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# Reviews

Linda Matthews
*Emory University*

Sheila McAlister
*University of Georgia*

Charles J. Barber
*University of Georgia*

Beth Patkus

Beth A. Bensman
*Thomas Jefferson University*

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## Recommended Citation

# REVIEWS

*Baseball's Pivotal Era, 1945–1951.* By William Marshall. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1999. Bibliographical essay, index. 513 pp. Hardcover, $29.95.

William Marshall, director of special collections and archives at the University of Kentucky Libraries, has written a detailed and fascinating account of the immediate postwar era in baseball, the era that saw the integration of the game by Jackie Robinson, the move from a small-town game to a big business sport, the first attempts to unionize players, the introduction of television, and other events that reflected a changing America. Marshall has labeled the period "the pivotal era" because of the changes brought to the game by the war and its aftermath during the tenure of A. B. "Happy" Chandler, former Kentucky governor and United States Senator, as baseball commissioner, and because, for the first time "a sports institution, through Jackie Robinson's entry into the game, took the lead in reshaping American society."

Major sources for Marshall's book are the Chandler papers housed at the University of Kentucky and the more than seventy oral history interviews conducted by Marshall (for the

Chandler Oral History Collection) in the course of his research and as an addendum to the Chandler archives. Among those interviewed are players, baseball business associates of Chandler, and sportscasters. Baseball fans everywhere (and this group includes many archivists) will envy Marshall his personal interviews with legendary figures of that era—Bob Feller, Sal Maglie, Stan Musial, Don Newcombe, Bobby Thomson, Ted Williams, and many others. In addition, Marshall mined the papers of Branch Rickey, Arthur Mann, and Emanuel Celler at the Library of Congress and scores of periodicals and books. It is the oral histories that give the book its flavor and resonance.

*The Pivotal Era,* a book that every baseball fan (particularly archivists and historians who are baseball fans) will enjoy, is testimony to the value of oral history when it is undertaken properly and used effectively. Marshall obviously had done his homework when he interviewed his subjects. He knew the period, had read other accounts, and had studied the factual material as well as the oft-told stories. Oral tradition and story telling are a part of baseball, as are the characters on field and off. Marshall has made good use of the stories and added through his oral histories new perspectives on particular aspects of the game during Chandler's commissionership, such as the episode of the Mexican leagues, the feud between Branch Rickey and Larry McPhail, Jackie Robinson and the integration of baseball, the reserve clause, and many others. He shows us how baseball reflected and responded to postwar America.

As baseball enters its third century it is good to look at the history of the game in a "pivotal era" and know that archives play a part in preserving its story. Marshall, a confessed, longtime baseball fan, has added to the field a well-researched, readable book that will likely become a standard in any baseball collection. He has also shown how carefully focused oral history projects can add substance and depth to a modern archives.

Linda Matthews
Director, Special Collections
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

*Encoded Archival Description: Application Guidelines (Version 1.0)*. Prepared by the Encoded Archival Description Working Group of the Society of American Archivists. Chicago, IL: Society of American Archivists, 1999. 308 pp. Softcover, $30.00.

Published in 1999, the *Encoded Archival Description: Application Guidelines (Version 1.0)* is the third component in the suite of documentation for EAD version 1.0. The *Guidelines*, intended to be used in concert with the Tag Library, provide guidance for the development of an EAD project X—from its planning to implementation, authoring, and publishing the completed finding aids on the World Wide Web. According to the authors, "the purpose of the *Guidelines* is to introduce EAD from a number of perspectives—administrative, technical, and, most importantly, archival—and to address the need for instruction and advice that has been voiced by the archival community," yet the *Guidelines* do not seek to "legislate specific encoding practices."

Before addressing the steps needed to publish finding aids online using EAD, the authors describe the encoding scheme's intellectual framework. Designed to reflect the hierarchical nature of description, the data structure is rooted in archival theory and standards. Although created in the U.S., EAD is compliant with international standards such as RAD and ISAD(G) and has the capability to "cross-walk" between ISAD(G), Dublin Core, and USMARC. Additionally, the authors sought to create an encoding routine that would not rely on proprietary software and that would be compliant with the emerging XML standard.

The bulk of the *Guidelines* focuses on the practical issues of starting an EAD program. Chapters 2 through 5 focus on the basic needs of starting to publish online finding aids; whereas chapters 6 and 7 lay the groundwork for using some of EAD's more sophisticated features. The section on administrative concerns treats the pre-implementation considerations: the feasibility of a project, software/hardware needs (which are both addressed more fully in the chapters on authoring and publishing), staffing and training, workflow, outsourcing, and retrospective conversion. Of particular note is appendix D which provides a checklist of questions for assessing if an EAD project is right for a repository.

