(such as catalog records), displays, and the search interface, among other issues.

Overall, this book provides a thorough examination of the issues surrounding the design and creation of IR databases, whether they be an online catalog, a full-text indexing and abstracting service, or an index in the back of a book. It is a substantial contribution to the literature of both library and information science, and would be an excellent choice as a textbook for either of those fields.—*Rebecca L. Mugridge (rlm31@psu.edu), Pennsylvania State University, University Park*

No Innocent Deposits: Forming Archives by Rethinking Appraisal. By Richard J. Cox. Lanham, Md.; Oxford: Scarecrow, 2004. 303p. $49.50 softbound (ISBN 0-8108-4896-1).

Richard J. Cox forthrightly alerts the reader that "this is not a primer on archival appraisal, but it is a set of chapters reflecting my own wrestling with the challenges and contradictions (and there are both) of the archival function of appraisal" (12). He also disclaims any coverage of the practical aspects of doing appraisal, leaving it "to others to try the write the basic, how-to manuals on appraisal" and a "workable set of principles for archival appraisal" (12). We are left with the redundant and repetitive ruminations of a prolific writer demonstrating a vain exercise in publishing his collected writings on one topic. Arranged by order of their writing, the chapters reflect the evolution of Cox's thinking about appraisal over a seven-year period. Of the ten chapters, five appeared in print as journal articles between 1997 and 2002, and three are conference presentations from 2002.

The major themes running throughout the book focus on appraisal as the crucial practice for avoiding the collecting mentality of most everyone in and out of the profession, and the need for archivists and records managers to engage in appraisal before records leave the office of origin. Cox argues that archives do not just happen, but that they are willfully created by archivists during the appraisal process and through collecting documentary evidence, by the creators of records, and by other individuals and institutions.

Cox knows what he does not like and dismisses authors with whom he disagrees. He comes off as full of himself, quoting his own work as authority for current claims. He worked as an archivist for sixteen years, 1972–1988, and then began teaching. As a non-practicing archivist for the last seventeen years, Cox has no hands-on experience with changes in the profession. When he rails against archivists soliciting and accepting donated collections as not proactive appraisal, one wonders if he understands the politics involved in donor relations at the higher levels of administration. In his perfect world, archivists should encourage organizations to establish and maintain their own archives rather than donating them to an existing repository, but Cox does not address how to do this kind of advocacy or acknowledge the practical aspects that some organizations just do not care about their history.

Among the redundancies, Cox posits that the general public does not really know what archives are (true), refers continually to archivists' and the public's opposite reactions to Nicholson Baker's diatribe against microfilming and discarding old newspapers in *Double Fold* (and his own rebuttal book), and denigrates the memorialized collecting of memory and artifacts following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center as more akin to scrapbooking and time capsule creation than archival appraisal.[1]

Despite these faults, Cox does provide provocative ideas for the profession to consider in rethinking appraisal. One only wishes that he had taken the time to sort out his ideas, write the book from scratch rather than cobble together his timeline of thoughts, and give us some forward-thinking notions of what new directions archivists should take appraisal. While Barbara L. Craig introduces appraisal and gives sound explanations of theory and practical advice, and Frank Boles provides a review of diverse theories and offers a guide to the process, addressing several issues including reappraisal, Richard Cox aims to get archivists thinking about appraisal and "reconsider what it is that they are doing or at least to ask if their efforts are working" (193).[2] As a provocateur, Cox is at his best in prodding archival professionals, whether they agree or disagree with him, to think rather than continuing to do the same work by rote or because that's the way it's always been done.

This book received the 2005 Waldo Gifford Leland Award from the Society of American Archivists. The award encourages and rewards writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice. As such, *No Innocent Deposits* deserves a place on libraries' bookshelves, especially those lacking the journals from which these chapters emerged. Cox likes to shake the archival tree, and in this book he certainly will garner attention when the apples land on archivists' heads. Some will accept the fruit as an enlightening gift, some will take a bite and spit out the sour piece, and others will leave the apples to rot on the ground. Whatever the outcome, Cox will have succeeded in raising the profession's awareness of the need to rethink appraisal.—*Susan Hamburger (sxh36@psulias.psu.edu), Pennsylvania State University, University Park.*

References

1. Nicholson Baker, *Double Fold: Libraries and the Assault on Paper* (New York: Random House, 2001); Richard J. Cox, *Vandals in the Stacks? A Response to Nicholson Baker's Assault on Libraries,* Contributions in Librarianship and Information Science No. 98. (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2002).

2. Barbara L. Craig, *Archival Appraisal: Theory and Practice* (Munich: K. G. Saur, 2004); Frank Boles, *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts,* Archival Fundamentals Series II (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2005).

