity for the archival profession to contribute therapeutically in the area of health and aging by applying contemporary and evolving theories to the creation of the personal archive.

The Personal Archive is an electronic register of objects, stories and images which represents autobiographical memories. Each entry in the archive is annotated with important information that provides context for the documented people, events and places.

Wartenbe, Michael. Electronic Health Records and the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act
The proposed presentation will examine Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems through both an empirical study of the implementation of an EHR system at a community health clinic and a conceptual analysis that interrogates claims made for and about EHRs. This conceptual analysis brings together three conventionally separate ways of understanding electronic records: systems design, sociotechnical analysis and archival science, in hopes of arriving at a vision of EHR systems that takes into account the questions of justice and equity in addition to the dominant mandate for technical efficiency.

Wilczek, Eliot. Contributions from the Archival Profession to the Literature of Recordkeeping Behavior
This paper examines the contribution of the archival field to the literature of recordkeeping behavior. The study of recordkeeping, the process of individuals and institutions creating, managing, and using records to support their activities, is a rich and diverse field of research. Studies have examined recordkeeping practices in a wide variety of industries, particularly healthcare, law enforcement, and other fields that are characterized by records-intensive work. Research has come from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, history, organizational behavior, human-computer interaction, and archival science. This paper explores patterns and trends in this area of study, focusing in particular on the research produced by archival educators and practitioners.

Convener: Cal Lee

Bios:

Cal Lee
Christopher (Cal) Lee is Assistant Professor at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He teaches classes for graduate and undergraduate students, as well as continuing professional education workshops in archival administration, records management, digital curation, understanding information technology for managing digital collections, and the construction of digital repository rules.

His primary area of research is the long-term curation of digital collections. He is particularly interested in the professionalization of this work and the diffusion of existing tools and methods (e.g. digital forensics, web archiving, automated implementation of policies) into real professional practice.

Curation of personal digital archives has received less attention in the professional literature than the curation of institutional assets, despite the essential role that personal materials have played in the cultural heritage of past generations. Cal is involved in numerous efforts to fill this gap. He is editing and providing several chapters to a forthcoming book entitled, I, Digital: Personal Collections in the Digital Era, which is exploring issues, challenges and opportunities in the

management of personal digital collections. He was the chief organizer of a meeting of invited international experts called "Stewardship of E-Manuscripts: Advancing a Shared Agenda," which took place in Chapel Hill on March 31. Cal has been an invited speaker at the First International Digital Lives Conference at the British Library in February 2009 and Saving Our Present for the Future: Personal Archiving 2010 at the Internet Archive in February 2010. He is also spearheading the international Personal Digital Archives Working Group (PDAWG).

Two of the primary mechanisms for collecting personal digital archives are obtaining physical storage media (e.g. floppies, CDs, hard drives) and capturing content from the Web. In order to advance the state of professional practice in obtaining physical media, Cal has taken part in formal digital forensics training, and he has taught workshops on "Applying Digital Forensics Techniques to Materials Acquired on Physical Media" in multiple professional venues.

The VidArch project (http://ils.unc.edu/vidarch/) focused on Web capture scenarios. It investigated the collection of online video, with a particularly emphasis on contextual information. Cal's contributions to VidArch included an information model for contextual information in digital collections (see: http://sils.unc.edu/research/publications/reports/TR_2007_04.pdf and forthcoming article in the Journal of Documentation) and several empirical studies of online selection and collecting strategies.

Other current projects include DigCCurr, DigCCurr II (http://ils.unc.edu/digccurr/) and ESOPI-21 (http://ils.unc.edu/esopi21), all of which are developing and implementing courses of study and practical engagement opportunities in digital curation. For these projects, Cal has developed an extensive Matrix of Digital Curation Knowledge and Competencies (http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr/products.html), which is based on various data sources and grounded in the diverse literature related to digital curation.

Past research projects have included CAMiLEON(http://www.ils.unc.edu/callee/dig-pres_users-perspective.pdf), which examined migration vs. emulation as digital preservation strategies; and an in-depth case study of the development of the OAIS (http://www.ils.unc.edu/callee/dissertation_callee.pdf).

He has an MSI (with a concentration in Archives and Records Management) and PhD from the School of Information at the University of Michigan.

