

Landis, W. & Chandler, R. (Eds.) *Archives and the Digital Library*. Hawthorne Information Press: Binghamton, N.Y, 2006. 270p. \$85.00. (ISBN: 0789034379)

This is not a friendly read for the novice of acronyms indicating initiatives, projects, protocols and such, but once the reader gets past the enormous use of acronyms, sometimes 2 to 3 in a sentence, the underlying issues are fascinating. The book focuses mainly on California initiatives, projects and institutions in relation to digitizing existing archives to maximize user access and exercise. The book format is in a series of articles. Article descriptions connect the California Digital Library and the University of California to an array of other museums, academic institutions and libraries in and outside of the state.

What I carried away from this read is a good sense of the direction digital archiving is driving. The process of moving primary sources into a virtual world is multifaceted. We are on a paradigm shift in terms of users' needs and each facet of digitizing existing archives as well as new electronic information opens up new doors for developing a world of best practice in user centered designs. This includes moving digital repositories into a more interactive phase meaning instructors, students, librarians and businesses will in time have access to sophisticated modifying tools that allow them to use the information to support their research in multi media ways. An example might be for a professor to manipulate an image resource with sound, counter perspectives and other electronic arrangements in the college lecture. YES-a new paradigm to the traditional mode of mining for information is transforming technologies to help modern users expertly manipulate the information to use more dynamically.

Unless you are an archivist, reference librarian, information technology specialist or close to these, this book will probably not give you information you can actually use. On the other hand, if you are interested in what potentials electronic archiving has for a multitude of different users, then try it and become enlightened!

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