In reviewing encoding, the text first builds on the introduction by providing the conceptual framework necessary to begin encoding. Rather than instructing readers to encode a finding aid from beginning to end, the authors first treat the major descriptive portion of EAD, the <archdesc>. They then discuss subelements in an order that "matches a suggested sequence for the information in an online finding aid." It is important to keep in mind that, as with successive chapters, some markup in the examples is omitted to clarify the tagging of the element being explained in the text. A minimum of suggested encoding elements for a successful online finding aid is found in appendix A. Throughout, the Taskforce attempts to show that EAD can fold easily into normal processing and description routines and that it can be used also as a tool for the evaluation of current descriptive practices.

The sections on authoring and publishing consider the relative merits of the different authoring/publishing methods. Rather than recommending any specific software package or technique, the Taskforce presents the pros and cons of each system to allow the readers to judge which one meshes best with their repository's needs and resources. More specifically these chap-

ters also discuss the technical issues of authoring such as sharing data between encoded finding aids and MARC records, the effects of tagging techniques on online publishing, and using SGML or XML as well as indexing, display and file management of the encoded finding aids.

After focusing on the nuts and bolts of implementation, the *Guidelines* turn to consider the hypertext and multimedia features available using EAD. Chapter 6, a crash course in SGML with reference to its divergences from XML, provides the foundational knowledge necessary for understanding more complex issues of linking. The final section discusses linking in broad terms—it does not provide step-by-step, system-by-system instructions for creating hypertext linking, adding digital objects or connecting to external documents. Much in this chapter is theoretical because of emerging standards such as XLINK and the fact that delivery and indexing technology is still developing.

On the whole, the *Guidelines* are very helpful. The text clearly and concisely lays out the issues of implementing an online finding aid project and allows the reader to make informed decisions. In the sections involving encoding, there is a good amount of illustrative material which helps in understanding some of the more difficult concepts. The appendices also provide sample encoded finding aids, a good bibliography, a glossary as well as a frequently-asked-question section. The *Guidelines* are an essential tool for anyone contemplating providing online access to their collections using EAD. It is important to bear in mind, however, that EAD is only a data structure standard. The profession will have to wait for its counterpart, a set of data content standards, before EAD's resource-sharing potential can be fully realized.

Sheila McAlister
Electronic Access Coordinator
Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies
The University of Georgia Libraries

*Our Nation's Archive: The History of the United States in Documents*. Edited by Erik Bruun and Jay Crosby. New York, NY: Leventhal Publishers, 1999. Index. 886 pp. Hardcover, $29.98.

Traditional history "strips away the contributions of those who did not make the historian's cut and sidesteps the diverse perspectives of those whose ideas faded with the passage of time," so say Erik Bruun and Jay Crosby in the introduction of the book they co-edited: *Our Nation's Archive: The History of the United States in Documents*.

Bruun and Crosby's stated attempt is to rectify this disparity by publishing in one massive volume over five hundred primary documents drawn from different segments of American society. The documents span from the Pre-Colombian Cherokee Nation piece *How the World Was Made* to the very recent *Impeachment Acquittal* of President William Jefferson Clinton pronounced by Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

Included are such various pieces as Bartolomeo Vanzetti's last statement in court, Mary Crow Dog's account of the events leading up to Wounded Knee, the poem *Clay Meets Liston* from Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali, and the text of Sojourner Truth's *"And Ain't I A Woman."* Others anthologized include such diverse personalities as Chief Joseph of the Nez Percé and Richard Nixon, the Ku Klux Klan and Malcolm X, Thomas Paine and George III.

The stated purpose of this volume is to glorify the contributions of the little people who have made America great. As the editors note in the introduction, "Tough, hard-bitten men and women built this country. Their perspectives are important. They are the central ingredients in United States history."

Unfortunately, they are not the "central ingredients" in this volume. While different perspectives run through the pages of the book, and while there are letters from, for example, un-

known Civil War soldiers and homesteaders in Kansas, a great many of the selections are from presidents, potentates, and famous poets who while important to the history of the United States are certainly not the anonymous "hard-bitten" persons mentioned in the introduction.

That said, this is nevertheless an interesting and very enjoyable reference work. Never meant to be read from cover to cover it is the sort of book which insidiously draws one into its pages, presenting one, then another, and yet still another fascinating episode of history. Where else can one find in one volume: Earl Warren's opinion in the Miranda case, Jesus Garcia's account of his immigration to the United States in the first decades of the twentieth century, Gloria Steinem's account of her time as a Playboy Bunny, and Eugene Debs' eloquent courtroom speech upon being convicted of violating the Espionage Act during the First World War?

While *Our Nation's Archive* never lives up to its stated ambition of being a "comprehensive anthology," and a "complete resource for everything from early Native American relations to contemporary foreign policy," the editors have created a work which should provide the reader, especially the nonspecialist, with an invaluable reference tool. Though not a perfect book, *Our Nation's Archive* is a valuable one.