Amber Cushing

Amber L. Cushing is a doctoral student at the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she also serves as a research assistant for the NHPRC funded Archival Metrics and User Evaluation for Government Archives project. Her current research interests include individual's affective relationships with records, personal digital archiving and saving behavior. Her dissertation work examines the influence of sense of self on individual's conscious decisions to save digital objects on personal computers. She has assisted with teaching for classes in the archival and records management concentration as well as the cultural institutions class. Before entering the doctoral program, Cushing held the position of Librarian at the New Hampshire State Library, where she was the reference department contact person for manuscript and rare book inquires and government documents inquires. She also managed the library and information science collection. She has held archival-related positions at the Library of Virginia, the National Archives and Records Administration, Harvard Art Museums, the Mount Holyoke College Library and the Curator's Office of the Supreme Court of the United States. Cushing holds an AB in History from Mount Holyoke College and an MLS with a concentration in Archives Management from Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Joanne Mihelcic

The concept of using recordkeeping and information technology for therapeutic purposes evolved from my own experience as a nurse, information and knowledge manager and student of archival systems.

Though I had early in my career worked as a nurse with some experience in aged care, it was the ability to draw on various disciplinary experiences later in life, that enabled me to identify a practical use to what I understood to be a widening gap between these disciplines when it came to understanding how they could contribute to wellbeing through the use of technology.

It began on a very personal note with a visit to the nursing home where my grandmother was a new resident. The awful truth was that it felt like a place where people physically and psychologically wait to die. Whether the expectations, in reality, would be different in the current generation in institutional accommodation compared to more technology literate groups is not clear. What was evident to me was the dramatic lack of stimulus in the facility; the environment, design, nature of care, general interactions between staff and residents and the level of activity.

The themes in the initial literature review for the Storyline Project were derived through a combination of personal experience, reading of research papers and exploration of the subject matter with professional workers within the information management and recordkeeping professions as well as gerontology professionals (nursing and allied health).

Some of the main issues in aged care are: the age of facilities which reflect dated designs and beliefs, the lack of funding, shortage of adequately trained staff and support for the continuous development of carers (both professional and home).

The aim of the my doctoral studies is to therapeutically contribute to the health and aging in a way that eases the demands on carers and the system by improving the quality of life, and, thereby alleviating some of the physical and psychological demands for both the person being cared for and the carer.

Micheal Wartenbe

I am a third-year doctoral student at the UCLA Department of Information Studies. I have a B.A. in Science and Technology Studies (STS) and an MLS from Indiana University. I also have years of experience working in archives, special collections and public libraries. The focus of my doctoral research is Electronic Medical Records (EMRs).

My interests cover several areas in this regard. In the sense most relevant to this meeting, I am interested in including some concepts as they are commonly articulated in archival work (such as accountability, justice and evidence) into policy discussions surrounding EMRs, which tend to focus on technical/managerial concepts such as efficiency and interoperability. I am also interested in the politics of privacy and consent as they relate to electronic medical record-keeping and the materiality of electronic records over and against notions that technological progress leads to an escape from the physical.

If I were to describe my philosophy toward scholarship and teaching briefly, I would say that it revolves around justice as a core value along with a critical orientation toward received knowledge. I think these values and skills are necessary and largely receding from Western society and it is my goal as a researcher and teacher to promulgate them.

Eliot Wilczek

I am a student in the LIS doctoral program in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College. I have an MS in Library and Information Science with an archives concentration and a MA in History from Simmons. Since 2005, I have served as an adjunct instructor at Simmons, teaching archives and records management courses.

My research interests center around recordkeeping behavior. I am interested in how an organization's recordkeeping processes, rules, and expectations shape the documentation of its activities and how that documentation shapes the organization's understanding of its actions. A possible dissertation topic for this research question may be the U.S. military's process for documenting and reporting its operations during the Vietnam War and how the military's reporting influenced its understanding of the war. In addition to having an academic dimension of adding to the recordkeeping behavior literature, this research may be able to make a policy contribution to understanding the complexity of documenting, measuring, and assessing the state of current counterinsurgency conflicts.

Since 1996 I have worked as an archivist and records manager at higher education institutions, serving, since 2002, as the University Records Manager at Tufts University. In this role I provide departments with recordkeeping advice, work with appropriate stakeholders to develop records policies, and contribute to institution-wide information management efforts, such as data privacy compliance.

I served as a co-principal investigator on an NHPRC electronic records research project, Fedora and the Preservation of University Records. Core deliverables from this project included requirements for trustworthy recordkeeping and preservation systems and steps for trustworthy ingest and maintain processes. I am currently the project director of an NHPRC electronic records program expansion grant that is developing encoded submission agreements that support archival accessioning and creating archival description of records creators at Tufts University.

The focus of my efforts in the PhD program is to crystallize my research interests, my work as a practicing records manager and archivist, and my teaching experience as an instructor to enable me to make contributions to the academic literature, shape records and information-related policy, and participate directly in the education of new members of the archives and records management profession.

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