
The revised edition of A Manual of Archival Techniques will be useful to archivists and to teachers of archival management. Although published just three years after the first edition, it has added new information and contributors have brought their chapters up to date. In the "Note to the Revised Edition," the editor states that the first edition was sold out within a year. Obviously there is a need for this manual.

The article entitled "Storage, Space and Equipment," by Samuel Mauray in the first edition has been replaced by an article with the same title written by James W. Williams in the second edition. Mauray's article emphasized the practical aspects of planning the archival space, locating storage facilities, and placing equipment. The major part of the article consisted of five plans exhibiting different layouts of equipment for the same archival space. The article by Williams, on the other hand, contains many suggestions about how to plan for storage, for space, and for future equipment needs. Planning should be flexible and space arrangements should be planned for adaptability. Because archivists do not have crystal balls and so cannot imagine all the directions the technologies of the future may take, flexibility in planning is important.

Williams emphasizes the importance of considering efficiency and safety as well as versatility in planning space and deciding upon equipment. He believes that the people who work in the archive, staff and patrons, have needs that must be considered in planning. This article has useful information for all archivists, whether they are planning a new archival space or remodeling an existing one.

In Part A, the section on conservation and preservation of historical materials, Jean Gunner's article, "Bookbinding Needs of the Historical Society," has been replaced by "Phased Conservation for Books and Bound Archival Material," by Lois Olcott Price. Gunner's shorter article concerned surveying the historical society's book collection and grouping books by the extent of deterioration. She gave directions for combating mold and discussed fumigation, preserving leather bindings, and shelving by size. Price's article is more detailed. She covers improving the environment, proper shelving, protective housing, which includes wrappers for books, boxes, phase boxes, and
envelopes for pamphlets. There is discussion of treatment of both minor and major problems. Her information appears to be based upon the phased conservation program developed at the Library of Congress.

Finally the article, "The Public Committee for the Humanities in Pennsylvania," by Gail Stern and William Snyder, has been replaced by "The Pennsylvania Humanities Council," by Sarah D. Holland. The article specifies the types of programs funded by the council and outlines the procedures to follow in applying for grants.

The Manual covers the areas of archival management, planning, conservation, and state and federal sources for financial and advisory assistance. Four appendixes add to the usefulness of the manual. A bibliography includes books and periodical articles for further information on specific problems. A copy of this revised manual should be on every archivist's desk.

Pittsburgh

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This excellent book addresses itself to the question of strategies, methods, skills, and techniques of teaching local history. Of particular interest is the first chapter, "Why Local History?" which explains how local history has become academically respectable in recent years. Cycles of scholarly interest in local history have come and gone, the 1890s and the 1970s being decades of greatest activity.

The authors caution against the twin dangers of parochialism and filiopietism, which have been the major cause of trained historians' suspicions of the value of local history. They note that local history projects are frequently instituted for their own sake.

The essential ambivalence of local history studies is clearly recognized in the profession. On the surface, the history of a local theater or a national disaster such as a flood or fire appears to have only local meaning. The authors write that "the variety shows performed at a local theatre in the 1890's may [seem to] have only local importance, but, in the context of popular entertainment . . . the billing at the local theatre will have much to tell the student about American society and culture of that time."