

## **SCOTT, PETER J.**

**(ca. 1930)**

**NATIONALITY: AUSTRALIAN**

**COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE: AUSTRALIA**

### **EDUCATION**

Academic degree in Linguistics

### **AREAS OF ARCHIVAL SPECIALIZATION**

Government records.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS IN ARCHIVAL FIELD**

In the early 1960s Scott and colleagues at the Commonwealth Archives Office of Australia proposed and further developed the function-based series system, which separates descriptive information about records creators from description of the records themselves. The most influential publication in this regard was probably Scott's article published in *the American Archivist* in 1966. All public records institutions in Australia and New Zealand have adopted the series system, and the system has been influential in the development of international archival descriptive standards.

### **CAREER HISTORY**

- Commonwealth Archives Office, later National Archives of Australia, ca. 1960-1990

### **HISTORICAL BIOGRAPHY**

Peter Scott is an influential Australian archivist, notable for his work in developing the 'Series' system for archival processing. His academic background is in linguistics, and he was first introduced to archives in 1954 when his grandmother gave him a box of old family letters.

### **PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY LISTING BOOKS AND THEN ARTICLES**

- Australian Finding Aids: Towards an Australian Consensus. Sydney: Australian Archives, 1980
- "The Record Group Concept: A Case Study for Abandonment" in *The American Archivist* vol. 29, no. 42, October, 1966
- P.J. Scott and G. Finlay, 'Archives and Administrative Change : Some Methods and Approaches (Part I) *Archives and Manuscripts* (Vol.7, No.3) August 1978, p.115
- P.J. Scott, G. Finlay, C. Smith, 'Archives and administrative change : some methods and approaches (part 4) *Archives and Manuscripts* (Vol.8, No.2) December 1980
- 9. P.J. Scott, 'Archives and administrative change : some methods and approaches (part 5) *Archives and Manuscripts*, (Vol.9, No.1) September 1981

- (compilation of Scott's work) Adrian Cunningham (editor), *The Arrangement and Description of Archives amid Administrative and Technological Change: Essays by and about Peter J. Scott*. Canberra: Australian Society of Archivists, 2010
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**AUTHOR OF BIOGRAPHICAL ENTRY/DATE OF SUBMISSION**

Molly Bruce, September 2013

Susanne Belovari, October 2014

**SECONDARY SOURCES FOR BIOGRAPHY**

- Adrian Cunningham, Laura Miller, and Barbara Reed, "Peter J. Scott and the Australian 'Series' System: Its Origins, Features, Rationale, Impact and Continuing Relevance" from the International Congress on Archives, Brisbane, Australia, August 23 2012
- Shauna Hicks, Review of *The Arrangement and Description of Archives amid Administrative and Technological Change: Essays by and about Peter J. Scott* on the Australian Society of Archivists website. Retrieved in August 2013 from [http://www.archivists.org.au/icms\\_docs/123251\\_Review\\_of\\_the\\_Peter\\_Scott\\_book.pdf](http://www.archivists.org.au/icms_docs/123251_Review_of_the_Peter_Scott_book.pdf)
- Chris Hurley, "The Australian ('Series') System: An Exposition" in *Records Continuum Research Group Publications of the Monash University* website. Retrieved in August 2013 from <http://infotech.monash.edu/research/groups/rcrg/>

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