

A History of Appraisal Theory in the United Kingdom ...

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**Caroline Williams 'Studying Reality: The
Application of Theory in an Aspect of UK
Practice' *Archivaria* 62 2006**

‘to make an informed selection of information that will provide the future with a representative record of human experience in our time’

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- **Documentation strategy**
- **Macroappraisal and functional analysis**
- **Minnesota method (pragmatic acquisition)**
- **Record based evidential and informational analysis**

Sir Hilary Jenkinson



Sir Hilary Jenkinson



- Moral and physical integrity
- Unbroken custody
- Impartial
- Creator as appraiser
- Truth

**Margaret Procter ‘Life Before Jenkinson –
The Development of British Archival Theory
and Thought at the Turn of the Twentieth
Century’, *Archives* vol xxxiii (2008)**

‘Elimination of Ephemeral or Unimportant Documents in Public or Private Archives’

- **To show the history of the organisation**
- **To answer technical questions regarding its operations**
- **To meet possible scholarly needs for information that is incidentally or accidentally contained in the records**

Leading on public sector information policy

Ensuring the survival of the nation's records

Archives for the 21st century

Collection strategies

London 2012 and the Cultural Olympiad

The Record: activities and collections for 2012

Government Knowledge and Information Management Network (GKIMN)

Web continuity

Collection strategies

A framework of national collection strategies

The National Archives is leading, initiating, supporting and guiding the development of collection strategies across different sectors, around different themes and to support specific formats of information. These have been identified as significant areas for development to address gaps in archival collecting, gaps in access provision, or issues of sustainability.

The framework will help to ensure that key records of events and of the lives and activities of individuals and communities, and of public, private and charitable organisations are:

- being kept
- preserved efficiently and effectively
- made easily available and widely accessible

The partners contributing to each strategy include record creators; record managers and archivists; archives and repositories; professional bodies and relevant experts. Developing and implementing the strategies may take a number of years where complex issues need to be resolved. The collection and preservation of born-digital records and other modern information formats will be part of each of these collection strategies.

Implemented areas of focus:

- [The Record: A collections strategy for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and Cultural Olympiad](#)
- [Business archives](#)
- [Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic performing arts](#)
- [Web archives](#)

Current areas of focus:

- [Nuclear archives](#)

Elizabeth Honer and Susan Graham ‘Should Users Have a Role in Determining the Future Archive? The Approach Adopted by the Public Record Officer, the UK National Archive, to the Selection of Records for Permanent Preservation’, *Liber Quarterly* 11 2001

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WHY KEEP ARCHIVES?

- For cultural, historical and social reasons
- Otherwise they would be lost for ever and are a record of the past
- To keep the historical record for future generations
- It's important for historic reasons

WHY KEEP ARCHIVES?

- For cultural, historical and social reasons: ***because of the value to society in knowing how things have developed***
- Otherwise they would be lost for ever and are a record of the past: ***because an understanding of the present depends on an understanding of the past***
- To keep the historical record for future generations: ***because they contribute to memory and identity***
- It's important for historic reasons: ***because they represent a big part of Dundee and its history***

- **Lack of knowledge**
- **Lack of interest**
- **Lack of appropriate theory**
- **Conflict between theory and mission of organisation**
- **Lack of resources**
- **Lack of dialogue between theorists and practitioners**
- **Everything will always depend on circumstance or individuals**
- **Inability (or lack of need) on the part of the archivist to articulate what they are doing in a theoretical way**

The history of archival theory

The development of archival theory

The evolution of archival theory

The history of archival theory

The development of archival theory

The evolution of archival theory

... it just gets better?

Sir Hilary Jenkinson



“His Creed, the Sanctity of Evidence; ... his Aim, to provide, without prejudice or afterthought, for all who wish to know the Means of Knowledge ... The good Archivist is perhaps the most selfless devotee of Truth the modern world produces.”

- Diverse judgements ... may well assure a more adequate social documentation
- The necessity for decreasing by selection of some kind the intolerable quantity of documents accumulated by modern administration is very well known to all of us who have had the responsibility for preserving modern as well as ancient archives