

INF518 Community Histories

Session 1, 2017 (WISE Spring 2017)

Faculty of Arts and Education School of Information Studies

Wagga Wagga Campus Distance Mode

Subject Overview

This subject provides an introduction to the development and promotion of local history and archive collections. It will examine the role of local histories for a community; the place of libraries in building collections of such histories; and the nature of such collections, focusing on local newspapers, oral history, photographs, other paper-based materials, memorabilia and digital media such as digital photographs, websites and blogs. It will also examine the place of organisational archives in providing a history for an organisation as it evolves over time and place and how such archives may be promoted to management.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students will:

- be able to discuss the nature of local history collections and the contribution they can make to understanding a community and its evolution;
- be able to create the policies and practices involved in developing, managing, preserving and providing access to such collections;
- be able to manage digital objects in the context of their growing importance as a part of the community record;
- be able to articulate the need for organisations to develop their own archiving approaches in order to ensure the long term retention and preservation of records relevant to the history of that organisation; and
- be aware of the various funding and development opportunities that may exist and how they may help in developing collections.

Subject Content

This subject covers the following topics:

1. What is local history?
2. Who collects local history?
3. Selection and acquisition
4. Description
5. Preservation
6. Policy and management
7. Access
8. Reaching out
9. Where to from here?
10. Special case – genealogy

Example of Assessment items – to be confirmed

Item number	Title	Type	Value
1	Study Diary and Presentation	Assignment	45%
2	Consultant's report	Assignment	55%

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Learning Design

Study time for this subject

University regulations note that: 'A CSU (8 point) Subject should be designed with the expectation that students will normally spend between 140-160 hours engaged in the specified learning and assessment activities.'

This equates to approximately 10 hours per week, with additional hours in the weeks up until assignment submission. In this subject there is an expectation that you will be engaged in reading/viewing/listening to subject materials, reading/participating in online activities (e.g., forums), planning, researching and completing assignments, and reflecting on your own learning. As an individual learner, the balance of time spent on these activities will be your choice. On average, it is expected that students will spend about 80 hours reading, viewing, listening to, and reflecting on subject materials, 30 hours reading/participating in forums, 40 hours preparing for and completing assignments, the latter assumes that you have already completed the reading of subject materials and forums leading up to the assignment.

This is only a guide. Students learn in different ways and at different rates and possess varied learning histories that influence the time required to engage with the learning and assessment activities associated with a subject.

Learning, teaching and support strategies

All study materials are delivered via the Internet. Thus students need to have regular access to the Internet so that you can read the modules, carry out further investigation on the web, email your answers, comments and questions to the subject forum, and locate and access further resources. The web forum provides opportunity for group discussion and feedback. Consultation via voice mail, chat sessions and email is also available. You will sometimes also need to locate, read, and think about print-based sources such as journal articles.

Discussion forums and blogs

These are used for asynchronous discussion and their usage may vary from subject to subject and from module to module. In these spaces you can interact with others in the class by asking questions, responding to questions, stating your point of view on matters relevant to the subject matter, drawing attention to interesting material you have discovered and so on. Use this area not only to obtain information that will aid you with your own study but to input ideas/thoughts to help others

Prescribed text(s)

Keep it for the future! How to set up small community archives. (2007). Belconnen, ACT: National Archives of Australia.

Available from National Archives shop at <http://eshop.naa.gov.au/p/643028/keep-it-for-the-future.html>

Required reading / resources

In studying this subject you are to read the links and readings supplied via your subject site and access resources and texts as indicated. The readings and resources have been included to supplement your study material and to further enhance your understanding and learning in this subject.

Recommended reading / resources

Bastian, J.A. & Alexander, B. (Eds.) (2009). *Community archives: the shaping of memory*. London: Facet Publishing.