Internet and Personal Computing Fads. By Mary Ann Bell, Mary Ann Berry, and James L. Van Roekel. New York: Haworth, 2004. 210p. $15.95 softbound (ISBN 0-7890-1772-5); $39.95 hardbound (ISBN 0-7890-1771-7).

I have seldom had a more difficult book to review. If every book has its reader, I struggled mightily to define the intended audience for this one. To deal with the format first, the authors provide a one- to two-page encyclopedia-type article for slightly more than one hundred terms. They do not provide a succinct dictionary definition but rather introduce each term through an extended, chatty discussion. Most often, the authors provide at least one anecdote or amusing fact about the topic. Where appropriate, they give the history and possible future developments in the area under discussion. Each entry then concludes with a brief bibliography, from both print and online sources, of two to five references. As could be expected with a 2004 publication date, the most recent entries appeared in 2003. Quite a few are from much older resources, although this is often appropriate for the many historical topics in the volume. The authors provide very few cross-references, though the twelve-page index provides access to terms embedded in the individual articles.

The "grabber" title does not help very much in clarifying the book's purpose. The authors describe much more than fads, including a broad range of computer and Internet terms. While some are indeed fads ("Nanny Cams" or recent developments such as "Wearable Computing Devices"), the authors also include history ("ENIAC," "History of Computer Hardware," and "Gopher") and general concepts, such as "Mac versus PC," "Technophobia," and "Copyright." The authors do not explain how and why they selected the terms that they did. I could have easily picked a completely different set of one hundred terms for another volume with the same title.

The authors do not help very much in the introduction, where they state that this book "could be useful in high school and academic libraries, public libraries, and for general use by readers wanting to become more familiar with fads, trends, and events relating to computers and the Internet and the language used to describe them" (xiii). As far as libraries, my question would be: "Useful for what?" With the randomness of the entries, I doubt that the volume would have much use as a reference work, though the encyclopedic format suggests this possibility. To get a quick definition, I would instead use an Internet source, such as the Netdictionary (www.netdictionary.com), or one of the many print dictionaries in this area. Another problem for reference use is that many of the entries are already dated. In fact, some of the best entries are the historical ones, although their subject matter certainly does not usually fall into the category of fads. For many of the same reasons, I see little possibility of scholarly use and do not expect to find this title high in the citation counts.

In my quest for the book's essence, the Library of Congress cataloging turned out to be quite helpful. The cataloger did not consider it as a "dictionary" of any sort and put "Fads" way down the list as the fourth subject heading. Instead, the cataloger chose three general subject headings (Information society, Internet—Social aspects, and Microcomputers) to describe its contents. The classification was also social science both in the Library of Congress Classification (HM) and the Dewey Decimal Classification (303) rather than computer science.

One final piece of evidence was the price. At $15.95 for the softcover edition, Haworth is targeting the general reader directly, as the quote above stated, as titles for the library market are normally much more expensive.

As Sherlock Holmes solving the mystery, I finally concluded that what we have here is an excellent bathroom book—that is, an entertaining book meant to be read a few self-contained pages at a time. (Amazingly, I was not able to find a definition of bathroom book, but see Amazon.com for numerous examples.) The authors have compiled more than one hundred entertaining short essays that range from the very specific ("Emoticons") to the very general ("Privacy") and everything in-between. Each entry or essay stands alone so that entries can be read nonsequentially, as the alphabetical order provides no intrinsic value. The focus on amusing facts rather than succinct definitions then makes sense as a way to engage the reader to come back for one more entry or two the next time nature calls.

Even within this limited context, the authors could have been a bit more careful. The entries on "Computer Simulation" and "Virtual Reality" cover the same concept with no cross-reference between them. I also have a hard time understanding why bots would be configured for tasks such as "irradiating [computer] viruses" (13). I hope that the intended term was "eradicate," as I certainly do not want to encounter a radioactive computer virus on my desktop.

I hope that I have not been too harsh. I liked the book and enjoyed reading it on my recent vacation. I do not believe, however, that it is a serious scholarly work. Go ahead and buy it for recreational reading. It costs less than many trashy novels and may provide even more entertainment with a bit of serious knowledge thrown in.—*Robert P. Holley (aa3805@wayne.edu), Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.*

Digital Libraries: Policy, Planning and Practice. Eds. Judith Andrews and Derek Law. Burlington, Vt.: Ashgate, 2004. 263p. $89.95 hardbound (ISBN 0-7546-3448-5).

Digital Libraries consists of contributions from a variety of digital library researchers and practitioners, with