

The extensive research about digital issues at a range of organizations is a significant contribution to the LAM literature, which does not have many book-length publications devoted to case studies. The research and clear writing are the publication's strength. Even with multiple authors, the case studies are uniformly well written and effective in their detail, with many direct quotes from interviewees. The studies provide a snapshot in time about the institutions and allow for future research about other institutions in other regions.

The major weakness of this publication is, in a word, conclusions. The book's most substantial interpretive work is done in the introductory matter, and that is really all that is necessary to present the cases, from which readers will draw their own conclusions. The last section of each study is called "Conclusion" but, in most instances, is merely a summary of the case. The final chapter, "Conclusion," introduces new themes not previously referenced, followed by one-paragraph case study summaries and suggestions about what readers could learn from them. These summaries would have served better as chapter abstracts at the beginning of each case study, allowing the authors to eliminate the so-called "conclusion" at the end of each chapter.

This publication will be a valuable resource for graduate students who plan to work in libraries, archives, museums, or the public history field. Students can see behind the scenes to become familiar with current issues and learn the histories of a selection of cultural heritage institutions. For professionals in the LAM fields, the book provides the ability to compare decision-making paths with one's own situation and to learn about the trials and successes of multiple types of organizations.—*Greta Reisel Browning, Appalachian State University*

**Laura A. Millar.** *A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in an Information Age.*

Chicago, IL: ALA Neal-Schuman, 2019. Paperback, 192p. \$44.99 (ISBN 9780838917718).

The postmodern and post-truth world we live in might have reached its zenith. Written for the general public and not specifically information professionals, Laura A. Millar's *A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in an Information Age* grapples with the definitions of data, facts, evidence, and truth and how these parts of information are used and abused in modern society. This volume is the first in the Archival Futures series, jointly published by the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and ALA Neal-Schuman, which will demonstrate "how the preservation and stewardship of the archival record is a collective effort that underpins and supports democratic societies and institutions" (viii). Dr. Millar is an obvious choice to lead the series, given her notable career as an independent consultant and her numerous publications on creating and maintaining archives during the last 30 years. Her

passion for the field and conviction in the importance of her topic are apparent throughout the text.

Written in a conversational tone appropriate for her audience, Millar makes clear that a respectful, democratic, and self-aware society needs trusted, evidence-based records to function. This is a matter of concern for everyone, given the twin threats of fragile digital records (evidence) and the current post-truth world of “alternative facts.” The first portion of *A Matter of Facts* focuses on the fundamentals of the latter issue. Millar begins her discussion of data, facts, truth, evidence, and proof by defining these concepts for the general public. She repeatedly states that she is not a philosopher; however, Millar manages to handle the philosophical and social aspects of these concepts with an ease that certainly comes from the depth and breadth of her professional experience. In the middle of the text, Millar moves on to necessity of evidence for individuals and cultures to establish identities, carry out justice, and maintain memory. She ends by examining the present-day threat of manipulation to fact-based evidence as a result of the public’s false assumptions about the current state of evidence and a lack of accountability for those responsible for creating, using, and maintaining evidence. Millar ends by supplying a well-thought-out series of suggestions to combat the current state of affairs.

*A Matter of Facts* offers a compelling argument for society to embrace evidence-based truth. Millar’s idealistic vision (her words) of a society that is “free, democratic, respectful, and self-aware” is a world I want to live in. In reading *A Matter of Facts*, it seems that some of the issues (especially relating to digital evidence) that plague society are at least partially due to a general lack of digital literacy and media literacy. Such shortcomings are not addressed in Millar’s work, and taking time for them would have diluted her message. It would be interesting to see future volumes in Archival Futures address these skills, given their significance for using archival records in democratic society.

While not its intended purpose, this volume offers strong justification and support for archival, recordkeeping, and information professions. Millar has researched and provides a plethora of historical and international examples of both the dangers of missing or manipulated evidence and the benefits that individuals and society receive from accessible, trustworthy evidence. This is why her reliance on cases of evidence misuse featuring the current United States President (in accurate and appropriate examples) is disappointing, given her stated audience. Unfairly, too many members of the general public who pick up *A Matter of Facts* will most likely put it down again entirely too quickly over perceived political slights. This book is likely too provocative for members of the public who do not share Millar’s political ideology, unfortunately.—Laura J. French, Baylor University Libraries