Charles J. Barber
Assistant Director
Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library
The University of Georgia Libraries

*Shelter from the Stormy Blast: A Guide to Disaster Recovery Resources for Georgia and the Southeast.* By Laurel Bowen, Julie Arnott, Nan McMurry, Whitney Miller, and Marcia Watt. Atlanta, GA: SOLINET and ARCHE, 1998. 44 pp. Softcover, $5.00.

This publication, which grew out of a disaster-planning process conducted by the Preservation Committee of the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education, endeavors to provide assistance in selecting and evaluating disaster recovery products and services. It is not meant to serve as a comprehensive disaster-planning resource. While other types of institutions may find this publication useful, it is primarily intended for libraries and archives.

*Shelter from the Stormy Blast* was produced for a local audience, but there is much here that will be useful to institutions in other areas of the country. Local institutions will appreciate the contact information for Georgia emergency management services and the list of refrigerated warehouses in the Southeast, since this type of information can be time-consuming to locate. Institutions throughout the country can refer to the list of national disaster recovery vendors, consulting services, and products, which is kept up-to-date on the SOLINET web site. Minor problems include the section on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is brief and might have included some information on FEMA policies regarding cultural resources. In addition, web site addresses are not given for several suppliers and organizations that have web sites.

The strength of this publication, however, is that it provides more than lists of company names. The sections on evaluating vendors and on locating local resources using the yellow pages are general enough to be useful to a wide audience. The lists of questions to ask when searching for appropriate vendors are designed to remind institutions of the complexities of con-

tracting for services, equipment, or supplies. The lists are not exhaustive, but they cover major issues and encourage staff to evaluate critically the suitability of products and services. The section on locating local resources provides a representative listing of yellow pages headings that might be useful in disaster recovery and gives brief annotations describing the services of the vendors that advertise under these headings, including some comments on how these services may or may not be appropriate for library and archives disaster recovery. For those who do not know where to begin when looking for local services, this list provides a valuable starting point.

It must be stated that this excellent publication is best used as an aid to disaster planning, *not* as a resource that is picked up for the first time when a disaster occurs (although in that situation it would certainly be better than no guidance at all). The authors state clearly several times that readers will need additional knowledge about the recovery needs of their particular collections to make appropriate decisions about services and products. For example, photographs and audiovisual collections have different needs than books and documents, and circulating collections have different needs than special collections and archives. There is very little information given here about recommended salvage techniques for collections or about disaster planning, but the annotated bibliography directs the reader to basic resources that will provide this information. Overall, *Shelter from the Stormy Blast* will be a very helpful addition to any disaster-planning library.

Beth Patkus
Preservation Consultant
Walpole, Massachusetts

*Understanding the Record-Keeping Practices of Scientists.* By Kalpana Shankar. Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, 1999. Bibliography, glossary. 27 pp. Leaflet #10, $3.00.

Most non-specialized archival repositories focus on collecting personal papers of individuals or records of organizations, institutions, and businesses. Procedures for dealing with and understanding these types of records are amply covered in the general archival literature. However, records produced by scientists differ greatly from the types of collections mentioned above. Archivists at a repository such as the American Institute of Physics are familiar with the set-up and practices of scientists, but records of scientists are being deposited into smaller repositories where archivists may not be as familiar with the scientific process. Several excellent works detail strategies for collecting records dealing with science and technology. For a small institution, a brief general overview of scientific record-keeping practices and how this impacts the archivist's job is helpful.

*Understanding the Record-Keeping Practices of Scientists*, part of the Technical Leaflet Series developed by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, delivers exactly what it proposes—a brief overview of the topic. Included are a description of the scientific environment and its organization, the various participants (senior scientists, students, and technicians), the types of records created, and their use cycle. The pamphlet also contains a discussion of the functional approach to appraisal (often used with scientific collections) versus the more common one of provenance.

Shankar also provides a good overview of the types of records (data logs, laboratory notebooks, research notes, proposals, preliminary drafts of articles, reports, etc.) that comprise the scientific record. In addition, she furnishes a description of issues that confront anyone collecting scientific papers—namely,

dealing with equipment and tools developed or maintained as part of the project, information files, electronic records (an increasing problem since more often this, not written, is the type of documentation), health concerns inherent in the physical documents, and legal issues such as technology transfer agreements and patents.

As well as covering the above topics, the pamphlet includes a brief glossary of relevant terms with definitions. Within the pamphlet, Shankar mainly references two published works: *Appraising the Records of Modern Science and Technology* by Haas, Samuels, and Simmons and *Varsity Letters* by Samuels. While not discussed in the text, the appendix contains a brief annotated bibliography with suggested further readings including Clarke Elliot's *Understanding Progress as Process* and Burno Latuor and Steve Woolgar's *Laboratory Life*.

At 27 pages, *Understanding the Record-Keeping Practices of Scientists* cannot and does not provide in-depth information. Written in an easily readable style, it does provide an excellent overview of the topic along with a helpful list of references for further reading. Taken together, this makes the work a fine resource for someone just beginning to collect scientific papers.

Beth A. Bensman
University Archivist
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania